

YE FAYRE OF YE OLDEN TIME.

We have received no programme of "Ye Fayre," and add but little to what we said last week. On Wednesday (yesterday) evening Mrs. Harrison's "Mask of May Day" was to have been presented for the first time, and should prove a success. We would like to give some extracts from the Mask, which is very cleverly written, but we have space only for the following:—

"Hail, Queen of May, to greet you we are come!
With prancing hobbyhorse and beat of drum,
With lads and lasses, dames and maidens gay,
With honest yeomen, knights in rich array,
With songs and garlands, dance and simple joys,
With pipe and tabor, and our merry noise
Throughout our merry England shall resound,
From Nottingham to Kent and Cornish ground,
If any stranger lurks within the throng,
We'll teach him mirth and music, games and song,
Show him that here no visions do belong
Of such dull things as care and melancholy;
For whiles we live, 'tis best to live as jolly
As mirth and maidens, ale and cakes can make it,
But now, fair Queen, your throne awaits, pray take it,
Our hearts are yours, assume your royal state,
Your loyal subjects on your pleasure wait."

ROBERTS AND SON'S COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS.

We are unable to give this week a description of the collection of paintings in the rooms of Messrs. Roberts and Son, 79 King St. West. They are for the most part by English artists, and are well worth looking at. They are to be on view until Saturday, the 26th inst., when they will be offered for sale by auction. In our next issue we may have something further to say about these paintings.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

ETHICS OF BOXING AND MANLY SPORT. By John Boyle O'Reilly. Illustrated. Boston: Ticknor and Company.

This book is not a manual for the professional or amateur athlete. It does not defend the brutality of "the Ring," or encourage prize-fighting. "Its main purpose is to bring into consideration the high value, moral and intellectual as well as physical, of those exercises that develop healthy constitutions, cheerful minds, manly self-confidence, and appreciation of the beauties of nature and natural enjoyment." The first part treats of the Ethics and Evolution of Boxing, and in its stirring accounts are given of some notable fights, ancient and modern. While Mr. O'Reilly regrets and deplores the brutality of the prize ring, and declares it to be "as unnecessary as it is repulsive," yet he finds a wholesome lesson in a fight. Sayer's great contest with Heenan "proved that a small man can easily defeat a big and heavy one by skill, pluck, and endurance"; and from Tom King's victory over Jim Mace, Englishmen learned that "beating, bruising, and even blinding a man do not defeat him, if his heart be true and strong." The bruises and the scars and the blood "are the price of a precious and beautiful thing—the sight of manly qualities under the severest strain." Mr. O'Reilly's enthusiasm for boxing is inexhaustible. "All other athletic exercises, with one exception," he says, "are limited or partial in their physical development. That exception is swimming. Swimming takes the whole muscular system into play, uniformly and powerfully. Lungs, heart, trunk, and limbs, all but the eyes, have to do their full share of the work. Boxing leaves nothing out; it exercises the whole man at once and equally—the trunk, the limbs, the eyes—and the mind." But those who cannot share the author's admiration for the manly art will find the book not only interesting but instructive and useful. The chapters on training and exercise generally for the promotion of health contain many hints and directions which the reader may study with profit. The account of ancient Irish athletic games, exercises and weapons, contains some curious information of considerable interest; while the concluding chapters, consisting of canoeing sketches, will delight all who are devoted to the paddle. Mr. O'Reilly is an experienced and graceful writer, and we need say nothing of the literary merits of his book, which the publishers have brought out in the excellent style characteristic of their house.

MARGARET REGIS AND SOME OTHER GIRLS. A Story. By Annie H. Ryder. Boston: D. Lothrop Company.

This is a girl's book, but it is one that will interest many others who may take the trouble or chance to have the pleasure of reading it. There is a great deal of common-place talk in it; but its tone is pure and good, and the influence it exerts on the reader cannot be other than wholesome. The story is not altogether about school girls and school days. Indeed we are introduced to the heroine—if "Grita" can be called a heroine, on the eve of her graduation. We see much of her after she leaves school, while she is abroad filling herself for her life work, while she is a teacher; and besides this there is a pretty little romance which ends in the prince finding his princess.

LITTLE MISS PEGGY. By Mrs. Molesworth. With pictures, by Walter Crane. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

Mrs. Molesworth's stories are always good, and this very pretty little nursery tale is quite worthy of the author's reputation. Peggy is a charm-

ing little girl who talks very naturally, sometimes very amusingly, and sometimes even instructively. The pictures are real illustrations, which add much to the charm of an unusually good book for children.

THE SPELL OF ASHTAROTH. By Duffield Osborne. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

The scene of this story is laid in the city of Jericho and the plain before it, when that great city was taken and destroyed by the Israelites under Joshua. The vast camp of Israel, the compassing of the walls on the seventh day, the fall of the doomed city, and the terrible destruction of its inhabitants are vividly and powerfully described, and with remarkable adherence to the main facts of the Scripture narrative. Joshua and Caleb, Eleazer the High Priest, and other leaders of the Israelites are introduced to the reader, but the chief interest centres in Adriel, a young Hebrew warrior, and Elissa, the beautiful Assyrian maiden, whom he unlawfully spared in the slaughter of Jericho. The story is exceedingly interesting, and is told with vigour and brilliancy. The disastrous attack on Ai, the sin of Achan, and the tragedy of the Valley of Achor are some of the episodes in a story of unusual merit.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

The Andover for May is quite up to the high standard maintained by this excellent periodical.

The May Cosmopolitan is a brilliant number, showing marked literary merit and many excellent portraits and other illustrations.

Queries for May has much of that pleasant reading and useful information which we are accustomed to look for in this periodical.

Outing for May is a handsomely illustrated and carefully edited number of this popular magazine of recreation, travel, and adventure.

AN American English version of the series, "Les Grands Ecrivains Français," has been undertaken by A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago.

PROFESSOR CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS contributes a paper in literary criticism to the *New Princeton Review* for May, entitled "Pastoral Elegies."

AN appreciative, critical, and biographical sketch of Louisa May Alcott, by Cecil Hampden Howard, is one of the attractions in the May number of *Woman*.

"A PESSIMIST," by Robert Tomsol, which has just been completed in John B. Alden's publication, the *Novelist*, has been brought out in book form by the publisher.

In the *Overland Monthly* for May "Some Western Caricature" is continued, giving many amusing examples of black and white caricature in former days in California.

In *Macmillan* for May, Mr. Morris's "Chris" is concluded. A paper on Sydney Smith by Mr. George Saintsbury, and an anonymous article on "Gentlemen Emigrants," are attractive features of the number.

Temple Bar for May has in addition to a very liberal amount of fiction, several articles of interest: "Dickens's Characters and their Prototypes," "A Poet of Prose," "Prince Bismarck and the German Reichstag," and "Gluck."

The Forum for May deals with a number of questions of great public importance, among them, "Miscarriages of Justice," by Judge George C. Barrett; "Obstacles to Good City Government," by Seth Low, and "National Control of Railways," by Frederic Taylor.

THE serial that has been running in *Harper's Weekly*, entitled "A Strange MS. Found in a Copper Cylinder," is said to have been written by the late Prof. De Mille, and to have lain in the archives of the Harper establishment for the past fifteen years. This information will rather disturb those persons who have pronounced it an imitation of the peculiar literary productions of Mr. Rider Haggard.

THE blow has fallen. Boston can no longer consider herself the literary centre of the country. The author of "April Hopes" arrived at the Parker House on Thursday evening, and registered as "W. D. Howells, New York." This is nothing less than treachery. Now that Mr. Howells avows himself a New Yorker, there is no telling what the future may have in store for either city. But to abandon Boston to its own desolate fate—ah, that was cruel, indeed! The doom of the tri-mountain city is sealed.

WE are glad to see that at last an Historical Society of Ontario has been organized. Similar societies have been in existence in the other provinces for many years and have accomplished much good work. But although there has been no organized Society in Ontario, there have been able, zealous, and painstaking labourers, in the field of local historical research, the value of whose exertions can scarcely be over-estimated. The Society now organized has for President, Hon. G. W. Allan, D.C.L.; for Vice-President Col. G. T. Denison and D. A. O'Sullivan LL.D.; and for Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. John Charles Dent.

THE fact has been noted that seamen, as a rule, are peculiarly subject to colour-blindness. In tests made in the British mercantile marine standard green was pronounced red in 107 cases out of 189.