

### Literary Notice.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE for October comes breezy with African travel, for the first article is "How I crossed Masai Land" by Joseph Thompson, with illustrations from photographs. A scientific article, one of the electric series—on "Electricity in War"—(1) In naval warfare,—(2) In land warfare,—with illustrations, shews the wonderful progress in this branch of applied science.—"A summer in Iceland"—with illustrations, makes one thankful for a more hospitable country and genial climate. "The Life of Benvenuto Cellini" illustrated, will delight the lovers of art, while the reader who wants nothing but entertainment will find it in the stories serial and complete, which makes up the remainder of the number. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price 25 cents or \$3 per annum.

### MISSION WORK IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

The need of the Gospel and the difficulties of mission work in Central America are vividly set forth by the Rev. Joshua A. Gobey, a missionary in Costa Rica, who writes to the London Christian as follows: "With my family I left England in 1888 for Jamaica, where I remained for five years. As the result of a missionary tour to some islands in the Caribbean Sea, and to some parts in Central America the Jamaica Baptist Missionary Society decided to commence Christian work in the Republic of Costa Rica and desired me to become their first missionary. My wife and myself have now been in this country fourteen months. There is much here to sadden one's heart and to depress the spirit, but our work is the Lord's and He is our hope. We hold services in a room 42 by 24 feet, which we rent, paying 35 dollars per month. The place is unhealthily situated, often uncomfortably full; the story above us is occupied by five families, and the sanitary arrangements are in a wretched condition. We are surrounded by rum shops and the sights and sounds around, even while Divine service is being conducted, make us often very sad. We have to endure scoffing and sneering and other discouragements. There is general sceptical indifference; on Sunday men are paid their wages, business is done, trains are running, frequently vessels loaded or unloaded, rum-shops full, drunkenness, blasphemy, gambling, and other sinful practices are common. Nevertheless, God in whom we trust is with us. Some few have come out

on the Lord's side, and others we trust will soon follow.

"The Panama Canal works are completely abandoned. A large number of men have recently come here from there, and thus our responsibility is increasing. Our great want in this town is a suitable building in which to preach. A piece of land is promised, and a portion of the money required has been raised, but we still need from £250 to £300. This is, like the surrounding Republic and States, a Roman Catholic country, and greatly needs the Gospel. The natives speak Spanish, but the great majority in this town and for many miles up country, speak English. At present I am the only Protestant missionary in the Republic. Our work is not confined to the town. Along by the sea-board, and into the interior, on the old railway, and the one in course of construction. I visit, preach, sell, and give Bibles, hymn-books, and tracts. My wife conducts services in the town during my absence. We get our turn of fever, which to have is never to forget."

### DISOBEDIENCE.

Mr. Moody tells of a little nephew whom he watched one day, while he and his mother were passing through one of those crucial moments which decide a child's character as obedient or disobedient. The little fellow had taken a Bible from the table, and thrown it on the floor. His mother said, "Go and pick up uncle's Bible."

He said he didn't want to.

"I did not ask you whether you wanted to or not; go and pick it up."

"I won't."

"Why Charlie," said his mother, "who taught you that naughty word? I never heard you speak so before. If you don't go and pick up uncle's Bible, I shall punish you."

Still he declared he wouldn't do it, and she repeated her threat of punishment, adding that he should have to pick it up too. He then declared he wouldn't, looking at it as if he would like to, but really somehow thought he could not; even getting down on the floor and, with both his arms around the book, seeming to try, but still persisted that he "couldn't." Again the mother repeated sternly and inexorable her threat of punishment, and that he would "have to pick it up too." At last she broke the boy's will, and the minute that was done, he picked up that book as easily as possible. "I felt very much interested," was Mr. Moody's comment, "for I knew that if she didn't break his will, he would break her heart."