

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Scribner's Monthly.

New York: Scribner & Co. February, 1878.

The "Mid-winter number" is even more than usually attractive. So much did the publishers think of it that they had no hesitation in printing 100,000 copies of it. One of the attractions is a full-page portrait of Abraham Lincoln taken from the last and little known photograph. The table of contents is rich and varied.

St. Nicholas.

New York: Scribner & Co. February, 1878.

A magazine that has a tendency to keep children, of various ages, in good humour all the year around, and more especially in the long dreary winter evenings, is a great benefit to them and to all who happen to be within hearing of them; and if, at the same time it contrives to impart a good deal of useful instruction, almost unawares, it is all the better. These are the objects at which "St. Nicholas" apparently aims; and its funny stories, clever sketches, and beautiful illustrations are well calculated to accomplish them.

Lectures by Rev. Joseph Cook.

Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson. Trade supplied by "Toronto News Company." Price 25 cents.

It would be superfluous to write an extended notice of these masterly productions of the brilliant American scholar. They are already famous; that is, most people have heard of them, but at the same time it is equally true that very few people have read them; and the publisher of this pamphlet has done well to place these lectures before the public, carefully edited, neatly got up, and at a price which brings them within everybody's reach.

Orangism, Catholicism, and Sir Francis Hincks.

By J. A. Allen, Kingston. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

This pamphlet of sixteen pages is a reprint from the October number of the "Canadian Monthly." Its author is a pretty regular contributor to that magazine; and as a writer he is always fresh and vigorous. In noticing the "Canadian Monthly" in our issue of 5th October, we paid more attention to this article of Mr. Allen's than to any other; and we only repeat one of our former statements when we say that in opposing the unreasonable claims of the Roman Catholic Church, he advocates the cause of truth, of humanity, and of moral and intellectual progress.

Vick's Floral Guide.

James Vick, Rochester, N.Y.

It is pleasant to find that greater attention is given to flowers now than has been given to them in the past; and that the number of people who take an interest in their cultivation is always on the increase. To these a well-arranged, illustrated catalogue is of great advantage in making their selections. Among all the catalogues which have come under our notice, for neatness and regularity of arrangement and for beauty and truthfulness of illustration, "Vick's Floral Guide" bears the palm. Independent of its use as a guide in the selection of flowers, it may well claim a position as a work of art. Mr. Vick has materially aided the progress of civilization by introducing so many new and beautiful varieties of flowers, and spreading them over the continent by means of his widely circulated catalogues and his other publications.

Fortnightly Review: North American Series.

Toronto: Belford Brothers. December, 1877.

The title of the first article in this number is "Mr. Gladstone on Manhood Suffrage," and the writer of it is Robert Lowe. Mr. Gladstone replied to a former article of Mr. Lowe's on "The New Reform Bill," and here we have Mr. Lowe's rejoinder. In his first article Mr. Lowe had pointed out that if the provisions of the new Reform Bill became law, it would be impossible to resist the accomplishment of universal suffrage; and this he regarded as a very startling conclusion which few would think of facing. Mr. Gladstone refuses to be startled, accepts the situation, and declares himself in favor of manhood suffrage. But the Honorable Robert Lowe is no mean opponent, as the able paper now before us abundantly shows. We rather think he proves conclusively that neither Britain nor any other known country has arrived at that point of civilization which would render the adoption of manhood suffrage anything else than foolish and dangerous. The other articles in the present number of the "Fortnightly" are: "The Republic and the Marshall," by

Frederick Harrison; "Humming Birds," by Alfred R. Wallace; "Dr. Newman's Theory of Belief," by Leslie Stephens; "Political Dissent," by J. Guinness Rogers; "Florence and the Medici," by J. A. Symonds; "Hell and the Divine Veracity," by Lionel A. Tollemache; "Has India Food for its People," by H. J. S. Cotton; "Home and Foreign Affairs." The typography and general appearance of the Canadian edition of this well-known English magazine are creditable to the Messrs. Belford.

The American Journal of Microscopy.

New York, January, 1878.

This magazine, now commencing its third volume, will be of great advantage to all who use the microscope. It will enable them to compare their own observations with the observations of others, and it will keep them well posted as to the improvements made from time to time in the construction of the instrument and in the mode of using it. It would be a serious mistake to suppose that there is nothing new to be learnt in this department. Many magazines and many books will run their course and be laid on the shelf long before the microscope shall have accomplished its mission. The discovery of the refracting power of the lense has opened up to our observation two very rich fields for exploration which would otherwise have been inaccessible—the one because it was too large; the other because it was too small. Nor can it be said that the telescope has outstripped the microscope either in the strangeness or in the importance of its revelations. We do not suppose that the man who first discovered the satellites of Jupiter was a bit more astonished than the man who first found out that in rubbing the surface of a mouldy potato with his thumb he had spread death and devastation over a forest-clad region which, regarded in relation to the size and number of its inhabitants, was of vast extent, and perhaps of as much importance in the universe as some things which occupy much more space. The present number of the Journal contains several interesting descriptions of hitherto undescribed animalcules, accompanied by illustrations.

The Canada Christian Monthly.

Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson. January, 1878.

The present number begins the eighth volume of this useful publication. Throughout its course, nothing has been admitted into its pages but what was thoroughly in keeping with its character as a religious magazine; while, at the same time, the shortness, the pithiness, the variety, and the admirable classification of the articles, all combine to render it not only readable, but very interesting. Even those who are young, and perhaps not in the habit of thinking very deeply or seriously, always find something suited to their taste in the departments entitled "Christian Miscellany" and "Children's Treasury," the latter of which generally has one or two illustrations; while the mature and intelligent Christian finds food which his soul loveth among the more solid departments, such as "Editorials," "Christian Thought," and "Christian Life." This magazine has always preserved its unsectarian character, indeed it would be very difficult to find a periodical which has been so successful in advocating, elucidating, and minutely explaining gospel truth, without manifesting some denominational bias. The January number is a fair average specimen. The editorial department is well occupied by a most thoughtful and weighty article entitled "The Four Corner Stones of a Prosperous and Permanent Commonwealth." These four corner stones, we are told, are (1) "Honour all men;" (2) "Love the brotherhood;" (3) "Fear God;" (4) "Honour the King." Under these heads are beautifully and clearly set forth the essentials of national greatness. Under the head of "Living Preachers" we have a sermon on "Our Lord's Preaching," by Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. The department of "Christian Thought" is taken up with one of Joseph Cook's famous lectures; its subject is "Is Conscience Infallible?" The character chosen to illustrate "Christian Life" is that of the late Bishop Ewing of Argyle. The "Christian Miscellany," the "Children's Treasury," and the department allotted to Poetry are well filled; and the number closes with some valuable Book Reviews. The present is a good time to begin taking this excellent magazine; and those who wish to do so have only to remit one dollar to C. Blackett Robinson, Publisher, 5 Jordan St., Toronto. This small amount will secure the "Canada Christian Monthly" for one year.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

TO CUT WHALBONE.—Hold it in the flame of the lamp an instant, and you can cut it with shears.

TO REMOVE STAINS FROM IVORY HANDLES.—If assafoetida be applied with a little friction, all stains from ivory handles disappear.

CORN STARCH CAKE.—One cup of sugar; one-third cup of butter; one and one-fourth cups of flour; one-half cup of sweet milk; one-half cup of corn starch; two teaspoons of baking powder.

BORAX IN THE LAUNDRY.—Borax is a good thing to use in the laundry. It will effect a large saving in the consumption of soap. It does not injure linen, and it softens the hard water, which is a great advantage.

MEASURING THE WIND.—The force of the wind is easily measured by an anemometer. Seven miles an hour is a gentle air; fourteen miles a light breeze; twenty-one miles a good steady breeze; forty miles a gale; sixty miles a heavy storm; and eighty to one hundred miles is a sweeping hurricane.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE SATELLITE OF MARS is owing to the fact that this planet is many millions of miles nearer the earth at present than for nearly eighty years. Take a good look at Mars now; you will not see him so big and bright again for nearly a century to come—and it is a trifle doubtful if you will then.

FROZEN FRUIT-CREAM.—One pound of fruit, one quart of good fresh cream, sweeten to taste, rub all through a fine sieve, place in a freezer; as it freezes scrape down from the sides like ice cream; if moulded in fancy forms it must be first frozen, then packed well in the forms, and repacked in ice and salt like the beginning; place the forms in warm water for a moment; so as to turn out nicely.

HOW TO TAKE CASTOR OIL.—A modification of the old and favorite mode of administering castor oil in orange juice is offered by Potain. Let the juice of half an orange be squeezed into a glass; after carefully pouring the oil upon this, add the juice of the other half of the orange, so as to enclose the oil. If pains be taken to avoid mixing the layers, the combination can be swallowed, it is said, without the least perception of the flavor of the oil.—*Western Rural.*

A GOOD PLAIN CAKE.—Take a piece of bread-dough size of a loaf, add two cups of brown sugar, six ounces of good beef drippings or lard, three eggs, two tablespoons of caraway seeds. Mix all well together, and bake. Three-quarters of a pound of dried currants may be substituted for caraway seeds, if preferred. A little butter may be used in place of part of the drippings, but less is needed of butter or lard than of drippings, as they go further than the latter, being richer in quality.

SPRAINS.—Between the bones of the ankle and the wrist there are muscles. When by accident these are drawn out of their places what we call a sprain is produced. When one is aware that he has suffered this species of derangement, the first thing to do is to keep the part injured perfectly still, and by no means to use it in the least. The muscles left to themselves will return to their places gradually. Hops steeped in vinegar and applied hot to the injured part will quiet the anguish and restore wholeness. But still more important than any application is perfect quiet.

FARMER'S HONEY CAKE.—Take a pint of pure strained honey, and mix into it four ounces of butter and four of lard; then add five well-beaten eggs, and season with the juice of a good-sized lemon or nearly the whole of a nutmeg. A cupful of sour milk should also be used in mixing it to dough, with a light teaspoonful of saleratus. The amount of flour necessary will be nearly two quarts. Do not work it very much after the flour is mixed, but roll the dough out, and cut into shapes for baking in tin pans. This is a simple but palatable little cake. No sugar is needed at all.

VEGETABLE FOOD.—Speaking at a public vegetable banquet, a well known clergyman stated that he was descended from a long line of gouty ancestors. He had been a sufferer from gout, but having more than ten years ago become a total abstainer, and having not long after become a vegetarian, he had gradually driven gout out, and could give no other reason for it except pure and wholesome living—total abstinence from alcoholic liquor and from flesh meat. The teeth of man showed that he was not a carnivorous animal, and the stomach, he contended, also showed that it was not to receive flesh, but the fruits of the earth. He would not go back to his former mode of life for anything that could be given to him. Vegetarian diet agreed with the delicate as well as the robust. It was wholesome and enjoyable, and to it he owed a new lease of life.

SUNNY ROOMS MAKE SUNNY LIVES.—Let us take the airiest, choicest and sunniest room in the house for our living room—the workshop where brain and body are built up and renewed. And let us have there a bay window, no matter how plain in structure, through which the good twin angels of nature—sun light and pure air—can freely enter. This window shall be the poem of the house. It shall give freedom and scope for eye and mind. We shall hang no picture on our walls that can compare with the living and everlasting pictures which God shall paint for us through our ample window. Rosy dawns, golden-hearted sunsets, the tender green and changing tints of spring, the glow of summer, the pomp of autumn, the white of winter, storm and shine, glimmer and gloom—all these we can have and enjoy while we sit in our sheltered room as the changing years roll on. Dark rooms bring depression of spirits, imparting a sense of confinement, of isolation, of powerlessness, which is chilling to energy and vigor; but in light is good cheer. Even in a gloomy house, where walls and furniture are dingy and brown, you have but to take down the heavy curtains, open wide the window, hang brackets on either side, set flower pots on the brackets and ivies in the pots, and let the warm sun stream freely in to bring health to our bodies and joy to our souls.