

There were tones in the voice that whispered then,
You may hear to-day in a hundred men!"

Mr. Whittier's "Sisters" is of the "Maud Muller" measure. It is more delicious and smooth than profound. It is not an epic nor yet a ponderous ode; but it is a simple touch of nature; a sweet idea sweetly expressed, and one that leaves a pleasant, thoughtful feeling behind it. An artist would enjoy the task of illustrating this poem. It is as natural as Burns's "Cotter's Saturday Night," and that is saying a good deal.

The "Whispering Gallery," No. 1, is a new feature in the *Atlantic* and the sketch which serves as the first instalment is auent W. M. Thackeray. Mr. James T. Fields, the principal editor of the *Monthly*, is the author. He has for many years enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the most noted authors and artists in the Old and New World. Mr. Thackeray was an especial friend of his, and the sketch he gives us is full of quaint and amusing anecdotes. It is finely written and abounds in good and effective points. Mr. Field's articles will be much read. Every one likes to hear all the gossip afloat about great men and the author of the "Whispering Gallery" is just the man calculated to gratify that love. Nathaniel Hawthorne is spoken of as being the subject of No. 2. Mr. Hay, who was at one time Secretary to the late President Lincoln, and for a time attached to the Spanish Legation, gives a sketchy paper called "Castilian Days." General Prim, Admiral Topete and M. Castelar, the great Spanish orator, are described most eloquently. The paper will be continued in future numbers of the *Atlantic*. Mr. Howells' "Year in a Venetian Palace" is very interesting and lively withal. Some literary notices conclude this really capital issue. Of course there are stories both serial and short; but these we have not read. Mr. Aldrich is to have an interesting paper in the February No. Mr. Fields has retired from the firm of Fields, Osgood & Co., but still retains the editorship of the magazine. Mr. James R. Osgood is now the head of the firm. This gentleman was originally intended for the bar; indeed he studied Blackstone for some six or eight months. But he had no love for poring over musty old law books and he left the legal firm of Shepley & Dana, of Portland, Maine, and came to Boston. He applied to the head of the late firm, Mr. Fields, and like Dumas, *pere*, he wrote a very beautiful hand; that enterprising gentleman at once engaged him, and through never shirking work but applying himself diligently, he worked his way up, step by step, until now he is the veritable head of the principal publishing house in the United States. "Our Young Folks" was his own idea and he was largely instrumental in the establishment of the popular weekly, "Every Saturday." When Mr. W. D. Ticknor died, in 1864, Mr. Osgood was admitted a member of the firm, which he had served so long and so faithfully, and in 1868, when Mr. Howard M. Ticknor resigned his position and left the firm, a change in the "name and style" which for nearly a quarter of a century had remained the same, took place. The honest old imprint of Ticknor & Fields fell back, and the golden letters on the sign in Tremont Street, proclaimed to the world that Fields, Osgood & Co., would hereafter adorn the backs of the many choice volumes issuing from that house. Mr. Osgood is always