

enunciated by George William Curtis, in *Harper's Magazine* for July, "to tell the truth, as they saw it, of other men's works as they would have wished those men to tell the truth of theirs." It is true, on the other hand, that there have been those who have ruthlessly, by pen stabs as fatal as sword thrusts, "killed the sound divine." One has only to think of Keats, to realize the great and solemn responsibility of the reviewer, who sometimes, it may be fairly said, holds in his mind the scales which mete out life or death.

In the neat little volume of "Views and Reviews," by W. E. Henley, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, we have a bright and happy illustration of the high standard to which the art of criticism can be raised by one who is eminently qualified to exercise it. Though the subjects dealt with by Mr. Henley are diverse and difficult, yet they are all treated with conspicuous ability. The diction is clear, choice and brilliant, the style vigorous, expressive and musical. The Reviews are marvels of conciseness and comprehensiveness, and abound in apt illustration, exquisite description, ready reference, and fair and genial criticism—dealt out with a gentleness and deftness that are positively charming, and that disclose wide reading, a thorough knowledge of the subject, love of the art, delight in its pursuit, and through all a desire to be free, full and fair in its exercise. Though one may not agree with all the conclusions arrived at as in the comparative estimate of the influence for good of Byron and Wordsworth, yet it would be hard to find within the same compass such terse, brilliant and instructive criticisms as Mr. Henley offers in his own inimitable way. Mr. Henley's prose has the limpid flow, the merry sparkle, and the musical tinkle of a pure and purring stream, and the genial humour which irradiates his pages well warrants the sub-title, "Essays in Appreciation." We heartily commend the volume to all who love literature as specimen work of one of those bright and brilliant reviewers whose genius illumines the pages of *The Athenæum*, *The Saturday Review*, *The Academy*, *The Magazine of Art*, and kindred journals. We cannot close without quoting a portion of the essay on quaint, delightful, unapproachable Herrick. "In Herrick the air is fragrant with new-mown hay; there is a morning light upon all things: long shadows streak the grass, and on the eglantine swinging in the hedge the dew lies white and brilliant. Out of the happy distance comes a shrill and silvery sound of whetting scythes; and from the near brook-side rings the laughter of merry maids in circle to make cowslip balls and babble of their bachelors. As you walk you are conscious of the grace that morning meadows wear, and mayhap you meet Amaryllis going home to the farm with an apronful of flowers. Rounded is she and buxom, cool-cheeked and vigorous and trim, smelling of rosemary and thyme, with an appetite for curds and cream, and a tongue of cleanly wantonness. For her singer has an eye in his head, and exquisite as are his fancies he dwells in no land of shadows. The more clearly he sees a thing the better he sings it; and provided that he do see it nothing is beneath the caress of his muse. The bays and rosemary that wreath the hall at Yule, the log itself, the Candlemas box, the hock-cart and the may-pole, nay,

"See'st thou that cloud as silver clear,
Plump, soft, and swelling everywhere?
'Tis Julia's bed!"

ALDEN'S MANIFOLD CYCLOPEDIA, VOL. 20. Infant-Joppa.
New York: Garretson, Cox and Company.

A publisher's notice informs us that the publication of this useful and cheap cyclopedia has been transferred to Garretson, Cox and Company. The volume just issued marks the completion of the first half of the work. Looking through its pages one is struck at the same time by the fulness of the information given and by the unequal balancing of the space assigned to different heads. For instance, President Johnson receives four full pages, and the great lexicographer but one and one-half. Again Isis receives a bare page and a fourth while Bishop Jansen receives two and one-half pages. The cyclopedia, however, is brought down very close to date, even the history of the Johnstown disaster being included. There is a very good sketch of the Jews, extending to over thirty-one pages, and some valuable interest tables. Iron receives some twenty pages, and we could wish that Mr. Alden's compiler had given less space to the lives of the three Presidents, Andrew Jackson, Thos. Jefferson, and Andrew Johnson, and more to the scientific sub-heads, which are comparatively numerous, and about which one naturally expects to get full details in a cyclopedia. A new library edition, however, is announced in an enlarged form and we hope that more space will be assigned to many subjects that have, perforce, before been stinted. Extra illustrations are promised, why not extra matter? Ireland receives in this issue some nine pages—a comparatively small allowance in an American Cyclopedia.

Le Canada-Français for July contains the first of an interesting series of biographical articles on ancient Montrealers by William McLennan, who is well known to readers of *THE WEEK*. A Gerin-Lajoie continues his review of the decade, 1840-50, in Canada, and Napoleon Legendre sends the regular instalment of "Annibal." J. Angot des Rotmis has a thoughtful paper on commercial crises and joint international responsibility, in which he considers the effect of the latter upon the former. Poetry by Louis Fréchette, Beauchemin, a translation of one of Geo. W. Cable's short stories, and other articles, with foreign review and book notices make up the tale.

THE Forum for July opens with a contribution by Professor John Tyndall to the autobiographical series, begun last month. Professor Tyndall recounts and comments upon the "formative influences" of his own life. The somewhat unusual standpoint of actor and student is made use of by James E. Murdoch, in an article upon "Hamlet," and the political papers are by W. M. Ferriss, who dissects the obstacles to Civil Service Reform, pointing out that the chief bar is the unwillingness of the people at large, and by Walter C. Hamm, who reviews the worst cases of "Gerrymandering" in the States. Most interesting to Canadians will be the article by a Canadian writer, A. R. Carman, entitled "The Perplexities that Canada would Bring," showing the complications that would arise in U.S. politics from the advent into them of a Canadian party. Mr. Carman also criticizes very justly points in U. S. Government. Other interesting articles are "The Newspaper of the Future," by Noah Brooks, and "The Newer West," by Col. Hinton, who prophesies a speedier development of the Pacific trade than is dreamed of. Professor Todd, Commander Barber and Dr. Lyman Abbott also contribute papers.

THE statement has been widely circulated, probably by parties who wished it might be true, that John B. Alden, Publisher, of New York, Chicago, and Atlanta, had joined the "Book Trust," which is trying to monopolize the publication of standard books, and to increase prices from 25 to 100 per cent. Mr. Alden sends us word that he has not joined the Trust, and there is not and never has been any probability of his joining it. The "Literary Revolution," which has accomplished such wonderful results within the past ten years in popularizing literature of the highest character, still goes on. Instead of increasing prices, large reduction in prices has recently been made, particularly on copyright books by American authors. One of the latest issues from his press is "Stanley's Emin Pasha Expedition," by Wauters, a very handsome, large-type, illustrated volume, reduced in price from \$2 to 50 cents. This work tells a most interesting and complete story, beginning with the conquest of the Soudan, and continuing through years of African exploration, the revolt of the Mahdi, the siege of Khartoum, with the death of Gordon, the return of Dr. Junker, besides the story of Stanley's own adventures, including his successful Relief Expedition.

THE always interesting *Magazine of American History* opens its twenty-fourth volume with a brilliant July number. A fine portrait of Sir William Blackstone serves as frontispiece, its pertinence apparent to whosoever reads the leading article, "The Golden Age of Colonial New York." Mrs. Lamb has given a wonderfully vivid picture of the little metropolis of the province under kingly rule in 1768, conducting the curious through its streets, houses, public buildings and churches, to the commencement exercises of its college, to the founding of its Chamber of Commerce, to the king's legislative halls in Wall Street with the governor, Sir Henry Moore, presiding, to the chamber of the City Corporation, and to the court-rooms, with graphic personal descriptions of the men who figured in those places; while the newspapers, social affairs, amusements, shows, and quaint dress of the people are all painted with a master hand. Following this delightful chapter Roy Singleton writes briefly of "Sir William Blackstone and his Work," the first volumes of which were already possessed by the principal lawyers of New York. "The Indian College at Cambridge," by Andrew McFarlane Davis, follows with valuable information on a subject little known; "Burgoyne's Defeat and Surrender, an enquiry from an English Standpoint," by Percy Cross Standish, is very interesting; "A Curious and Important Discovery in Indiana," by ex-Lieutenant-Governor Robertson, gives a picturesque view of the links connecting the days of chivalry in France with those of adventure among the savage tribes of America; and then comes "President Lincoln's Humour," by David R. Locke. One of the most stirring and important papers in the number, however, is by the celebrated Boston divine, Rev. Samuel E. Herrick, D. D., entitled, "Our Relation to the Past a Debt to the Future," which, although specifically addressed to the people of Southampton, Long Island, may be taken home and freely appropriated by every community in the land. Its lessons are worth committing to memory by all classes in the schools.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

WILLIAM BLACK was paid \$6,500 for the serial rights to his last novel.

IN the library of the British Museum are over thirty-two miles of shelves filled with books.

A SINGLE page of manuscript by Charles Dickens brought \$200 at auction in New York recently.

GEORGE CARY EGGLESTON has finished in collaboration with Miss Dolores Marbourg a novel called "Juggernaut."

A NEW story by Mr. Bret Harte, entitled "Through the Santa Clara Wheat," has been commenced in Mr. Archibald Grove's periodical, *Short Cuts*.

THE publication of Mr. Marion Crawford's "A Cigarette Maker's Romance" is deferred till the autumn. It will first make its appearance in serial form on the Continent.

MRS. A. E. BARR has just finished a novel in which the American Navy takes part, entitled "She Loved a Sailor." She contemplates writing a story which will have socialism as a basis.

COUNTESS TOLSTOI makes hektograph copies of her husband's books that are under ban in Russia and thus circulates them in the mail. She has nine living children, the oldest, a daughter, aged eighteen.

"THE AZTEC TREASURE-HOUSE" by Thomas A. Janvier has just been issued in book form by Messrs. Harper and Brothers. The volume contains several striking illustrations from drawings by Frederic Remington.

MR. WHITTIER was invited to read an original poem at the 250th anniversary of Haverhill, but sent word that, in the present state of his health, he was "scarcely able to bear even the pleasurable excitement of such an occasion."

IN response to a very general demand for a popular edition of Walter Besant's well known novel, "All Sorts and Conditions of Men," Messrs. Harper and Bros. announce the immediate issue of that work as the next addition to their Franklin Square Library.

GEN. LONGSTREET is understood to be engaged on a history of the Civil War, especially the campaigns in which he had a share. Lord Wolseley, having finished his study of the same war, is said to have undertaken an elaborate life of Marlborough, from a military point of view.

IN the current number of *Imperial Federation* are two striking articles, "What is Imperial Federation?" by Mr. Jehu Matthews, of Toronto, and "Pass, Friend, All's Well," by the well-known Secretary of the Canadian branch of the League, Mr. Casimir Dickson. Mr. Matthews' article is the first of a series.

WHILE turning over some old contracts belonging to the Notary De Tomei, in the notary's Archives of Sarzana, near Genoa, two parchments were found containing fragments of the Divine Comedy of Dante. These are considered to be of great value because they constitute portions of one of the earliest copies of the poem.

THE popular English author, Mrs. Alexander, has written the complete novel for the August number of *Lippincott's Magazine*. It is entitled "What Gold Cannot Buy." The many readers of "The Wooing O't," "Her Dearest Foe," and other of Mrs. Alexander's charming stories, will await this her latest novel with pleasurable anticipations.

RICHARD HENRY STODDARD has in preparation a new volume of verse to be entitled "The Lion's Cub." Besides a poem in blank verse of that name, the volume will contain several shorter pieces. "The Lion's Cub" is a poetical version of an Eastern story, the English original of which is found in Sir William Jones' prose translation of Calidasa's "Sakontal, the Magic Ring."

BROCKHAUS, of Leipzig, has secured the coveted rights for the publication of the large book *Emin Pasha* is writing about his life and discoveries in Africa. Emin accepted the publisher's big offer, but sent word that it would be some time before he could complete the book, particularly as the new expedition that has taken him into the interior again will, for the present, demand about all his time and activity.

MR. WHISTLER has taken up his new quarters in Cheyne-walk. The house "is at present a 'disarrangement' in the hands of the workmen, but Mr. Whistler soon hopes to convert it into a 'harmony.' He himself, in the most good-humoured way, presides over the distempers." A studio is to be built in the curious old garden which winds in and out like a maze, and is distinguished by a fine and large mulberry-tree. Mr. Whistler is contemplating a trip to Spain with Sarasate.

RUDYARD KIPLING, whose name is now on everyone's lips, and whom the *London World* has dubbed "A New Literary Hero," has written a story entitled "At the End of the Passage," for the August number of *Lippincott's Magazine*. It is a sketch of Anglo-Indian life, and it is in such sketches that Mr. Kipling is at his best. His information of Indian life has been obtained at first hand in the very heart of native cities, in dens no European has ever penetrated before, and his researches have been facilitated by a perfect mastery of Hindustani, both as it is taught in books, and as it is spoken among the people.

MRS. MARGARET E. SANGSTER tells a good story on herself. Some years ago a representative of a Brooklyn paper called on her one day and asked for some items about herself, to be included in an article on "Brooklyn's Literary Women." It happened to be Mrs. Sangster's busy morning, so she said, scarcely looking up from her work: "Oh, I am only an ordinary common-place woman; there is nothing to say about me." The reporter bowed and withdrew. In about a week the article appeared, and at the end of the list of Brooklyn's famous blues appeared these words: "Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster is only an ordinary common-place woman; there is nothing to say about her."

THE opening and closing scenes of Mr. Besant's new novel, "Armored Lyonesse," are laid among the Scilly Islands. Tradition relates that these islands, now many miles from the main-land, were once united to Cornwall by a region of extreme fertility. This was the ancient country of Lyonesse. It was inhabited by a people remarkable for their industry and piety. No less than one hundred and forty churches stood over that region which is now a waste of waters; and the rocks called the Seven Stones are said to mark the place of a large city. According to an old English chronicle, Lyonesse was overwhelmed by an inundation of the sea on the 11th of November, 1099.