

*Scribner's* for March has the usual number of illustrations. This number contains the concluding article of "American Illustration of To-day," with numerous specimens of the work of leading artists. Another profusely illustrated article is "Paris Theatres and Concerts," by William F. Apthorp, this being the second instalment. A poem of James Russell Lowell's "On a Bust of General Grant" derives especial interest from being that poet's last work. "The Wrecker" is unwinding its plot, but seems still far off from the *denouement*. "Speed in Locomotives," "The Water Route from Chicago to the Ocean" and "Small Country Places" are descriptive articles. Robert Grant contributes the first instalment of "The Reflections of a Married Man," and Alice Morse Earle "A New England Kismet." The poetry is contributed by Lloyd McKim Garrison and Edward S. Martin.

The *New England Magazine* for March has two interesting reminiscent articles—"Recollections of Louise May Alcott," by Mrs. Maria S. Porter, and "Bryant's New England Home," by Henrietta S. Nahmer. Both are well illustrated and interesting. "If You Were Here," by Philip Bourke Marston, England's blind poet, and "Song after Silence," by Clinton Scollard, furnish the poetry of the number, and their names are guarantees of excellence. Zitella Cocke furnishes two irregularly-constructed sonnets on Schuman and Schubert. "America in Early English Literature" is the somewhat curious title of an article by Isaac Bassett Choate; America we believe was not discovered at the period of early English literature. The article is however an interesting collection of excerpts from English writings of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. "Harvard Clubs and Club Life" is an interesting description of an important feature of college life. We might also cite "Stories of Salem Witchcraft," "Negro Camp Melodies" and "Aunt Marthy's Secretary."

The *Magazine of American History* for March is a very fair number, opening with a paper which was read before the American Historical Association at Washington by C. K. Adams, on December 31, '91. Dr. Bourinot follows with a most interesting article, entitled "Once Famous Louisbourg," a subject which will appeal particularly to Canadian readers. Of Louisbourg, "once the hope of France," our author says: "History often repeats itself, and perhaps the time may come when a great town will rise on the site of the old fortress; not a town of bastions and batteries, to represent the ambition and evanescent glory of nations, but a town built on a permanent basis of commerce, energy and enterprise, with its port crowded with shipping, bringing to it a constant freightage of riches, greater than those concealed in the ships of Pepperrell's time." "Slavery in the Territories," by James C. Welling, is continued in this number. Frederic Allism Tupper gives his version of an Indian legend, in a poem entitled "The Origin of the Arbutus." The issue is well up to the mark in all respects.

The "Issues of the Presidential Campaign" are discussed in the March number of the *North American Review* by Senators and others who are qualified to deal with this important subject. Dr. Cyrus Edson contributes a paper entitled "Do We Live Too Fast?" "Build up the body," says the doctor, "build up the body! In our modern life this should be dinned into the ears of all until it is obeyed; for, verily, unless we build up the body, the strain on the brain will ruin the American people." The Belgian Minister writes an article upon "The Anti-Slavery Conference." The Hon. Dorman B. Eaton has a contribution entitled "The Degeneration of Tammany." The Hon. T. B. Reed and the Hon. W. S. Holman contribute an interesting paper each upon "Spend- ing Public Money." Mr. Gladstone continues "The Olympian Religion"; the right honourable gentleman closes a most interesting paper with this profound remark: "But we have either to extract from Homer, as it were, by cross-examination, what he probably had no intention to tell us, or else to rely upon similitudes established by foreign archaeology and history for so much of knowledge as we can authentically obtain of the exotic sources of the Olympian religion." Other matters of interest are ably treated in this number.

The historic name of Bonaparte attracts the eye of the reader in the opening number of the *Forum* for March under the heading of "Political Corruption in Maryland." In it Charles Bonaparte arraigns the politicians of that State in startling language. He says that "It is safe to say that a majority of those there holding prominent positions of public trust are widely and reasonably believed to have, at some stage of their political career, either taken part in fraud, bribery or violence at legal or primary elections, or knowingly accepted offices or nominations secured by such means"; and again, "many of these men have criminal records." This significant article should be widely read in Canada. Clarence A. King, in a gracefully written article on "The Education of the Future," holds that biology and psychology must "form the organic basis for the new round training of man." "The Question of Free Coinage" is ably treated by E. O. Leech, Director of the United States Mint, and Hon. R. P. Bland, Chairman of the House Committee on Coinage. An article which would be profitable reading for the intelligent citizens of Toronto is that on the city of Dresden, entitled "A Case of Good City Government," by Professor F. G. Peabody. Professor John Earle's contribution on "The Study of English"; Walter Besant's on "The Work of the British Society of Authors," and Charles Burr Todd's on "The Case of the American Author," are all good reading—not

to exclude from this category by any means, the other articles in this excellent number.

BROOKE HERFORD's article on "An Old English Township," which is the first in the *Atlantic Monthly* for March, is replete with historic interest. "Don Orsino" increases in interest. Those interested in Russia will enjoy Isabel F. Hapgood's "Harvest-Tide on the Volga." Agnes Repplier's contribution, "The Children's Poets," is written with that fine discrimination, graceful style and full knowledge which have won for the writer distinction as an essayist. A Canadian contributor is F. Blake Crofton, who does justice to the varied talents of the famous Nova Scotian, Judge Haliburton, the author of that inimitable character, "Sam Slick," and at the same time treats his subject with fair criticism. It will surprise many people to learn from this able writer how much the United States humorists owe to their great Canadian prototype, and what advanced views Judge Haliburton had on those great questions of imperial interest which are engaging the thoughts of so many Canadians to-day. The poem entitled "Metamorphosis" is, or seems to be, strangely out of place in the *Atlantic Monthly*. We cannot refrain from culling for our readers two *fin de siècle* rhymes from this ecstatic effort:—

In bluish haze,—her lucent veil  
And trailing garments virginal.

Again:—

Has changed; his eyes are mild and calm;  
The lion stands confessed—a lamb.

Other well-written articles, short stories, etc., complete the number.

### LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

A NEW volume of short stories by Richard Harding Davis, entitled "Van Bibber and Others," will be published shortly by Harper and Brothers.

MR. LESLIE STEPHEN has written to the *London Times* to propose that a fund be raised for the purpose of erecting a monument to James Russell Lowell in Westminster Abbey.

THE American Academy of Political and Social Science has recently published a pamphlet by Professor Eleanor L. Lord, of Smith College, on "International Arbitration."

"IN the Vestibule Limited," by Brander Matthews, is the subject of the new volume in the dainty and very popular Black and White Series, published by Harper and Brothers.

WORTHINGTON COMPANY, 747 Broadway, New York, announce for immediate publication as No. 24 in their International Library, "Conscience," by Hector Malot; translated by Lita Angelica Rice, fully illustrated.

Few modern authors can write a more perfect essay or a more finished story than can Robert Louis Stevenson, yet there is perhaps not a more unpractical man in the world of letters to-day, and as an editor he would be as distinct a failure as he is a success as a writer and novelist.

JOSEPH EDMUND COLLINS, formerly of the *Toronto Globe*, died at St. Vincent's Hospital, New York, recently of kidney disease. He was thirty-six years old and was born at Placentia, Newfoundland. He was author of the "Life and Times of Sir John Macdonald, under the Marquis of Lorne," and was a man of good literary ability.

MESSRS. HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY announce "A Golden Gossip," another neighbourhood story, by Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney; "Equatorial America," describing a visit to St. Thomas, Martinique, Barbadoes and the principal capitals of South America, by Maturin M. Ballou; "The Rationale of Mesmerism," by A. P. Sinnett; "Roger Hunt," a novel, by Celia P. Woolley, and "Speeches," by Henry Cabot Lodge.

WE have received from Montreal a neat and unique programme of an entertainment to be held in the Lecture Hall of Emmanuel Church in that city on Tuesday, the 22nd inst. The literary and musical selections are to be taken from the works of Canadian authors and composers. The well-known names of Messrs. W. D. Lighthall, William Wilfred Campbell and Dr. W. G. Beers appear on the list. The stimulus given by such entertainments to Canadian literary and musical effort cannot fail to have good results. It would be well if the various commercial centres of our country would from time to time give public encouragement to and derive more benefit from the culture and talent they possess.

THE unfinished programme of the Canadian Institute papers for March is as follows: Saturday, 12th, "Lieut.-Col. Coffin and his Private Correspondence during the Rebellion of 1837," by H. R. Fairclough, M.A.; Saturday, 19th, "Gleanings from European Art-Fields: II. paper—(Nineteenth Century Sacred Art)," by J. W. L. Forster; "The Southwold Earthwork and the Country of the Neutrals," by James H. Coyne, B.A., St. Thomas, Ont.; Saturday, 26th, "The Ontario Game Laws," by G. S. Wilgress, B.A., barrister, Huntsville, Ont. In the Biological Section, Monday, 21st, "Woodland Wanderings," by C. W. Armstrong, and in the Historical Section, Thursday, 24th, "The Rebellion of 1837-8, as seen by an English Officer," by James Bain, Jr.

JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG says that during the war days the poet Whitman, then a poor clerk on small wages in one of the Washington departments, used to make a daily pilgrimage out Pennsylvania Avenue to the camp and the

hospitals. He practised the severest economy, so that every penny he could spare might go to the sick, as he was unwearied in his devotion to the wounded, carrying to them wine and cordials, mixing medicines, and frequently sitting beside a dying man's cot through the long hours of the night. It may be thought a humble war record, but to a man of the superb physical strength and vitality which Whitman possessed then, the confinement of the sick room must have been as severe a test of quiet heroism as the leading of a charge on the field of battle.—*Harper's Bazaar*.

THE *Lounger* in the *N.Y. Critic* says: "I doubt that there is an editor in America who is more beloved by his staff than Mr. George W. Childs, of the *Philadelphia Ledger*. One of his associates said not long ago: 'It is little less than paradise to be in Mr. Childs' employ. He is the kindest and most generous of men. He not only pays everyone about him well, but he pensions every man when he reaches a certain age.' He takes an honest pride in the fact that every man in his employ, from editor to porter, owns his own house. Apropos of the pensioning, it is told that his cashier came to Mr. Childs one day and said: 'Mr. —, whom you are paying a pension to, is a rich man. He is worth at least \$200,000. Shall I stop his pension?' 'For what reason?' asked Mr. Childs. 'Should a man be punished because he has been thrifty and saved his money?' So the pension was continued, and when the man died it was found that he had left, not \$200,000, but \$500,000."

SOME time ago we drew the attention of our readers to "Inscriptions de l'Ienissei," published at Helsingfors by Professor Donner. Dr. Campbell, of Montreal, in a paper read before the Canadian Institute, compared the copies of inscriptions contained in this volume with more accurate ones sent to him by Vladimir Youferoff, of the Imperial Society of Geography, at St. Petersburg, and regretfully condemned the collection as misleading attempts to reproduce the characters of the originals. Thereafter he proceeded to exhibit two inscriptions correctly copied, and to submit them to an exhaustive analysis, proving them, even by minute particles of speech, to be written in Japanese. The oldest bears date about 480 A.D., and, as the date is given by reference to the Buddhist era, it is clear that the inscriptions were the work of Buddhist priests. The nations among whom they rose are denominated the Raba-Kita and the Yoba Kita, parts, apparently, of the Khitan, who, in the ninth century, conquered China, and, two centuries later, disappeared in the north-east. These, Dr. Campbell maintains, were the Japanese on the move from the north of India towards their island home of historical time. The name Kita links them also with the degraded Yeniseians of Siberia, whose word for man is *kit* and *hit*, as the Japanese is *hito*. In Dr. Campbell's forthcoming work, "The Eastern Track of the Hittites," some thirty Siberian and more Buddhist Indian inscriptions, together with a few from American mounds, are translated and woven into a continuous history of the remarkable race whose more ancient record forms the subject of his two published volumes.

### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

—Dollaroeracy. 50c. New York: Jno. A. Taylor & Co.  
Carlyle, Thos. Lectures on the History of Literature. \$1.00. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Crawford, F. Marion. Zoroaster. \$1.10. London: Macmillan & Co.  
Keene, Hon. H. G., M.A., Oxon. The Literature of France. \$100. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons.  
Wilkins, Mary E. The Pot of Gold. \$1.50. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.

A VERY successful company is the Ontario Mutual Life Insurance Company. Although only established in 1870, it had, on the first of January last, assurances in force to the amount of \$14,934,807, showing an increase of \$1,224,007 over the previous year. The assets of the Company at the same date were \$1,959,031, with a reserve for the security of policy holders of \$1,780,775, and a surplus over all liabilities of \$155,559. These figures tell their own tale, and speak volumes for the energy and ability of Mr. W. H. Riddell, the secretary, and the judgment and capacity of Mr. Wm. Hendry and the Board of Directors and the great popularity of their methods.

THE Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Mutual Life Insurance Company shows the extent of its operations during the past year and its financial condition on December 31, 1891. Each successive report has usually been declared to be "the best in the history of the Company." The report for 1891 is no exception, demonstrating as it does the increasing popularity of the Mutual Life and the extension of the benefits conferred upon those fortunate enough to hold its policies. The assets now amount in the aggregate to \$159,507,138.68, and the liabilities to \$147,476,171.52. The surplus fund for the payment of dividends and to insure the policy-holder against every emergency amounts to \$12,030,967.16. But for the former system of the Mutual, which allowed its policy-holders to reap immediately the benefit of the profits accrued in the form of annual dividends, the amount credited to this account would be largely in excess of the surplus of any other company. During the twelve months the policy-holders of this Company received \$18,755,711.86, against \$16,973,200.05 in 1890, an increase of payments for the year of \$1,782,511.81. This is a most creditable showing, and proves this Company to be exceedingly well managed.