

Periodicals.

The holiday number of *Outing* is a very fine one—well-filled with sketches, romances, and adventures, all in the most admirable spirit. The illustrations are superb, the frontispiece being an elk-hunting scene in a Finland forest, while the accompanying account of the pictured incident is one of the finest pieces of the letter press.

Cassell's Magazine for February throws some light on the artistic methods of Mr. Stanley Weyman, the novelist. His taste, by nature or accident, runs to the utilization of history, and he calls Robert Louis Stevenson his "Master." "The Purple Death" is the sketch of a cultivator of microbes, which is interesting enough to read, but which does not seem intended to be taken seriously. The other articles help to make up a very good number.

Music begins the new year with a superb number, for it is particularly rich with good articles on a wide range of subjects. "A Visit to Chopin and his Last Concert" by Madame Bertan, is very interesting, as are also "The Cultivation of Musical Memory," and "The Musical Possibilities of Poe's Poems." We are glad to know that the circulation of this excellent magazine is constantly growing, because it certainly deserves it. Music Publishing Co., Chicago.

The current number of *Poet-Lore* contains a defence of Rossetti's "Jenny," which is as audacious in its way as any recent defence of realism. Art, according to the writer, fulfils its true function, and vindicates the true artist, when "working maybe amid the wrecks of humanity, he goes into the deeps himself, probes the secrets of our manifold nature, and, working from within, shows the results as they are apparent without,—shows them, not clothed in the conventional garb of Mrs. Grundy, but in the hideousness of their everyday attire." And yet, just because of this hideousness people generally will in the future, as they have done in the past, prefer Hood's "Bridge of Sighs" to Rossetti's "Jenny." The spirit of *Poet-Lore* is adverse to the Baconian theory of the authorship of Shakespeare's plays, and a short article on the question, who wrote "Venus and Adonis," gives a chance to point out its absurdity. A new book on Shakespeare by Professor Wendell is commended as embodying "the large conception of literary evolution," while the treatment of the conception is characterized as "half-hearted," and some of the conclusions are sharply criticized.

The *Nineteenth Century* for the present month opens with an article on "The Independent Labour Party" by that somewhat eccentric representative of labour in the British House of Commons, Mr. J. Keir Hardie. Those who wish to understand the aims of this party, as distinguished from those of the trades unionists would do well to read this article. It is, needless to say, strongly collectivist in tone, and, as if to offset it, the one immediately following it is a destructive criticism of collectivism by Prof. Graham. It is hardly necessary to add that while the latter article is almost academical in its treatment of its theme, the former is intensely practical, and is obviously designed to aid in securing for the labour party the return of as many representatives as possible at the approaching general election. A good third article on current issues is one by Sir Wemyss Reid on "The Political Situation." The writer is a well-known Liberal, and his acquaintance with the statesmen who manage the party to which he belongs is shown in every paragraph of the article. He is firmly convinced that the Rosebery Government will weather the coming session as it did the last one.

The article of chief interest for Canadians in the *Contemporary Review* for January is Mr. Goldwin Smith's commentary on "The Colonial Conference." In it he repeats positions already familiar to readers of THE WEEK, on the trade question, on Imperial Federation, and on the annexation of Canada to the United States. These positions, needless to say, are expressed with Mr. Smith's usual force and grace. The Rev. Canon McColl writes on "Russia and England" in the spirit of one who likes Russia, dislikes France, and sees in the change of Tsar a good opportunity

to cultivate friendly relations with the former, and take up a more advantageous position for watching the latter. The closing paragraph makes reference to the alleged massacres in Armenia—a reference to which significance is added by the cable announcement that Mr. Gladstone, whose warm friend Canon McColl is, will speak in the House of Commons on the subject. It is easy to recall in this connection the effect he produced a few years ago by his speeches on the Bulgarian Atrocities, and further back by his speeches on the massacres perpetrated under the rule of the last Bourbon King of the two Sicilies. Mrs. Ireland's "Recollections of James Anthony Froude" is one of the most readable sketches of the great historian ever published. As the biographer of Mrs. Carlyle she had good opportunities for observing Mr. Froude's personal peculiarities, and she has made good use of them in this most interesting and amusing article.

The frontispiece of the January number of the *Westminster Review* is a well executed portrait of the late Dr. Chapman who edited it continuously from 1851 till his death in November last. A fuller notice of both the *Review* and its staff appears elsewhere in this issue. The articles in this month's number are of exceptional value even for the *Westminster*, as if to show that such a journal is not dependent upon any one mind for the preservation of a high standard. Perhaps the most courageous—not to say daring—is a plea for the matter, method, and motive of Zola, who is the typical representative of realism in literature. The writer claims for the great novelist what no one will deny him, a high moral purpose; he claims also what few will concede to him, credit for the creation of a valuable species of literature. He admits that the novelist's message is not "pleasant" and that it is "not well suited for the young and innocent," but he tells us that it is "addressed to men and women, to those who come in contact with the hard facts of life." Again: "Exactly as in real life, so in these volumes, we see what we have the power of seeing. They are not meant for the young and ignorant, but for the wise and mature. They show us the world for good or for evil. They enlarge the circle of our experience." The obvious answer to all this is that the books fall into the hands of the young and ignorant, that their minds are polluted by them, and that by reading them they have not merely glimpses but graphic pictures presented to them of phases of life, which they would otherwise have escaped, and have been all the better for escaping.

The initial article in the *Fortnightly Review* for January is—appropriately enough—a symposium on the House of Lords, which is assailed by Mr. J. G. Swift McNeill and defended by Mr. C. B. Roylance-Kent, both well-known publicists. The latter endeavors to show, may perhaps be said to have shown, that since 1832 the Lords have not very often made an unreasonable use of their power to block or mangle legislation emanating from the Commons, while he admits that the House of Lords "fulfils no ideal, and has not always used its authority with wisdom." Mr. McNeill, after pointing out the difficulty and danger of trying to bring the House of Lords into harmony with the House of Commons by creating additional peers, suggests that the upper chamber be lessened in number by withholding summonses from those who are obstructive. His suggestion is based on the theory that it is within the prerogative of the Crown to summon or omit to summon such Lords as it pleases, the right to sit in the House of Lords being separable from the rank of a peer of the realm. There is enough of force in his contentions to make his article interesting to the reader if not disturbing to the members of the House of Lords. Sir Evelyn Wood continues in this number his reminiscences of the Crimean War, with incidental comparisons of the state of the Crimea then with its condition now. A very timely article is one by a former resident of Madagascar on the present condition and future prospects of that island. The trend of his argument is to show that Great Britain has done right in allowing France to have a free hand in her present quarrel with the Hova government, and that increase of French influence in Madagascar will help rather than hurt British trade.

Personal and Literary.

THE WEEK has much pleasure in announcing that Mr. G. Wyly Grier, the well-known artist, will become a regular contributor to its columns on art matters, beginning with the next issue of THE WEEK.

The news editor of *The New Review* is Mr. W. E. Henley.

Lord Elgin, the Viceroy of India, arrived at Calcutta on December 15th, after a tour extending over seven weeks.

Dr. Larratt Smith has been elected President of the Astronomical and Physical Society in Toronto, in succession to the late Professor Carpmear.

A despatch from London says: Vice-Admiral James E. Erskine has been appointed to the command of the North American station, to succeed Vice-Admiral Sir John O. Hopkins.

During his life in Samoa, it is said that Robert Louis Stevenson took frequent lessons in the native language, one of his purposes being to write an original story for the Samoans in their own tongue.

Francis Pulszky, the companion of Kossuth and Garibaldi, has just celebrated his eightieth birthday. After his return to Hungary in 1867 he was made Director of the National Museum at Buda-Pesth. He has been active in art and politics, and has been a journalist in six languages.

Mr. Gilbert Parker has made arrangements with the Hudson Bay Company, and is going to make an extended journey through the northern part of this continent. He will gather material and write one of his romances about the country he travels through and the people he sees.

It is announced that in a couple of months the "Life of Sir John Thompson," now being written by Mr. J. Castell Hopkins will appear. The preface will be contributed by His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen, and it is understood that four large publishing firms have united to place the book upon the Canadian and British market.

One of the neatest inversions in names is that which the Australians have made of Shirley Baker, the Prime Minister, whose "Divisions" have been so much talked about lately. All over "the Colonies" (as the Australasians call themselves, to the exclusion of everybody else) his imposing presence and profession of Nonconformist minister have earned him the sobriquet of "the Burly Shaker."

B. L. Farjeon, the novelist, attributes all the good fortune which has been his to the luck-giving New-Zealand greenstone which he has carried for years on his watch-chain. Although from his earliest days he has been a bibliomane, Mr. Farjeon prefers to write at one end of his dining-room table, avoiding the seclusion of a library. He is an inveterate smoker, and regards a good cigar as a source of inspiration and a powerful aid to the imagination. He swears by the typewriter, and is much addicted to ice-water.

George Gissing (whose boom Mr. Besant very properly started with results which must have startled himself) is a Yorkshireman by birth, and thirty-seven or thirty-eight years of age. He was educated at Owens College, and spends the bulk of his time in Italy, but is in England just now. Though he writes so luridly and hopelessly, it is the basking, artistic side of Italy which has such attractions for him, and about which he is so enthusiastic in his conversation. He is a tallish man, with luxuriant auburn hair and a singularly sympathetic face.

Mr. Frederick Tennyson is still living at a great age, and his home is at St. Ewalds, on the Island of Jersey. Many who are familiar with the works of Lord Tennyson know that his brother Frederick also wrote verse, and good verse too. Frederick's schoolfellows were Hallam and Gladstone. Of the former he says: "He was a young man of the most wonderful powers I ever knew, and I am sure, as Alfred was, that if he had lived he would have outshone us all." The