

was a beauty, with its long triangular shape and its slender legs, and a connoisseur would covet it quite as much as any instrument exhibited. Of course, the instruments shown form but a small part of Mr. Steinert's collection, but they were enough to illustrate the development of the piano, which was clearly and admirably set forth by the lecturer.

The recital by Mr. Friedheim that followed the lecture was a startling return to modern times. Schumann's "Warum," too, was mechanically played, but in the Liszt numbers he showed himself the brilliant virtuoso that he is. In the "Erlkonig" he is superior even to Pederewski, and the "Mephisto" waltz was given with much fire. He was warmly encouraged, and played a Liszt rhapsody in a masterly manner. As a veteran orchestra prayer once said after hearing him play, "What he says about Liszt comes from headquarters." He has a rough, titanic energy that makes him a prodigious Liszt performer, and to some extent disqualifies him from more delicate work. But his rendering of the "Erlkonig" was a thing to remember.

LIBRARY TABLE.

THE WHITE CONQUERORS: A Tale of Toltec and Aztec. By Kirk Munroe. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.

Huetzin, the hero of the story and the only son of Thahuico, the brave warrior chief of the Thascalans, encounters and escapes many marvellous perils at the hands of his enemies, the cruel Aztec priests and enraged citizens. He, and his father before him, swore to do all in their power to bring about the overthrow of the terrible sacrificial religion of the Aztecs and thus incurred the priests' undying enmity. Needless to say, "The White Conquerors" are Cortez and his brave companies, whose daring enterprize and indomitable pluck are aided by the friendship, succor and bravery of the young Toltec Huetzin. The story is full of moving adventures. In stirring words we are told of "the brave days of old" when the Spanish knights and their faithful men-at-arms, with the aid of a native power, established the Christian faith in an idolatrous land. Though an oft-told tale, it loses nothing in its treatment by this author, but a freshness is imparted to the historic facts by the interest chiefly centering round the lives, loves and deaths of those connected with the unconquerable little Thascan Republic, which before and after the coming of the Spanish invaders, successfully defied the Aztec power. The volume is provided with suitable illustrations.

NISSY'S CHRISTMAS, by Jacob A. Riis. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. 50c.

Devoted as this author has proved himself by previous works, to the interests of the poor, and a pitiful beholder of the wrongs needlessly inflicted upon them, he yet once more draws our attention, through the series of sketches in this little book, to the sufferings of the wretched inmates of the squalid and thickly peopled tenement houses and slums of New York. Would that we could take these scenes as common only to one great centre of our civilization. Sad are the scenes of death, starvation, brutality and roguery we are called to look upon, and happy is the end of Nibsy to that of "Skippy of Scrabble Alley," forced through his sad environment into the criminal classes. Here is how the author describes the resting place in death of those who alas! could find no resting place in life. "Far from the slumbering city, the rising moon shines over a wide expanse of glistening water. It silvers the snow upon a barren heath between two shores, and shortens with each passing minute the shadows of countless headstones that bear no names, only numbers. The breakers that beat against the bluff wake not those who sleep there. In the deep trenches they lie, shoulder to shoulder, an army of brothers, homeless in life, but here at rest and peace. A great cross stands upon the lonely shore. The moon sheds its rays upon

it in silent benediction and floods the garden of the unknown, unmourned dead with its soft light. Out on the Sound the fishermen see it flashing white against the starlit sky, and bare their heads reverently as their boats speed by, borne upon the wings of the west wind."

PERIODICALS.

Professor James A. McLellan has a paper of more than ordinary interest in the *Canada Educational Monthly* for January. The learned Professor applies a scientific method to the study of literature which is striking, suggestive, and, so far as we know, original.

Book News for January is accompanied by a portrait of the successful Canadian novelist, Mr. Gilbert Parker. The sitting posture gives a sense of repose, the well-poised and shapely head, the calm, clear eye, and the resolute yet refined expression bespeak no ordinary personality. There is also a short, bright notice of Mr. Parker in the number.

Probably most readers of the *Idler* for January—after a smile at the conceit of labelling the contents "February"—will apply themselves to Bret Harte's account of his first book at the beginning of the number and Raymond Blathway's characteristic paper on Dr. Parker in the "Lions in their Dens" series. Not that there is lacking good reading for "Idlers" on other pages. We might instance in proof of this Robert Barr's vivacious account of "The Folk's Play in the Tyrol."

Littell's Living Age of 20th January has for its first selection the important sketch of the Italian Senate, contributed to the *Nineteenth Century* by the Marchese F. Nobili-Vitelleschi. "Manette Audrey" is continued, and no article could be more timely or welcome than that of A. Patchett Martin, from the *National Review*, on Robert Lowe as a journalist. W. C. Sydney's pleasing power from the *Gentleman's Magazine* entitled "The Cradle of the Lake Poets" is also most welcome reading. There is also a beautiful poem by Swinburne, "Love and Sorrow met Me in May," in this number.

Two pretty couplets from the pen of Chas. Warren Stoddart, with fine accompanying illustration, grace the front page of the *Overland* for January. Millicent W. Shuinn's "Some Comments on Babies" is most readable and enjoyable. A somewhat unusual paper is that by Rabbi Voorsanger, in which he gives a modern Jewish view of Jesus of Nazareth. Captain Bray's article on Micronesia is an interesting record of travel and description. A. S. Hallidie writes of that strong, law asserting pioneer, W. T. Coleman. Many and varied also are the stories and poems.

"Encouragement," a pleasant poem by Edgar Fawcett, is the first contribution which is presented to the readers of the *California Illustrated Magazine* for January. Arthur Inkersley writes of the land of the Maoris. A stirring ballad is that by John Vance Cheney entitled "Jeff Dason of Cajou." W. T. Jordan's "Deer Hunting in the Sierras" is restful reading. One of the most, among the many, interesting articles in this number is that one on the Cactus by C. R. Orcutt. Mr. Macdonald continues his translations of the delightful poems of Adelbert Von Chamisso and the accompanying illustrations are superb. Space fails to refer to the many other contributions in prose and verse in this excellent number.

Charles Kingsley's name on the cover of *Onward and Upward* for January and the portrait of Father Lacombe within, recalls to mind most aptly the comment of Kingsley on the portrait of a dear departed friend: "It is a noble representation of a still more noble soul." This is indeed true of good Père Lacombe as those who read Mrs. Gordon's "Sketches in the North-West" from Judge Routhier's journal, will know. Surely *Onward and Upward* must find its way into every Canadian home—not alone for its gracious editor's sake, but because of its intrinsic merit and genial grace. To the poorest it will prove a boon and a blessing; to the richest—well,

they will be the better for its message, which they can hand to their poorer neighbors. We are pleased to see it is rapidly becoming acclimatized.

As usual, "My Note Book" in the January number of the *Art Amateur* is full of interesting gossip. The question is asked "Are J. McNeil Whistler, Mark Fisher and John S. Sargent—all American born and certainly not English taught—to be called English painters simply because they have enlivened by their talents the dead level of Royal Academy exhibitions?" The various exhibitions are noticed at length, including those of the Water-Color Club, of Cazin, of the Academy and The Architectural League. An interesting article is that on the two portraits (illustrated) of Mme. Gauthereau, also on German paintings at the World's Fair, and very helpful are the hints and instruction in water-color painting, painting of snow, painting of children, painting on tapestry, as well as other branches. China painting, iron work, and home decoration also receive attention. The colored illustration of a branch orange tree with fruit is beautifully reproduced and the accompanying designs and other pictures are quite up to the usual high standard of the *Art Amateur*.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL.

Each of the eight instalments of Mr. George du Maurier's "Trilby," the story now running in Harper's, will be illustrated with fifteen drawings by the author.

The February *Century* will contain an article on the English painter, Alma-Tadema, written by Mrs. Edmund Gosse, and very fully illustrated with sketches and pictures by Alma-Tadema and views of his beautiful London home. Mrs. Gosse is a sister of Mrs. Alma-Tadema.

Edward Burne-Jones, the English artist, whose work stands alone, has consented to the reproduction of a number of his most characteristic pictures and sketches in *Scribner's Magazine*. Cosmo Monkhouse, the distinguished English critic, who is in full sympathy with the subject, writes in the February number of Mr. Burne-Jones and his work.

Mr. Henry J. Morgan, of Ottawa, the well-known litterateur, and compiler of some of our most useful books of reference, has undertaken a work for which he is well qualified by taste, experience and peculiar fitness: the preparation and publication of "A Handbook of Canadian Biography." Mr. Morgan deserves every assistance and encouragement in the prosecution of his undertaking and we doubt not that he will exercise a just discrimination in selection as well as rejection in preparing a work that shall be truly representative of Canadian achievement, intellect and worth.

Messrs. Ward, Lock & Bowden, Ltd., the well-known English publishers, in their substantial and well-arranged catalogue of some 180 pages, offer a tempting list of books in great variety, including the respective publications of Messrs. Beeton, Moxon and Tegg. One of the most useful volumes mentioned in the catalogue is "Haydn's Dictionary of Dates." The *Times* has well styled it "the most universal book of reference in a moderate compass that we know of in the English language." This house has also an Australian branch: the American is located at 15 East 12th street, New York.

Mr. Bok, editor of the *Ladies' Home Journal* has been devoting some attention to Canada and has secured the Countess of Aberdeen to write for his magazine. The first prize in the *Journal's* musical series offered for the best waltz has been awarded to Mrs. Francis J. Moore, of London, Ontario. This waltz, Mr. Bok has named "The Aberdeen Waltzes," in honor of the Countess of Aberdeen, and it will appear in the February issue. Mr. Henry Sandham has prepared a series of covers for the *Journal*. J. Macdonald Oxley and John Lambert Paine have become contributors to the magazine and Mr. Clifford Smith of Montreal, has had his first American story accepted by this magazine.