

Mr. Chapman's third book is a neat little 32 mo. of 123 pages and 26 illustrations, published by Harper & Brothers, of New York. It is entitled *Coffee and Repartee*, and its author is John Kendrick Bangs. It is after the style of *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*, and a long way after. Its scene is the breakfast table of a boarding-house, and its characters are the landlady, Mrs. Smithers; the schoolmaster, who eventually marries her; the Rev. Mr. Whitechoker; the Bibliomaniac; the Genial Old Gentleman who occasionally imbibed; the young Doctor; and the Idiot. The Idiot takes the place of Oliver Wendell Holmes' young man called John, and is decidedly the cleverest character in the caste. He says some really clever things, but his humour consists largely of exaggeration and absurd combinations, lacking the subtle delicacy of the genuine autocrat. His trapping the Schoolmaster into an expression of utter contempt for a Shakespearean sonnet under the notion that it was his, and his application for the office of Emeritus Professor, are among the drollest things in the little volume. Nevertheless, the average reader who takes up *Coffee and Repartee* will hardly drop it until he has read to the end, which he can scarcely do without some good laughs that are healthful in moderation.

A very curious book that is attracting a great deal of attention just now is *The Sorrows of Satan*, by Marie Corelli. Mr. Chapman sends the 65 cent paper edition of 471 pages, published by the J. P. Lippincott Company. Marie Corelli's strong conviction of the reality of the spiritual world appears more or less prominently in all her books, on which account critics have called her tone morbid. In this novel, the hero, a good-looking and well-educated young man, suddenly rises from abject poverty, which leads him to deny Providence and God, into great wealth, left him by a relative who had sold himself to the devil. Coincident with this windfall is his acquaintance with the wealthy, all influential, and fascinating Prince Rimanez, through whose machinations he becomes a successful author, famous in society, and the husband of an earl's lovely daughter. Through the earl's family the reader is introduced to the sins of modern high society, which are depicted with an unsparing hand. Rimanez early shows the cloven hoof, performs prodigies, and revels in the stormy elements that are under his control. Yet he rejects the offered love of the earl's daughter, who, mercifully for the selfish hero, takes her own life. Then, on Rimanez' yacht, in the midst of an awful storm, the widower learns who his friend is, namely, Ahrimanez or Satan, and, in his agony, calling on God, in whom at last he believes, is snatched from the mouth of hell and floated on the ocean till a passing vessel picks him up. His wealth he finds has taken wings with his unfaithful solicitors, but he rejoices in his loss, and begins life again as a