

The Bookman.

"I am a Bookman."—James Russell Lowell.

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NOTICES.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed to the EDITOR of THE BOOKMAN, 27, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON, E.C. at latest by the 20th of each month—if possible earlier.

No unused communications will be returned whether stamps are enclosed for that purpose or not, and to this rule we can make no exception.

All new books sent for review will receive notice, long or short, in the succeeding number. Thus all books received before the 15th of MAY will be noticed in the JUNE number; books received subsequently and up to the 15th JUNE, in the JULY number.

NEWS NOTES.

Professor Henry Drummond's new work on Evolution will be ready on May 15th. It will be about five hundred pages in length, and the price will be 7s. 6d. net. The title will be 'The Lowell Lecture on the Ascent of Man.' It will be published in America by Messrs. Pott, and a large sale is looked for on both sides of the Atlantic.

Professor Bain, of Aberdeen, has contributed some interesting notes on the career of the late Professor Minto to the biography which is to be written by Professor Knight, of St. Andrews.

We understand that our valued contributor, Professor C. H. Herford, of Aberystwyth, is a candidate for the Chalmers chair in the University of Aberdeen. Professor Hugh Walker, of Lampeter, is also a candidate. We understand that the students have signed a memorial in favour of Mr. H. J. C. Grierson, M.A., who has been doing the work of the chair during the interval.

We understand that a new sixpenny illustrated paper is to be commenced under the editorship of a gentleman well known through his previous connection with other journals of a similar type. We hear that the title is to be the *Hour*.

Mr. Quiller Couch is preparing a new Elizabethan Anthology. There is room for such a book if done in a comprehensive spirit, and Mr. Couch's judgment and skill may be trusted.

A portrait of Emily Brontë, the only one known, has been recently discovered, and has been engraved for publication in the July number of the *Woman at Home*. It is pronounced by some of those who knew Emily Brontë an excellent likeness. The *Woman at Home* has also secured a hitherto unpublished manuscript by Emily Brontë, which will appear later on.

Miss Beatrice Harraden's new book 'In Varying Moods' was published by Messrs. Blackwood on April 21st. On the same day, the writer sailed for California. Miss Harra-

den, whose health has considerably improved, hopes to return to England in October. She intends to work at her



MISS BEATRICE HARRADEN.

new novel, of which only the Prologue has been written. The title of one of the stories in 'In Varying Moods' has been changed from "A Bird of Passage," under which name it originally appeared in *Blackwood*, to "A Bird on its Journey," as it was found that the title "A Bird of Passage" had been previously used by Mr. B. M. Croker.

Olive Schreiner has received the congratulations of the Pioneer Club on her marriage. She has replied in a warm-hearted letter, which was read at a recent meeting of the Pioneers.

Messrs. McClure and Co., Bedford Street, are to publish in the autumn new works by Robert Louis Stevenson and Dr. Conan Doyle. This is no small distinction for a young firm. Mr. Stevenson's book will be 'The Ebb Tide,' already published in Mr. Jerome's paper *To-day*. Dr. Doyle's will be 'The Stark-Monro Letters,' to be published in the *Idler*. They give an autobiography of a young medical man.

Maarten Maartens is preparing a story for the Christmas number of *Good Words*. He is staying for a few weeks at the National Club, Whitehall.

That excellent novel, 'Diana Tempest,' is passing into a

third edition. The author, Miss Cholmondeley, is, we understand, the daughter of a country clergyman, the Rector of Hodnet, in Shropshire.

The great question which agitates publishing circles at present has not, so far as we are aware, yet come before the general public. It is the fact that the circulating libraries, and notably one very prominent library, have greatly restricted their orders for three-volume novels. They complain that by ordering large numbers of three-volume novels, they are left without a profit. So, however great the demand for particular books may be, they make their subscribers wait, firmly refusing to go beyond a certain point in their purchases. The result is that in many cases novels of which 500 copies would have been taken some years ago are ordered to the extent only of 150 or 200 copies. It is easy to see that this threatens to alter the whole system of publication, in fact it may lead very quickly to the abandonment of the three-volume size. The hope of authors will rest more and more in single volume editions and in newspapers and magazines.

The *Inquirer* states that, under medical advice, Mrs. Humphry Ward has had to take a long rest since the completion of her last work, 'Marcella'; but she hopes to be able to deliver a lecture at Essex Hall on Tuesday, June 19th.

A leading publishing firm are projecting a new Pseudonym Library.

Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. will shortly publish Mrs. Piatt's poems in two volumes, which, besides containing all the verses by her hitherto published in this country—with the exception of those referring to her residence in Ireland ('An Enchanted Castle and Other Poems,' issued last year)—will comprise many additional pieces, including a number of her earlier poems.

Mr. S. R. Crockett, author of 'The Raiders,' is to contribute a serial story to *Good Words*. The title will be 'The Killing Time.' The other story in *Good Words* for next year will be by Mr. W. Clark Russell. It will be called 'A Heart of Oak.'

Mr. Besant is at present staying in Blois. His new novel will be commenced in *Tyt-Bits* in July. The title is 'A Crown Windfall.'

Mr. Rudyard Kipling has arrived, and will stay in England for several months preparing for the press his new volume of poems. Mr. Kipling's 'Jungle Book' will be published in May.

The heads of two of the largest American syndicates are at present in London on the look-out for good serial fiction.

Messrs. A. and C. Black will shortly issue a new work by Mr. Sala, the title being 'London up to Date.'

Mr. Rider Haggard's new serial story will be commenced in *Pearson's Weekly* in August.

Dr. Conan Doyle is at present writing a novel, dealing to some extent with sport in the early part of this century.

We are sorry to hear that Mr. Henry Herman is seriously unwell.

Mrs. Mannington Caffyn is at present staying in Ireland, and is busy preparing the successor to 'A Yellow Aster.'

We have received from Messrs. Bentley an index to the hundred volumes now published of their excellent magazine, *Temple Bar*. It will be very serviceable, but we much regret that a thorough-going attempt was not made to connect the names of the writers with their articles. This would have made it a book of great literary value. It would also have enhanced the interest of old volumes of the magazine. The *Atlantic Monthly*, which for a long time did not publish the names of contributors, issued an index of the kind desiderated, with the authorship assigned to each article, and to students of American literature there are few more valuable aids. The index to *Harper's* is also admirable. In these ways we lag sadly behind the Americans.

Messrs. Elkin Mathews and John Lane have taught us to expect so much that we confess to a little disappointment with the first volume of the 'Yellow Book.' There is some good reading in it, and two or three of the illustrations are novel and pleasing. But the general effect is unsatisfactory. Mr. Henry James's story 'The Death of a Lion' is perhaps the most notable contribution, but it is not on the level of his best work, and it seems in parts dangerously personal. The poems and essays reach a fair magazine level, but do not rise above it. A word of praise should be given to Miss D'Arcy's story 'Irremediable,' and Dr. Garnett's 'Love Story of Luiga Tansillo' shows his usual grace and refinement. On the whole, however, the periodical is not yet a success. There are, however, possibilities in the idea. A word of protest should be spoken against the repellent hideousness of the cover.

The speech which attracted the greatest attention at the London Booksellers' dinner was that of Mr. John Murray. Mr. Murray spoke ably and strongly on the discouraging features of the present outlook. He said that the book trade had been passing through a period of depression unprecedented since the days which brought down Sir Walter Scott. We venture with great respect to doubt whether this is so. Within the last few years quite a number of new publishers have started, and several of them are already in the front rank. We do not know any time when so many books ran beyond ten thousand. If we are wrong, it will be easy to correct us by pointing out such a period. The business done by bookbinders is a fair test of the circulation of books, and we believe that in the case of the leading bookbinders, the volume of trade this winter is as great as ever. Further, it will probably be admitted that the most authoritative indications of the present state of the book trade are to be found in the Wholesale Trade Report which we publish every month. Our readers are aware that the tendency of these reports is, on the whole, hopeful and encouraging. Certainly authors have never had such a time of prosperity as in recent years. Speaking from personal knowledge we can say that, eight years ago, it was possible to secure articles for from three to five guineas, for which the price now asked would not be less than from £50 to £70. Unfortunately the prosperity of authors by no means

proves the prosperity of publishers and booksellers, although in the long run it will appear that the interests of the three are identical.

In an article on Sir Walter Scott, in the *Scottish Review*, there is a very interesting correction of that most accurate of editors, Mr. David Douglas, Mr. Douglas referring to the last entry in Scott's Journal, dated 16th April, 1832, and referring to the journey from Naples to Rome as "probably the last words ever penned by Scott." It will be remembered that the extract closed thus: "We slept reasonably, but on the next morning——." The *Scottish Review* points out, however, that in Rome Scott made the acquaintance of the Countess Wolkonsky, a lady of Polish extraction, who was one of his devoted admirers; and at her request he wrote several verses, which must have been indited after the last date in the Journal. The holograph manuscript of these lines is now in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh, and as they are very little known, we reproduce them. It will be noted that Scott had forgotten the name of the lady to whom he addressed his poem.

Verses written by the Countess of Wollenluss' request: a Russian lady.

"Lady, they say thy native land,
Unlike this clime of fruit and flowers,
Loves, like the minstrel's northern strain,
The sterner share of Nature's powers.
Even Beauty's powers of empery
Decay in the decaying bowers,
Until even you may set a task
Too heavy for the poet's powers.

Mortals in vain—so says the Text—
Seek grapes from briars, from thistles corn;
Say, can fair Wollenluss expect
Fruit from a withered Scottish thorn?
Time once there was, alas!—but now
That time returns not now again;
The shades upon the dial cast
Proceed, but pass not back again.

Yet in this land of lengthened day,
Where April wears the autumn's hue;
Awakened by the genial ray,
Thoughts of past visions strive to blow.
The blood grows warm, the nerves expand,
The stiffened fingers take the pen,
And——"

We learn that the novels of George Eliot have as large a circulation as ever. It is a curious fact that the only author who has even temporarily affected the circulation of these works is Edna Lyall. For a year or two Edna Lyall's books were extremely popular in the Midland Counties, where George Eliot sells most largely, and they had for a year or two a perceptible influence in the sale of George Eliot's stories.

Mr. Clement Shorter has completed an introduction to the works of Henry Kingsley, which is to be published by Messrs. Ward, Lock, Bowden and Co. Mr. Shorter has been assisted by contributions from Miss Thackeray and other friends of Kingsley.

Messrs. Harper and Brothers, of New York, have published a most beautiful edition of 'The Cloister and the

Hearth' in two volumes, with illustrations from drawings by William Martin Johnson. We have seldom seen a more charming book. Messrs. Chatto and Windus are its publishers in this country. While Reade's general reputation does not grow, his great novel continually advances in popularity and esteem.

Mr. Norman Maclean, Hebrew lecturer at Christ's College, Cambridge, will contribute an article on Professor Robertson Smith's life in Cambridge to the June number of the *Expositor*.

Among the contents, interesting to the general as well as the political reader, of Mr. Alfred F. Robbins's 'Early Public Life of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,' which Messrs. Methuen and Co. are very shortly to publish, will be the late Prime Minister's earliest contributions to the newspaper press. One of these, which has never been reprinted, is an account, signed with a pseudonym, of the famous debate at the Oxford Union in May, 1831, upon the first Reform Bill, in which Mr. Gladstone by general admission took the leading part. His literary efforts, equally with his political, during the opening years of his career, will receive, indeed, special attention; and a full account of the genesis and development of, and contemporary criticisms upon his work of 1838, 'The State in its Relations with the Church,' with its pendant, 'Church Principles considered in their Results,' published two years later, will be given. There will also be a description and analysis of the pamphlets on political and social subjects written by the statesman's father (Sir John Gladstone), which, though long forgotten, contain many points worthy of note in connection with the career of the more famous son.

Mr. C. H. Cook, the "John Bickerdyke" whose sporting novel, 'A Banished Beauty,' is announced by Messrs. Blackwood, is well known to anglers. His 'Book of the All-Round Angler' is one of the most practical works on the sport; and his new book, 'Thames Rights and Thames Wrongs,' which Messrs. A. Constable and Co. have in the press, deals with the Thames Conservancy question, and will, no doubt, advocate those anglers' rights on the Thames of which Mr. Cook has for long been the champion.

It is a pity that Mr. Victor Collins' 'Attempt at a Catalogue of the Library of Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte' could not have been carried out upon a larger scale. A mere list of short titles and dates, with here and there the briefest possible note, will prove of very little use to the student or bibliographer of the future. But after all to have catalogued fully and thoroughly the whole of the 13,699 works contained in the collection would have been a great task; and when the present catalogue has served to advertise the library, and attract a purchaser for it, it will doubtless have answered the purpose for which it was intended. To sell the library *en bloc* would, of course, be very satisfactory to the present owner; but it will probably eventually have to be disposed of under the hammer.

The seventh volume of 'Book Prices Current' has been issued by Mr. Elliot Stock. The average of the various

collections of books sold during 1893 was not high, no library of any real importance having made its appearance in the auction-room. The sale of most of the more interesting volumes has already been noted in *THE BOOKMAN* from time to time, so it is hardly necessary to again refer to them here. It is a pity that Mr. J. H. Slater does not devote more attention to his descriptions of the various lots, as the expenditure of a very little additional time and labour would add greatly to the permanent utility and value of his work. The plan Mr. Slater adopts is simply to reprint the auctioneers' catalogues, excluding such lots as bring less than £1 each, and adding the prices realised. Now an auctioneer's cataloguer is a very fallible individual, and he works moreover with a keen eye to time, and his lists are necessarily teeming with errors of description and detail—which Mr. Slater systematically repeats. A description that may amply suffice for purposes of sale is of little use afterwards, even when price is added; because at the time of sale the buyer has the book itself before him and can see its condition, whereas when consulting 'Book Prices Current' he needs an accurate and detailed account of state and condition if he is to estimate fairly the value of a particular copy of any work.

Among the journalistic ventures of next season will probably be a rival to *Punch*, a formidable rival if we are not much mistaken.

After a very successful career of 106 years as a monthly, *Le Journal des Debats* has decided to become a weekly publication. It is issued in handy quarto size, stitched, and gives a complete review of the world's progress in politics, science, and literature.

Mr. Oswald Crawford has been added to the directorate of Messrs. Chapman and Hall, Ltd. The result of the business for 1893 is said to be unsatisfactory, the company having been affected by the bad business times of last year. The gross profits amounted to £11,869 2s. The expenses during the same period were £6,921 9s. 11d., leaving, with the amount brought forward last year, £5,343 4s. 7d. to be dealt with. The directors recommend that a dividend at the rate of seven per cent. per annum be declared on the preference capital, and at the rate of two and a half per cent. per annum on the ordinary capital. Salaries and wages take up £3,873 13s. 6d., rents, rates, taxes, and fire insurance £604 3s. 6d., sundry expenses and establishment charges £1,496 6s., directors' remuneration £300. The value of the Dickens copyrights, stereos, steel plates, wood blocks, electros, etc., is put at £41,167, miscellaneous

other copies have been recovered. One has found a fitting and final resting place in the John Rylands Library, at Manchester; and thus the "City of Cotton Goods," where the pamphlet appears to have been printed, can at length boast the possession of an example of it. The other copy has been unearthed by the energy of Miss Clara Millard, the "book-finder," of Teddington. It is uncut and unbound, and as clean as can be expected after remaining without covers for thirty years. Certainly a heavy ransom will have to be paid before the book leaves the hands of its present fortunate owner.

During the past month, Messrs. Hodgson have sold a copy of that Thackeray rarity which Mr. W. Roberts in the course of his recent article upon 'The First Edition Mania' declared "would be an imposition at sixpence." This was 'Flora et Zephyr Ballet Mythologique, par Theophile Wagstaffe.' 1836. The book (which consists of nine lithographed plates, slightly tinted) was in poor condition throughout, and the covers were considerably damaged, and yet despite its unattractive state it brought £99—at present the record price. The underbidder, a well-known West End bookseller, declares that he holds commissions for three copies at £90 each. Twelve or thirteen years ago the present writer refused an immaculate specimen at £24.

Mr. H. Arthur Doubleday, in reference to a paragraph in our last issue, writes that his firm, Archibald Constable and Co., of Westminster, is not new, and that he has no intention of publishing under any other name.

On April 16th the *Daily News* prosperously inaugurated a literary supplement. We congratulate our esteemed contemporary and the literary public generally on this new feature. The literary page is under the editorship of Mr. John MacDonald, a well-known member of the staff.

CHARLES LAMB'S SONNET.

To the Editor of *THE BOOKMAN*.

SIR,—I very much regret that I should have fallen into two such serious errors in my attempt to identify the "Sarah" of the Lamb sonnet printed by Mr. Covington. It was inexcusable, except on the ground of the confusion which a treacherous memory brings about as old age creeps on. Mr. Covington's mention of Admiral Burney recalls the fact that either Mrs. Payne or her husband had told me her true parentage, in answer to my enquiry as to her relationship to Madame D'Arblay. There is little doubt that this lady was the "Sarah" of the sonnet, though it is possible that it might have been addressed to her aunt "Sarah Harriet Burney," who, however, as Mr. Covington has pointed out to me, was fifty years of age when the sonnet was written.