

### A PRAYER TO AZRAEL.

Because thy face is more compassionate Than God's own angel Pity, he who stands Above the world with healing in his hands.

Therefore I dare to ask a little thing Though unto thee no man is small or great. The humblest beggar, the anointed king

Of one estate, Yet, oh, how often, often on thy breast The little children rest.

Feeling thy sombre arms about them close As twillight folds a rose.

even I this little prayer dare bring Unto thy pitying.

I pray thee find me not my hour to go Closed within any dwelling men have made-Those four, noor walls where I may crouch afraid

As from a foe: But seek me on my bills, my bills whereon

The free winds drift and blow. Between the green and gold of earth and sun.

Alr. find me so! I would not quite forget in some new birth The joy of this my earth h.

Nor lose what time I look on Paradise, The vision in my eyes

Of green boughs swaying in a singing wind. Oh, Azrael, be kind!

### NOTES

The best-selling novel in the country is "The Silver Horde," by Rex Beach Furthermore, by the Bookman's figures for December, it is very far ahead, indeed, or the second book on the list, "Truxton King," Another large printing of "The Silver Horde" is just announced by the Harpers.

Is just announced by the Harpers.

Will Carleton, of whose homely, genial verses the Harpers have so frequently to issue reprints, was asked at one of the clubs the other day his opinion of the use of dialect in prose and poetry. "It is largely," said Mr. Carleton, "a reaction from the old stilted ways in which the writer felt that he must strike an approved attitude and asume a conventional style before he could produce anything that would be accepted by publishers. But whoever wishes to be read by many people must, as did even the great poets, use his own style of expression and assert himself in his own way without fear or favor, Of course he may fall even then, but he cannot possibly succeed otherwise."

Messrs. Harper & Brothers announce that arrangements have been made

Messrs. Harper & Brothers announce that arrangements have been made with Mr. Charles Dillingham for a light-opera version of the famous Du Maurier novel, "Trilby." This is the first authoritative news of a musical "Trilby," about which rumors have hitherto been ddly current that it was destined for grand opera. The time for the new production has not yet been set beyond the point of some time next year; but the many folks who have loved beyond all present measure of light music the verdant memory of "Robin Hood" will rejoice to know that the music for "Trilby" is to come from the man who wrote that merry score.

John Kendrick Bangs, whose latest book, "The Real Thing," the Harpers recently published, has returned to New York from Cape Neddick, Maine, where he has his summer home. It realiy is a home in this case rather than a cottage, because here Mr. Bangs has his library, which is somewhat famous, and his interesting collection of pictures Mr. Bangs reports late tarrying in Maine to have been rather more than commonly comfortable, since only a few times has the thermometer passed freezing, and on all occasions a fire in the author's fireplace that holds the length of a young tree, unbroken, has burned with comfort enough. Not the cold, but the necessity of opening his course of lectures for the season, dislodged Mr. Bangs from his favorite retreat.

Another of Thomas Hardy's novels—

Another of Thomas Hardy's novels—according to the novelist's American publishers, the Harpers, one of the most popular—has been dramatized. 'Far from the Madding Crowd' has just had its first night in England with apparent success. Last year was produced "The Trumpet Major." Perhaps this is a sign that "Tess of the D'Urbervilles," which by its own popularity has been accused of obscuring the other Hardy novels, will begin to greet companions on the stage. Certainly to the qualified playwright the unused material in Hardy is a promise of treasure.

The book which the Countess Irma Sztaray has just written concerning the murdered Empress of Austria has been said to provide a kind of supplement to "The Martyrdom of an Empress," a book which in this country has never last its prestige as a royal chronicle. Both narratives were written from the most intimate knowledge of the Imperial household, Both picture the native joyousness of the illitated Empress and the natural melancholy which alternated with it, and both bear witness to the affectionate relations which, in spite of statments to the contrary, eststed between the royal consorts, especially after their boy's death. Each time she left Francis Joseph's side was a grief to the empress, according to the testimony of these writers. The Countess Sziaray was a member of the household of the empress and the only one present with her at the time of her assassination. The identity of the writer of "The Martyrdom of an Empress" is still undisclosed.

"Of all the educated opponents of stelling referry, they to confess that

"Of all the educated opponents of spelling reform, r have to confess that the most entertaining to me are women," says Prof. Lounsbury in his learned and entertaining "English Spelling and Spelling Reform," which the Harpers have just brought out. "As devotion to the present orthography is a matter of sentiment and not one of reason, it is perhaps not strange that some of the most vio-

lent opponents of the present movement are to be found among the members of that sex with which appeals addressed to the feelings are peculiarly potent." The distinguished professor is careful to add that his characterization is not meant to apply to all women, and that those to whom it does not apply are often more intelligent reformers than men. He cites the act that high position and sex were once regarded as exempting their professors from correct spelling. Richardson represents Charlotte Grandleson as saying that one of her lovers spelled "pretty well for a lord." And Swift, "who in one way or another was always in a state of anxiety about the English language, had frequent occasion to chasten Stella on the subject,"

As regularly as Christmas approaches, and the standard authors are arryed in line for choice of giving, the old imghary Dickens-Thackeray battle is in line for choice of giving, the old imginary Dickens-Thackeray battle is fought again by their respective lovers. Why this opposition must exist is one of those literary problems that are so plain to some and so mysterious to others; but if one doubts that it does exist, one has only to try to find a man who is the lover of both. Thackeray was a snob—Dickens was a cockney—go the cries from the opposing regiments, and war proceeds. It may be worth while to remember amid the noise of conflict what Thackeray himself wrote of Dickens. Such an expression is quoted in Mrs. Charles Mason Fairbank's little book of quotations "The Sense and Sentiment of Thackeray" (Harpers); one may regard it at will either as a tribute to the graciousness of he other. "I delight," wrote Thackeray, "and wonder at his [Dickens's] genius. I recognize in it—I speak with awe and reverence—a commission from that divine Beneficience whose blessed task we know it will one day be to wipe every tear from every eye. Thankfully I take my share of the feast of love and kindness which this gentle and generous and charitable soul has contributed to the happiness of the world. I take and enjoy my share, and say a benediction for the meal."

It may be of interest that Will N. Harben, author of the new Harper novel, "The Redemption of Kenneth Gait," and known sometimes as "the Georgia novelist," finds the names for his Georgia characters across the water. He states that it is a fact that nine-tenths of the people in Georgia are descended from English, Scotch, and Irish families. Hence, when he is constrained to avoid the embarrassment of using names personally familiar, he has only to turn to "Burkes Landed Gentry" to acquire the information he needs. In Georgia, says Mr. Harben, the English Cholmondelcy has been wholly converted into Chumley, and Tallaferro is never anything but Tolliver. The novelist's own name is English, although sometimes spelled Harbin instead of Harben.

In connection with "Decisive Battles It may be of interest that Will N

In connection with "Decisive Battles of America," just published by Harper & Brothers, it is of interest to note the endorsement given by eminent historians to the selections which have been made. Thus, Col. T. W. Higginson confirms the point that the wars with the Pequots and King Philip were as important for the colonists as the "Seven Years" War," and "Thirty Years' War" for Europe; and Prof. Babcock emphasizes the decisiveness of the battles of Lake Erle and Lake Champlain. Other authorities, such as Capt. Mahan, are quoted in endorsement of the selections, all of which must be regarded as testimony to the quality of the book as a standard.

## BOOKS

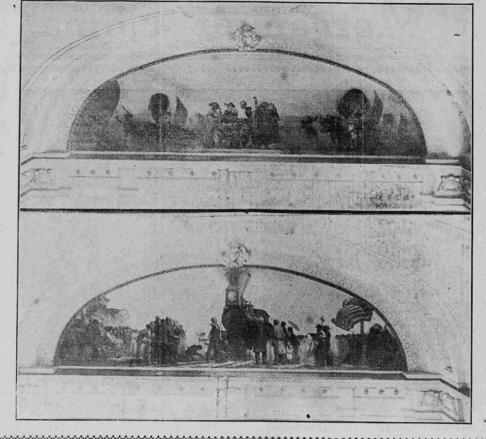
"Going Down From Jerusalem," by Norman Duncan, with illustrations from sketches made during the journey by Lawren Harris.—On a journey from Damascus to Cairo the author and lilustrator were the only white men in a mative caravan, so that this journey is as different as possible from the usual Holy Land tour. The country is the same that Joseph and his family covered in Bible days, and a spiritual atmosphere clings to the pages. Curloutypes of eastern natives, quaint stories told by desert camp-fire, and the essential natural beauty of the land are reproduced with peculiar felicity, for Mr. Duncan has dramatic imagination, and the gift of prose.—Harper's.

man to no of reason, it is perhaps not strange that some of the most vio
MOST PEOPLE

have trouble at some time or other with the stomach becoming weak, the liver inactive and the bowels clogged, and it is at such times that you'll appreciate the benefits from a bottle of HOSTTETERS

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FRESCOES COMPLETED AT THE OREGON SHORT LINE DEPOT.

The half tones given above represent the noted historical paintings on the north and south walls of the large The nair tones given above represent the noted historical paintings on the north and south walls of the large walting room in the Oregon Short Line passenger station, which were described in detail in last Saturday's News. The entire ensemble is one of remarkable artistic beauty, but the special feature is the historical effort referred to. This includes the allegorical view of the entrance of the Mormon pioneers into the valley of the Great Salt Lake. The other picture is the Hill painting representing Gov. Stanford of California driving the last spike which fasten-The other picture is the first patting representing cov. Stanford of Camorina driving the last spike which fastened down the last rail in the iron vedding between the two Pacific roads. This scene is both ideal and true; ideal in that the grouping is what the narrative suggested to the artist as the most likely, yet true in that the parties represented were there and participated as represented. These paintings stand for types and periods of civilization, and as such will be carefully observed and admired by thousands of travelers. The cost of the entire decoration, including the historical glass windows, was \$10,000, but the longer the work stands, the more is it evident that the expenditure was a wise one.

question best. "'Frenchy Joe' was a terror in the woods, and one night I was coming down the road toward a big icehouse near one of the saloons when I saw this same Joe lying among a lot of chunks of ice that had been pulled out of the icehouse. He was freezing to death and drunk. I took him into the saloon, put my big fur coat on the floor of the dive for him to lie on, and asked the landlord to take care of him and send me the bill. A man who had been laying for me to kill me was near by when I discovered Joe lying there, and I called on him to help me. Of course differences were forgotten in the desire to help Joe, but the next morning this man came to me and, extending his hand, said: Put it there, dominie. Any man who can love a man who has shown him hate is good enough for me.' I have not got a stronger friend in the woods today."—Harpers.

"Options" is the title of O. Henry's latest book, published by Harpers. This collection of short storles is practically an edition de luxe of O. Henry, for it represents the plck of two years' work of this most popular of all short-story writers. There is a difference between this volume and others by the same author, because the present stories have all been most carefully selected, the idea being to make the book a representative collection of O. Henry stories. Two are prize stories. One, called "Thimble, Thimble," brought thousands of letters to the editor of the magazine in which it was published. There is a "lady or the tiger?" quality in it, and people were anxious to know "which fellow got the watch." The other is called "Supply and Demand." The volume contains nearly a dozen stories.

dozen stories.

"The Involuntary Chaperon," by Margaret Cameron, author of "The Bachelor and the Batby," "The Cat and the Canary," etc.—This delightful story is in the form of letters written to a woman friend by a young widow, a charming woman of the world only a bit past 30. She is making a trip to South America for the sake of chaperoning a friend's daughter, a wilful 17-year old who is being sent away out of reach of a young suitor. With them, also, is the girl's bachelor uncle. The story develops unforeseen complications. The bachelor uncle is charmed with the chaperon. The pretty helress at last pours forth her little secret tragedy, which is that she had proposed a runaway marriage to her young lover before leaving town, and he had refused the plan. In her girlish humiliation, therefore, she scorns him and hates herself. The chaperon gradually finds her sympathies enlisted for the unfortunate suitor. The story continues to the end rich in color, humor, and literary distinction. With illustrations from photographs taken by the author.—Harper & Brothers, publishers, New York.

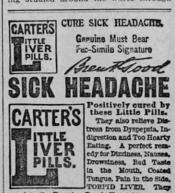
"The Winning Lady," by Mary E,

York.

"The Winning Lady," by Mary E, Wilkins Freeman.—In lighter vein than her longer novels or some of the earlier tales which made her famous. They are bright, sparkling, full of comedy and the joy of living, yet by no means lacking in tender humanity. The book begins with the story of a woman who cheats at bridge and bitterly repents, only to find that the woman who ought to have won the prize cheated, too, whereupon it transpires that the prize punch-bowl wasn't real cut-glass, after all. Illustrated.—Harper & Bros., publishers, New York.

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Waldo P. Warren's "Thoughts on Business." The number of its foreign translations has just been increased by the publication of the book in Spain. A leading firm in London recently distributed 1.000 copies of this work among its employes. In Japan it is used as a college text book.

Jenkin Lloyd Jones, author of "What Does Christmas Really Mean?" a charming story, has just passed his six-ty-sixth birthday, but is more active than ever in the public affairs of Chi-cago, where he has been a prominent minister for 27 years.

## **MAGAZINES**

The Christmas number of the Youth's Companion has a special cover design in the pleture of an old time postman in the garb of fashion of possibly a century ago, riding a sorry mag, and with his arms and saddle-bags filled with parcels and letters, while a silver crescent moon looks down on a chill wintry scene in the snowy country lane through which he rides. The usual number of stories, most of them with the Christmas motive in the thread of the narrative, are contained in the pages, and the poetry and the other departments are of the usual excellence and interest.—Perry Mason Publishers.

The Popular Magazine, which is now published fortnightly, has a splendid collection of stirring stories in the December month-end edition, now on the stands. The college spirit is given full play in one of Ralph D. Paine's characteristic yarns, "For Dear Old Yale." Gen. Charles King has a fine story of a dandy trooper who finds his father and an alibi in the nick of time, Edgar Beecher, Bronson rivals Edgar Alian Poe in "Bunkered"—a tremendously vivid picture of disaster that is not easily forgotten. The humorous side of life is abundantly illustrated in a delightful story by Charles R. Barnes, which has to do with a boarder, a pack of cards, and a certain irresistible character called Mrs. Sweeney. In this number of the Popular there is a long complete novel by Howard Fitzallan—"Number Two Schuyler Place"—which tells of the extraordinary adventures that befell a man of curious profession, and of the mystery of Black Cross House. "Shore, of the Shameen," by Lester Griswold, is a sea story of a unique kind, full of action and incident. The picturesque cowboy appears in two stories, "Man's Inhumanity." by Bertrand W. Sinclair, and "A Tamer of Wild Ones," by B. M. Bower, author of "Chip, of the Flying U." In a clever little tale called "A Lie and Its Antidote," Max Marcin proves that two wrongs make a right. There are three serials, by W. B. M. Ferguson.

The Green Book Album for January appears in a totally new make-up, which

wrongs make a right. There are three serials, by W. B. M. Ferguson.

The Green Book Album for January appears in a totally new make-up, which serves admirably to present in away most attractive to the eye a great number of sparkling articles and stories pertaining to the theater and its people. One notes, moreover, a number of articles by the best known theatrical writers in the country. Among the player-authors who contribute to the January issue of The Green Book Album are Henrietta Crosman, Theodore Roberts, J. E. Dodson, and Edmund Broese. "The Psychology of the Ballyhoo" is entertainingly considered by Walter Prichard Eaton, the newest plays are reviewed by Channing Poilock, while Rennold Wolf. In his "Chronicles of Broadway," reflects the life of America's risito. A bright article on the lively wit of Bestrobam Tree is one of the most entertaining features of the magazine. The playstory of the issue is "Madame X," the European success of which is being repeated in this country. A complete novelzation of "Madame X" appears as the leading literary feature of The Green Book Album for Bichard.

Green Book Album for January.

RICHARD WATSON GILDER.

The unexpected death of Richard Watson Glider is more than a personal bereavement to the thousands in every part of the land, and in other lands, to whom he was known affectionately either in person or—even betterby the revealing personality of his poetry and other writings. To his associates of this magazine, who from the daily contract of many years knew his rare spirit, his uncompromising scrupulousness, his high standards of personal influence, his large horizons of sympathy, his instinct and habit of usefulness, it much always seem that the noble qualities of the real man can never be made known to the world as they are known to us. To the readers of The Century, in which for the nearly 40 years of its existence he has been a formative and determinative force and for the last 28 is responsible and devoted editor-in-chief, his death must be like the loss of a friendly voice from the fireside—a voice of hope and of warning, of optimistic faith and of brave encouragement toward worthy ends.

Circumstances compel us to defer to

The this noble life and character.

Under the title of "Sentinels of the Silence," the author of "The New North," Agnes Deans Cameron, has written for the Christmas Century the stirring story of Canada's Royal North-west mounted police—"a compelling factor making for dignity and decency in a border country as big as Europe." That Canada has never had an Indian war, and that "with one weak-kneed exception," there has been no hold-up of a train within Canadian borders, are facts that speak for themselves; and the story of how such results are accomplished is the best kind of a story of adventure.

his appeals to be best in every one. He had the keenest sense of noblesse oblige, and in all filts spiritual and beautiful verse there is nothing more expressive of the chivalry of his life than these lines, the aspiration of which he embodied in his career:

When to sleep I must where my fathers sleep, when fulfiled the trust, And the mourners weep, when, though free from rust Sword huth lost its worth—Let me bring to earth Ne dishonered dust.

In the contemplation of such a record, the poignancy of the wide-spread sorrow for his loss becomes a measure of the thanksgiving which should be felf for his noble life and character.

Under the title of "Sentinels of the Silence," the author of "The New North," Agnes Deans Cameron, has

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another opportunity anything like an adequate consideration of the claims for remembrance which his artistic and public activities demand. But to those who never met him we may speak of one or two characteristics that made him a citizen of great and lasting influence for good and one of the most beloved of men and poets.

The keynote of his character was loyalty. This trait pervaded every relation of his life like a sustaining and inspiring atmosphere. To his family and his friends, to his editorial and other business associates, to his social and civic obligations and, not least of all, to his art—which remains his most individual record—he was loyalty itself. Nor was this a weak or blind impulse of goodness—rather it was a discriminating faculty of giving generously what was due to each, based on his delicate sense of proportion and appropriateness. The call of duty was to him imperative, and no man since James Russell Lowell—at whose death he seemed to receive a consecration of civic ardor—has more faithfully held up the highest ideals of American citizenship. To the effectiveness of this inspiring labor he had unmistakable testimony. Like another Galahad,

His strength was as the strength of ten Because his heart was pure.

Because his heart was pure.

In his work, and in fact in all the multutude of his philanthropic activities, his influence and example have now become a heritage to his country.

Another note which runs through his life, his editorial writing and his poetry—a note that deepened with the advance of years—is that of personal responsibility. He reft that institutions were in the last analysis merely men, and that ours could be preserved only by the virtue and altruism of the individual citizen. The scorn he felt for those who were wilfully recreant to their political duties was like that of a soldier for a deserter. His humiliay and self-effacement gave sincerity to

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