

such ingenuity and versatility do they display, that we are ready to pronounce them perfect of their kind, and to say that they give a new direction and standard for the art of book illustration. No bank note engraving surpasses that to be seen on almost every page of these two chaste and beautiful volumes.

THE CLOISTER AND THE HEARTH.*

IT is a pity that Charles Reade could not have lived to see this lovely reproduction of what is probably his noblest and finest work. *The Cloister and the Hearth*, as its title would signify, is a tale of middle-age life. It transports the reader at once to the midst of the scenes it describes, and absorbs him with its delineation of conflicting tendencies and interests as wrought out in human hearts and lives. In quite a different manner, because of a different texture, from such novels as *Hard Cash* and *Never too Late to Mend*, it throws a spell over the imagination, and restores conditions which have long since passed away.

The illustrator and the publishers have given to this work a dress which for elegance and beauty is seldom excelled. The two volumes are of convenient size, the printed page is so small as to leave spacious margins all around, the front edges are uncut, the paper is highly finished and firm, the binding simple and attractive.

But the great charm of the edition is found in the illustrations. These are of great originality in design and remarkable delicacy in execution, and altogether quite out of the line of ordinary work. Now and then they run a slender and graceful border along the side of a page or across its top or all about it, or around three sides of it, and with these lovely borders they associate constantly but furtively, as it were, little vignettes in the margin, or at the corner, or sometimes dividing a whole page as with a cleft through the narrative opening into the scene beyond; and the exquisite detail and careful finish of these drawings are something that must be seen to be understood. They are not seen often. They cannot be adequately described. Such historic accuracy, such refinement of feeling, such expressions of countenance,

* *The Cloister and the Hearth*. By Charles Reade. Illustrated by William Martin Johnson. Two Volumes. Harper & Brothers. \$4.00.