

Cromwell is one of the *dramatis personæ*. The hero, Ralf Dangerfield, is a courageous young fellow who wins Cromwell's confidence, and is engaged to drill the Parliament forces. A good love story runs through the stirring and tumultuous political and military scenes.

WHEN THE SLEEPER WAKES. *By H. G. Wells.* (New York: Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.) Here is another story of anticipation—a story telling what has already happened in the future, one might say—in which we see airships scooting in every direction across the empyrean, and in which all human life is depicted as city life, in which nothing looks or behaves as it does now. Mr. Wells is an adept at this sort of writing and he is ably assisted by his illustrators, whose pictures are excellent.

THE GARDEN OF SWORDS. *By Max Pemberton.* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.) If war can please, this is a pleasing book. It is a rushing romance of the late Franco-German war; almost every chapter is red. The hero performs wonders of valor. Readers who like to have their stories turn to ashes in the end will be charmed with the tragic close of this one. A more thrilling story or one better illustrated would be hard to find.

THE PEDAGOGUES. A STORY OF THE HARVARD SUMMER SCHOOL. *By Arthur Stetson.* (Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.25.) One can read a story like this during a drowsy mood in a hammock, between a grin and a yawn, and feel all the better for it without being able to tell why. It is neither dry nor stupid, nor is it notably bright, just a jerky and lively little love story of Cambridge life with a smack of school and college in it.

THE YELLOW WALL PAPER. *By Charlotte Perkins Stetson.* (Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.25.) This is a short story reprinted in book form from a magazine. Queer is the word which best describes it—a queer tale of colonial mansion, some yellow wall paper and a crazy woman.

THE DREAMERS: A CLUB, *by John Kendrick Bangs* (New York: Harper & Brothers. \$1.25), is a little volume of travesties in the form of stories humorously imitating certain leading popular works of fiction. Mr.

RECENT FICTION.

MISS CALEY'S ADVENTURES. *By Grant Allen.* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.) Mr. Grant Allen has here told a downright good story, and told it well. It is just of the quality to suit an idle novel reader who prefers light amusement to hard thinking and wearying analysis. The humor is well nigh farcical at times, but it manages to miss absurdity, and the characterization gives a fairly smart dramatic touch to the scenes. Miss Caley is a Girton girl who, left penniless at graduation, sets forth to make her way in the world. How she does it is the gist of the story. The incidents come thick and fast and the scene changes frequently.

THE LAUNCHING OF A MAN. *By Stanley Waterloo.* (Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. \$1.25.) This is a cleverly written story in which Mr. Stanley Waterloo again makes good his claim to great versatility of imagination and power of style. It is a wholesome, hearty and agreeable novel, full of manliness, courage and right feeling. It is the story of an American college boy's career both in college and out, his struggles, victories, love and marriage.

CROMWELL'S OWN. *By Arthur Paterson.* (New York: Harper & Brother. \$1.50.) A romance of cavalier and roundhead, with a good plot and plenty of adventure. Oliver

Bangs is always entertaining, if sometimes a trifle hard pressed for something worth saying, and he is funny in his own peculiar way, even when playing dangerously near the brink of silliness. It is a book good for the pocket when there is a prospect of a lonely afternoon in the shade. Mr. Bangs will drive away the mosquitoes.

THE FOWLER. *By Beatrice Harraden.* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.) Miss Harraden has improved both her style and her composition since she wrote "Ships that Pass in the Night." The present story, while built upon familiar lines in the matter of plot, is genuinely interesting, and of far healthier tone than her other books.

THE EYE OF A GOD, AND OTHER TALES OF EAST AND WEST. *By W. A. Fraser.* (New York: Doubleday & McClure. \$1.25.) A collection of brightly written and lightly entertaining short stories, varying in theme and local color. A good book for an idle hour.

THE SHORT-LINE WAR. *By Mervin Webster.* (New York: The Macmillan Company. \$1.50.) The story of a struggle between two railroad companies for the possession of a line in the West, in which there is a great deal of fighting, considerable rascality and no end of exciting incidents. The characters and scenes are true to life, and the main situation is one not before used with effect in fiction.

THE QUEEN OF THE SWAMP, AND OTHER PLAIN AMERICANS. *By Mary Hartwell Catherwood.* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.) Mrs. Catherwood tells her stories with an air of knowing her subjects and feeling the value of her materials. This gives the reader confidence and aids interest. As for the stories themselves, they sketch with more or less success some phases of American life and history both old and new.

TIVERTON TALES. *By Alice Brown.* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.) Miss Brown has a manner and a form of her own in writing short stories. The manner may sometimes be almost mannerism and the form a trifle strained, but she never fails to keep her reader's attention. Some of these tales are unusually fascinating, both as literature and as mere stories.

IN THE HEART OF THE HILLS. *By Hattie E. Colter.* (Boston: A. I. Bradley & Co. \$1.00.)

This is a well-imagined story with a strong religious current in it. The scene is laid in a Western mining district and the characterization, the dramatic action and the outcome are cleverly managed.

LOVE'S DILEMMAS. *By Robert Herrick.* (Chicago: H. S. Stone & Co. \$1.25.) The beauty of this little book as a work of the printer's art reflects great credit upon its publishers. As for the stories, they, too, are works of art (the art probably at times too obvious) full of power and disclosing uncommon insight where a subtle human impulse is to be analyzed and accounted for.

MISTRESS CONTENT CRADOCK. *By Annie Eliot Trumbull.* (New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. \$1.00.) A story of the New England of Roger Williams and his contemporaries giving a strong and engaging picture of the times and the people. American historical tales of this sort are valuable as supplementary reading in schools and they, at the same time, serve admirably the purpose of rational amusement of the higher kind.

THE AWKWARD AGE. *By Henry James.* (New York: Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.) If size can be said to carry the quality of importance, this is an important piece of fiction. Four hundred and fifty compact pages certainly make a formidable looking volume. Mr. James, as is his way, gives himself room and then fills it. His novel is one of English social life, in which he subtly analyzes conditions, influences and associations, especially as operating on the moral development of a young girl. We think Mr. James is at his best here, and also at his worst. His style has become somewhat a burden to him and a worry to his friends; but there can be no denying the power of his analyses, the depth of his vision or the large scope of his imagination in the field chosen by him. Those who care for a novel like *The Awkward Age* will care a great deal for the fine, hair-splitting investigations of psychological problems artfully displayed in the course of this long and almost over-carefully written book.

THE COUGAR-TAMER, AND OTHER STORIES OF ADVENTURE. *By Frank Welles Calkins.* (Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co. \$1.00.) A collection of stories of unequal workmanship

and interest, making up, on the whole, a book of more than ordinary attractiveness. A pleasing entertainment for a shady spot on a hot afternoon.

THE MARKET PLACE. *By Harold Frederic.* (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company. \$1.50.) This novel, which has had a successful run as a serial, is now made into a handsome book. It is a strong story, disagreeable in some of its features, deeply marked with Mr. Frederic's singular genius.

From Little, Brown & Co., Boston, we have received two volumes of their beautiful centenary edition of Katharine Prescott Wormeley's translation of Balzac's *La Comédie Humaine*. We cannot find words too strong for our praise of this edition, and we have often commended the translation, which is excellent in every respect. \$1.50 the volume.

From the same publishers is arriving a fine new uniform edition of Miss Wormeley's translation of Alphonse Daudet's works. The volume before us is **FROMONT AND RISLER** (*Fromont Jeune et Risler Aîné*). \$1.50 the volume.

ACROSS THE CAMPUS; A STORY OF COLLEGE LIFE. *By Caroline M. Fuller.* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.) This is a good and bright story of girl life in college, which will appeal to young readers generally and to young women in particular who have college recollections of their own.

THE ANGEL OF THE COVENANT. *By J. MacLaren Corban.* (New York: R. F. Fenno & Co. \$1.50.) This is rather a sensational romance of Scottish Covenanter days, giving a strong set against the historical background of the seventeenth century. It is very readable and shows that the author has saturated his imagination with the spirit of the time chosen for his story.

PRISONERS AND CAPTIVES. *By Henry Seton Merriman.* (New York: R. F. Fenno. \$1.25.) If the author who signs himself Henry Seton Merriman is not a great novelist, we are unable to see what it is he lacks. Certainly the charm of his style is great; he has the indescribable magnetism of genius; he depicts life with great mastery of details; his dramatic power never flags. The present novel, which combines both social study and romance, is all but a marvel of composition. Not that it is to be compared with the great-

est novels of George Eliot, or Victor Hugo, or Thackeray; but it has many of the excellencies of them all, with a certain distinction of its own. We may be under a spell, but this story has made a great impression, and we expect that our readers will find it extremely fascinating.
