

Zola's imagination would never have given us *Lourdes* or *Rome*.

We can see in the author of this novel a careful knowledge of the habits and customs of Jewish peasants, and he has introduced some striking and novel incidents and adventures; but all his facts are put together so crudely, and arranged with so little regard to the laws of art, that the story fails utterly in holding the reader's attention.

The style of Mr. Gillman is old-fashioned and ponderous. He requires a page to say what a clever modern story teller would condense into a sentence. His characters are not real men and women, and his reflections are stilted platitudes. Six hundred pages of "words, words, words" even Hamlet would have rebelled at. The writing of such a dull, long-winded novel shows industry and patience, and will require similar exercise on the part of the reader, but will hardly reward it.

## CURRENT FICTION.

### A Voyage of Consolation.

The impression left with the reader of this book is likely to be that the author, Mrs. Edward Cotes (Sara Jeannette Duncan), made a great effort to be "smart." The story is intended as a sort of sequel to *An American Girl in London*; the chief characters of which here reappear—the heroine who relates her experiences, her "poppa" and "momma," Mrs. Protheris, and the two lovers. The former book was fresh, though overdone; the present is like serving up the old material with a continental environment, with its humor a little stale, and with a forced attempt to "show up" the ridiculous side of everything. [D. Appleton & Co. \$1.25.]

### Madame of the Ivies.

If anyone can imagine Rosa Nouchette Carey given over to mad sensationalism, he will have a clue to the main characteristics of Elizabeth Phipps Train's *Madame of the Ivies*. Or let us call in *Jane Eyre* for comparison, for in this tale we have the same sentimental companion-governess order of young girl, only American by birth, the same misanthropic, misunderstood, middle-aged hero, and the same crazy wife; the incidents are arranged rather differently, but the result is the same. Notwithstanding the glaring improbabilities of this story of modern New York life, it is decidedly entertaining. Perhaps this is because of its glaring improbabilities. [J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.25.]

### The Londoners.

Almost everyone was amused and shocked in equal degrees by *The Green Carnation*, and from the general popularity of that book we gather that the sensation was a pleasing one. If so, Mr. Robert Hichens's latest novel will be widely read. Although *The Londoners* is not quite so entertaining as *The Green Carnation*, it is still a very amusing book. Its plot is about as natural as that of the average farce, but the situations are equally laughable, and we think the book will make some merriment, although some of the jokes are a little too broadly English to suit American taste. [Herbert S. Stone & Co. \$1.50.]

### HASSAN: A FELLAH.\*

THIS heavy and tedious "Romance of Palestine" has the honor of being dedicated to Gladstone. It is written by George Gillman, who has lived many years in the East and studied carefully the customs of the Jewish people. But a novelist needs other qualities besides those of the historian, and Zola's notebooks without

\*Hassan: a Fellah. By George Gillman. Little, Brown & Co. \$1.50.