

## Recent Fiction

'THE HERIOTS' is a love-story of the most modern kind, in which the passion is so unobtrusive and reasonable that it is only discovered by those most interested when the circumstances are all in its favor, and it could almost be done without. Olivia and Jack are poor, but Olivia has rich relatives in whose house she meets a Mr. de Renzi, a brilliant man of the world, who amuses himself in Parliament and elsewhere with a whole-souled devotion to that employment, as the son of a great London financier should. He, however, falls in love with Olivia, and his father's consent is won by coupling the marriage with a splendid business opportunity. After her engagement Olivia is introduced to the cream of the cream of English society, including vulgar Americans, manufacturers' wives from Manchester, insufferably rich Londoners, cynical Frenchmen, dull poets, and a duke or two. It is whipped-cream as the author, Sir Henry Cunningham, serves it up; but, though the reader finds it enjoyable enough, Olivia does not like it. She and de Renzi quarrel, and it then begins to dawn upon her that she loves Jack. He makes a similar discovery, and they are married in the last chapter. There are many more than usually clever passages in the book; it is thoroughly readable, and almost too uniformly amusing, (\$1.25. Macmillan & Co.)

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IN 'THE NEW CONTINENT,' by Mrs. Worthley, we have a sort of guide-book to all inquiring persons spiritually dyspeptic with the vast amount of undigested knowledge which they have swallowed. The goal to which the author leads her readers is the 'choir invisible' of George Eliot, and the immortality of being remembered by those beloved and left behind. We find in Mrs. Worthley's monograph not a few beautiful pictures of the English home life of intellectual people, the glorification of doubt, and a great deal of quotation from or dilution of Prof. Maurice, Dean Stanley, Dr. Carpenter, the author of 'Ecce Homo,' and other modern writers. The revolt of the inquiring mind against the average Sunday-school theology and pulpit utterances of vicars and curates is cleverly set forth; but the story is very slight, and worth attention only for the main argument of the book. (\$1.50. Macmillan & Co.)

—'PAUL NUGENT, MATERIALIST,' by Heber F. Hetherington (Gullifer) and the Rev. H. Darwin Burton, is self-described on its cover as a 'reply to "Robert Elsmere," written in a thoroughly orthodox spirit, and quite abreast of the latest theories of physical science, and German anti-Christian criticism.' In reality we have a weak story cast in the form of six-penny fiction, with vast lagoons of twaddle about the theories of men who imagine a conflict between religion and science. The conversations are, as a rule, set forth in such a way as to make both the science of Biblical criticism and the form of the religion of the people in the book appear as hardly worthy of attention by serious persons of either sex. Nor need the story, ending with 'Maud's long lashes wet with tears' and the usual 'radiant smile on her lovely lips,' be mentioned, when space is valuable. This book should be sold along with cakes of soap, or the knick-knackery of a variety store. (50 cts. E. P. Dutton & Co.)

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IF ALL MARRIAGES were like 'A Modern Marriage,' by the Marquise Clara Lanza, Count Tolstol's ideas on the subject should find a ready acceptance. Marion and Philip Latimer have married on his income as a journalist, which condemns to life in a flat, and the tender mercies of Sarah, 'the Slugger.' Mrs. Latimer longs for a less prosaic existence; she would prefer lamb chops with water-cresses, and hot-house strawberries, to ham and toast, and a husband who is talked about and has plenty of money to one who

has to dudge at pot-boiling. In this frame of mind she falls in with a Mr. Wayne, an erotic poet of gentlemanly manners, terribly unprincipled and *blatant*, and possessed of means enough to provide luncheons at Delmonico's, flowers, and so forth. The usual state of things in such cases supervenes. Philip obtains evidence enough to secure a divorce, and compels Wayne to marry Marion by a threat of disclosing a murder committed by the former. This denouement is rather feeble, but the rest of the book has an air of verisimilitude, as of things actually seen, or heard of at first hand. The description of the very mixed evenings at the house of the father of the heroine is the best thing in it. But the author seems to us to have made a mistake often committed by clever people—that of being too consistently satirical. She has not afforded us a single tolerable character. All are silly, vulgar, or vicious. (50 cts. John W. Lovell Co.)

A SQUATTER in Australia would be called a rancher in our Far West. 'The Squatter's Dream,' by Rolf Boldrewood, is a vision of great wealth to be gained from sheep-farming which is entertained by the hero, Jack Redgrave, and from which he wakes a poor man, to begin life all over again. Jack, seduced by the success of other sheep-raisers, sells his cattle-ranch, or 'station,' near the coast, where he was making a good living, and moves to a great wild tract in the interior, buys sheep by the ten thousand head, and spends thousands of pounds on sheds and fencing. At first he does well; but incendiarism, bur-clover and dry seasons and a fall in the price of wool soon bring him to ruin. Then he moves farther into the bush and aided by better seasons and an increased demand for wool, retrieves his fortunes, finally returning with a wife to Marshmead, his original home. The life described is much like that of our Western cattlemen, with blacks for Indians. There are the same alternations of good and bad seasons, of hard work and idleness, profit and loss. There are the same drinking bouts and fights; the same war of extermination is carried on against the native; and there is the same hatred of the encroaching small farmer. The characters are well drawn, especially those of the hero, his steward, McNab, the drover, Rooney, and the black girl, Wild-Duck. The author's manner will suit readers on a 'station,' like Gondaree where books are few and time 'is of no account.' (\$1.25. Macmillan & Co.)

'IN LOW RELIEF,' by Morley Roberts, does not possess the delicacy of modelling which is necessary to make a work, whether plastic or literary, interesting when strong effects are eschewed. John Tarrington is a commonplace type of Bohemian, enlivened by a few 'fancy touches.' He is long-legged—they all are; people short of limbs settle down to some more or less regular way of making a living. He feels lonesome, is occasionally in want of a dinner, and vacillates between thoughts of suicide and of marriage. He persuades himself that he is in love with a pretty model of one of his artist friends. He woos her in flowing rhyme, and is, after mature deliberation, rejected. The author writes decent English and has some real acquaintance with studio life, and Bohemian life in general. If compressed into a small compass his story would be deserving of praise; but many pages of pointless conversation and superficial analyses would have to be excised. Still, it is pleasant to read a novel of the sort in which pen-drawings are not called etchings, in which one is not overwhelmed with technical phrases, and in which the people act, however tamely, like beings of the same mold with the rest of mankind. (50 cts. D. Appleton & Co.)

MR. ARTHUR COLLINS MACLAY enjoys the pleasure of seeing his excellent study of feudal life in Japan previous to the fall of the dual system of Tycoon and Mikado, and entitled 'Mito Yashiki,' republished in a second edition. We have before praised and criticised this work as one which will long be read for its truthful and brilliant pictures of old Japanese life. Disfigured as it is with certain literary faults, chiefly in that overloading of the story which we usually see in a 'medicated' novel, it yet gives proof of strong powers, which should be cultivated and chastened by practice and study. Since Mr. Maclay's work was issued, the whole history of the central incident of his story—the assassination of the Regent, Ii Kamon no Kami, in Yedo, in 1861—has been exploited and set in new light by the brilliant editor and historical writer, Shimada, who has also recently been chosen to the House of Representatives as member from Yokohama. In his monograph Shimada takes a totally different view of the character of this ablest of Japanese statesmen, but as Mr. Maclay reflects the popular Japanese and traditional view which was current until very lately, his book will be all the more enjoyable as 'a feudal romance.' He tells, indeed, of the decline of 'the power of the Tokugawa family,' but it is interesting to note that in the new House of Peers, to be convened in Tokio this month of November by the Mikado, no fewer than one

prince and three marquises bearing the Tokugawa name sit along with the proud Kugé and the Mori and Shimadzu (or Chôshû and Satsuma) houses of immemorial lineage; while Count Ii Naonori, son of the murdered Regent, aged forty-two, and educated in America, enjoys honor as a count and the still more pleasing accolade of being the son of one on whom the present and future generations will heap honors, after one generation of obloquy and shame. In a word, 'Mito Yashiki' is a capital book to read both for its own sake and as an introduction to modern imperial and representative Japan. (\$1.50. G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

'LOOKING FURTHER BACKWARD,' by Arthur Dudley Vinton, is another of the moons to which Mr. Bellamy's surprisingly popular book stands in the relation of Saturn. In it we learn that to the hero it appeared that 'mesmeric influence was produced by the physical and spirit nature jointly.' Much else we do not learn. (Albany Book Co.)—'ONE LITTLE MAID,' the literary offspring of Elizabeth Preston Allan, leaves the home of her father, a missionary in Japan, and comes to America. Till she gets here she believes this to be 'God's country,' but soon discovers what a mistake she has made. (\$1.50. Boston: Congregational S. S. and Pub'g Society.)—SOME LIGHT is thrown on the sort of thing the reader may expect to find in 'At Fault,' by Kate Chopin, by such chapter-headings as 'The Mistress of Place du Bois,' 'Face to Face,' 'Never to See You!' and 'Tidings that Sting.' (St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing Co.)—TO THE VARIOUS Lovell series of fiction have been added 'Out of the Night,' by H. W. French; 'Neila Sen,' by J. H. Connelly; 'Princess Sunshine,' by Mrs. J. H. Riddell; 'A Marked Man,' by Ada Cambridge; 'The Upper Ten,' by W. H. Ballou; 'The House of Halliwell,' by Mrs. Henry Wood; 'Ruffino, and Other Stories,' by Ouida; 'The Sloane Square Scandal, and Other Stories,' by Annie Thomas; 'Dramas of Life,' by George R. Sims; and 'Her Nurse's Vengeance,' by George H. Masson. The last named is a 25 cent book, the others being twice as costly. (John W. Lovell Co.) 'The Vicountess,' by Leon Barracand, derives some charm from its illustrations by Emile Bayard. (Chicago: Chas. H. Sergel & Co.)

#### Minor Notices

'A SHORT HISTORY of Anglo-Saxon Freedom,' by James K. Hosmer, is a sketch of the growth of free institutions in England and America from the earliest times to the present. Professor Hosmer takes the ground that the polity that prevails in the United States to-day is 'no original device but a revival of something most ancient'; in other words, he holds the popular theory that the original Anglo-Saxons in Germany had a free society and representative assemblies as we have them now—a theory not supported by any adequate evidence, and which seems to the reviewer very much like the old theory of an original monotheism. We cannot agree with Prof. Hosmer, either, as to the transcendent importance of town and county government and the popular 'moot,' especially at the present day. These, however, are matters of opinion; and there is much in this book that is worthy of commendation. It is not, indeed, suited to young students, for it presupposes throughout some knowledge of the leading events of English and American history, and contains a multitude of allusions that cannot be understood without such knowledge. But to those who have traversed somewhat the historical ground, the book will appear interesting, and will also be useful for reference. Its greatest deficiency is in the slight attention given to religious and intellectual freedom, the freedom of the press, we believe, not being mentioned in the whole book. The concluding chapters, in which the author discusses the benefits of freedom, the future of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the fraternity of its different branches, are among the best and most interesting parts of the work; appealing as they do to some of the best instincts of our humanity. (\$2. Chas. Scribners' Sons.)

IT IS DIFFICULT to see just what object Mr. John S. Mackenzie had in writing his 'Introduction to Social Philosophy.' If he aimed at creating a new department of philosophy proper, he has not succeeded. Indeed, the book is not a connected work at all, but a series of essays on various topics relating to social life, some philosophical, some historical, and some purely practical. On the other hand, if his object was to suggest measures for the improvement of our present society, he has failed, as it seems to us, to present anything new. He says very truly that the main problem in social life to-day is how to elevate the entire mass of the people; the older civilizations, in which only a small class had the opportunity and means of development, being now obsolete. He shows the defects of the present régime, but exposes also the faults of state socialism, and thinks that the proper thing to do is to improve—

our existing society rather than to attempt the creation of a new one. But we cannot discover that he has any definite plan for making the improvement. Still, the book has many interesting passages, and contains much that is true and good, sometimes expressed in very apt language. Mr. Mackenzie is evidently much interested in social reform, and his interest is moral as well as intellectual; and most of his views are such as we agree with. His theory of ethics is the strangest thing in the book, and we doubt if will meet with acceptance anywhere, but we cannot discuss such a subject at the end of a brief review. (\$2. Macmillan & Co.)

'GREAT AFRICAN TRAVELLERS' is just the book for young people and others who wish to have before them a connected story of the opening of the Dark Continent by European exploration. The story covers the period from the time of Mungo Park to that of the canny Welsh-American who has been dubbed 'Prince of African Travellers.' This book reaches the reviewer on the same day that he is invited to meet Stanley in the ante-room before his first lecture in America, and that he received news of the death of the great Captain Burton, to whom a fair share of the book is devoted. The compilers are the well-known story-teller, W. H. G. Kingston, and the British naval officer, Charles Rathbone Low, who has seen much service in Africa. The resultant of these two literary and personal forces is a most engaging work. The publishers have also done their part well, and besides a fair page, large type, and gay cover of gold and polychrome, have furnished no fewer than one hundred illustrations. Though the narrative of events in Stanley's last expedition was completed by the authors before 'Darkest Africa' was published, yet Stanley's work is proportionately well treated, and occasional foot-notes show the desire of the authors for accuracy and timeliness, even to June 20, 1890. Beside giving the gloss of good style, the authors have made an excellent comparative study of the character and temperament of the great explorers as well as described the Africans and their continent. (\$2.50. George Routledge & Sons.)

MR. CHRISTOPHER G. TIEDEMAN has published a small volume entitled 'The Unwritten Constitution of the United States,' in which he endeavors to show that our national constitution is continually developing, not so much by formal amendments as by unwritten changes established by public opinion. He begins by inquiring into the origin of law in general, and takes the very sensible ground that law is the product of the popular sense of right, and changes with the moral ideas of the people. But when he undertakes to show that the people of the United States have in many respects altered their fundamental law by mere custom and interpretation, he seems to us to have little success. He has no difficulty in showing that the Supreme Court has not always been consistent in its interpretation of the Constitution, and also that during the Civil War the Executive usurped some powers not justly belonging to it. But in other cases, as when he says that the custom of not re-electing the President for a third term is, until public opinion changes, 'as binding as any written limitation,' he seems to us to mistake a custom, or practice, under the Constitution for a rule of the Constitution itself. The Constitution is one thing, and its practical application another; and there may be a change, or many changes in the latter, while the former remains unaltered. (\$1. G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

'A HAND-BOOK for Readers in the Boston Public Library, Containing the Regulations of the Library, with an account of the Catalogues, a Bibliography of Special Subjects, List of Indexes to Periodicals, and Other Information,' is the descriptive title of a most valuable aid to all book-lovers and book-users who live in the metropolis of the Bay State. The handy little duodecimo consists of four hundred pages lacking two, and the copy before us is marked 'ninth edition.' The work will be useful also to the special student who wants to know what treasures are available on special subjects, whether in Boston or in any other place where books are stored. For example, suppose one wishes to know what has been written on Corea. He has but to turn to that heading to find that a certain American publication of Charles Scribner's Sons contains a list of works on that country. In a word, the little book which in its main part reveals the painstaking and scholarly work of Mr. Whitney is a key that will unlock many treasures, being many times worth its cost whether in or out of the city in which it was compiled. This useful literary tool is also a guide-book to the art-objects in the great Library, and gives its history. (25 cts. Boston Public Library.)—AN INTERESTING PAPER on 'Telegraphing Among the Ancients,' by means of fire and smoke signals, is No. 1 of the third classical series of 'Papers of the Archaeological Institute of America.' It is by Augustus C. Merriam, who, after describing the various systems of signals in use,

discusses the opening scene of the 'Agamemnon' of Æschylus, in which the fall of Troy is made known by fire signals at Argos on the evening of the same day. Prof. Merriam shows that the feat may have been possible. (Archæological Institute.)

THOUGH 'The Passion Play at Ober-Ammergau' is now a 'back number,' and will remain so for a decade to come, yet there are many who will read Archdeacon Farrar's hundred-page pamphlet upon the play. With characteristic diction and vocabulary, he talks about the origin of miracle plays, describes his visit to the place, gives his impressions of the villagers, and in a sensible and sympathetic way writes a running commentary upon the scene. The Archdeacon saw a rehearsal of the play before its public production, as well as afterwards; on the whole, he thinks its continuance might be possible and proper. He foreshadows, however, its decay and disappearance for obvious causes. It has lived on thus far as a survival because of its very seclusion. Now the crowd and the world are blasting it. 'This humble flower from the Middle Ages has lived on, as it were, in the crevice of its native rock; but it is doubtful whether it can long keep its bloom and fragrance in the changed atmosphere and changing soil.' Together with his critique is bound up an article entitled 'The Story that Transformed the World,' condensed from *The Review of Reviews*—a mass of gorgeous rhetoric, from which we extract one sentence:—'The performance of the Passion Play, like the angel with the drawn sword which stands on the summit of the Castle of San Angelo, is the pious recognition for the stay of pestilence—a kind of dramatic rainbow set in the hills to commemorate the stay of the pestilential deluge.' (25 cts. John W. Lovell Co.)

'THE PUBLISHERS' TRADE LIST ANNUAL: 1890' is a welcome visitor—none the less so that it has come to stay twelve months. It contains a complete list, by authors, titles and subjects, of the books recorded in *The Publishers' Weekly* from January to June, inclusive; a price-list of all the text-books in use in the United States; and the latest catalogues of American publishers, arranged alphabetically by firm-names. It is as well arranged as in the past, and as invaluable to publishers, booksellers, librarians and literary editors. (\$2. *Publishers' Weekly* Office.)—'PERIODICALS THAT PAY CONTRIBUTORS,' by Eleanor Kirk, is not a romance, as to the disheartened scribbler the title may seem to imply. Though the subject-matter of that part of the book which relates to 'periodicals' at all, has to do only with those 'that pay contributors,' the warning note 'Does not publish poetry,' 'Does not pay for poetry except by famous writers,' and 'Does not pay for poetry' in any case, is sounded with depressing iteration. In the present new and revised edition is included an alphabetical list of publishing-houses. (\$1. Brooklyn: 786 Lafayette Ave.)—'CUMULATIVE TAXATION' is the panacea suggested by Mr. W. V. Marshall, bookseller, for the relief of 'existing industrial ills,' and Notseen is the name he gives his Utopia. (Santa Fé, New Mexico.)

'THE TREES OF NORTH-EASTERN AMERICA,' by Charles S. Newhall, gives an easily understood (not scientific) account of the native trees of Canada and the northern United States, east of the Mississippi. The more common naturalized species are also given. Mr. Newhall's descriptions are based mainly on the forms and arrangements of the leaves, an important matter to the reader who is not a botanist and cannot always wait for blossoming time to determine the name and place of a tree that may be new to him. The descriptions are helped by outline-drawings, usually full-size, of the mature leaves, and other characters are added, as of the nature of bark, flowers and fruit. The range of each species is given from Prof. Sargent's report in the Tenth Census of the United States. With this book in hand, it should be easy for any one to discover the name, species, and order of any tree in the immense section of country it covers. (\$2.50. G. P. Putnam's Sons.)—'AMONG THE MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES,' by Julia P. Ballard, is a collection of popular essays on entomology and the pleasures which it affords the ardent butterfly hunter. The author is always entertaining, whether describing in prose the rearing of cocoons, as in 'A Barrel Full of Lunas,' or giving in rhyme a bit of moth biography, as in 'The Unfinished Life of Quaker Grey.' The book is full of excellent engravings, many of them after the author's drawings, and some so delicate that much more careful printing than is here given them would be required to do them justice. As it stands, however, it should be a favorite with amateur naturalists, to whom imported books of natural history so often prove a delusion and a snare. (\$1.50. G. P. Putnam's Sons.)