

THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINES.

The opening article in *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* is a discussion by Prof. E. S. Morse on the origin of the people of Middle America, which arrays the arguments for and against Asia as the original source of the population. The "Possible Fiber Industries of the United States" is elaborately illustrated, and an interesting sociological experiment is described in a "Practical Dutch Charity."

Gilbert Parker's "The Battle of the Strong" is continued in the *Atlantic*, and the conclusion is evidently near. The third installment of Carlyle's "Unpublished Letters" is accompanied by a discussion on "Carlyle as a Letter-Writer" by their editor, Mr. Copeland. A paper timely to the present political discussions is the "Colonial Lessons of Alaska," by David Starr Jordan, which gives some very wise cautions; but Mr. Hollis's article on "The Navy in the War with Spain" seems a little tardy after the many things written on the subject already. The complete short story is the "Alcalde's Visit" by Mrs. Crowninshield.

The *Bibliothèque Universelle* continues its French translation of "Elsie Venner" and has a paper on the poetesses—save the word—of France.

The ubiquitous Cyrano de Bergerac makes another bow in the *Bookman* in a paper on the month's drama and also in sundry paragraphs, and we are glad to see also a very interesting likeness of M. Rostand. A history of American illustration is begun by Arthur Hoeber, and Mr. Munro's story, "John Splendid," is continued. The number is completed with the usual good literary articles.

Book News has a short story by Lafayette McLaws, its usual newsy letters from London,

New York, Boston, and Chicago, and an unusually large number of book reviews.

The current numbers of *Cassell* and the *Quiver* contain their usual amount of wholesome, entertaining reading matter; but it is a pity that in point of illustration and typography they are inferior to other publications of the same nature.

The *Chautauquan* has no striking features, but its lists of required and general reading are made with discrimination.

We are glad to have opened *Current Literature* if for no other reason than to find the following anecdote of Mr. Kipling, quoted from the San Francisco *Argonaut*. That the story is too good to be true we have little doubt, but we can not refrain from repeating it in our own columns:

A writer in the San Francisco *Argonaut* tells the following anecdote as coming from the lips of an American traveler who spent some time in the company of Rudyard Kipling in London lately:

One afternoon we went together to the Zoo, and, while strolling about, our ears were assailed by the most melancholy sound I have ever heard, a complaining, fretting, lamenting sound proceeding from the elephant house.

"What's the matter in there?" asked Mr. Kipling of the keeper.

"A sick elephant, sir; he cries all the time; we don't know what to do with him," was the answer.

Mr. Kipling hurried away from me in the direction of the lament, which was growing louder and more painful. I followed and saw him go up close to the cage, where stood an elephant with sadly drooped ears and trunk. He was crying actual tears at the same time that he mourned his lot most audibly. In another moment Mr. Kipling was up to the bars, and I heard him speak to the sick beast in a language that may have been elephantese, but certainly was not English. Instantly the whining stopped, the ears were lifted, the monster turned his sleepy little suffering eyes upon his visitor and put out his trunk. Mr. Kipling began to caress it, still speaking in the same soothing tone, and in words unintelligible to me at least. After a few minutes the beast began to answer in a much lowered tone of voice, and evidently recounted his woes. Possibly elephants, when "enjoying poor health," like to confide their symptoms to sympathizing listeners as much as do some human invalids. Certain it was that Mr. Kipling and that elephant carried on a conversation, with the result that the elephant found his spirits much cheered and improved. The whine went out of his voice, he forgot that he was much to be pitied, he began to exchange experiences with his friend, and he was quite unconscious, as was Mr. Kipling, of the amused and interested crowd collecting about the cage. At last, with a start, Mr. Kipling found himself and his elephant the observed of all observers, and beat a hasty retreat, leaving behind him a very different creature from the one he had found.

"Doesn't that beat everything you ever saw?" ejaculated a compatriot of mine, as the elephant trumpeted a loud and cheerful good-by to the back of his vanishing visitor, and I agreed with him that it did.

"What language were you talking to that elephant?" I asked when I overtook my friend.

"Language? What do you mean?" he answered with a laugh.

"Are you a Mowgli," I persisted, "and can you talk to all those beasts in their own tongues?" but he only smiled in reply.

Frank Leslie's Monthly has two strong attractions in Mr. Camp's article on football in America and Mr. Stockton's short story. Among the other contributors are General Fitzhugh Lee, Margaret E. Sangster, and Louise Chandler Moulton.

We confess to a warm liking for Frederic Remington's work, and so it is a treat to have *Harper's Magazine* give us eight full-page illustrations by his hand besides his account of what he saw during the Santiago campaign, and another story of our Indian friend, Sundown. Two illustrations belong to the story, but the six most admirable accompany the even more admirable history of Mr. Remington's war experience. For vivid, picturesque description we have seen little war writing that is better than this graphic paper, "With the Fifth Corps." Present interests are met in articles on "Our Seaboard Islands of the Pacific" and the "Eastward Expansion of the United States;" biography is represented by an article on Bismarck with an hitherto unpublished portrait; for fiction we are offered another quaint Old Chester tale, and two other short stories, and further installments of "The Span of Life" and Julian Ralph's novel; and the balance of the number is made up with several miscellaneous articles of Harper's usual order of excellence.

The frontispiece of *McClure's Magazine* is a full-length portrait of Colonel Roosevelt, and a character sketch of him occupies several pages. Among the short stories is one for boys by Stephen Crane, and there are several short papers relative to current topics. The cover is a very pretty bit of coloring by Kenyon Cox.

The characteristic American spirit of *Scribner's* is maintained in the current issue. Richard Harding Davis has an article on the "Porto Rican Campaign;" one of the best of its profuse illustrations is a spirited drawing by Mr. Yohn, whose Revolutionary figures are already familiar to readers of *Scribner's*. Mr. Page's serial, "Red Rock," is completed to a fair degree of satisfaction, and we are given also the conclusion of Mr. Wyckoff's adventures as a worker in the West. The "Story of the Revolution" is of course continued, and there are several excellent short pieces of fiction.

"The Far Eastern Question," by Archibald R. Colquhoun, "Bismarck and Motley," by J. P. Grund, and "Pending Problems," by Hannis Taylor are the emphasized articles in the *North American Review*. Among the shorter papers is an entertaining one on *Literary Shop* by Andrew Lang, whose busy pen seems equally facile, whether the subject be fairy tales, or criticism, or essay.

The war and its kindred subjects occupy a large place in the *Review of Reviews*, the longest articles being one by James Creelman, illustrated, on his experiences at Santiago, and one on the Y. M. C. A. of the army and navy by Albert Shaw. "Ouida" contributes a long article entitled *An Impeachment of Italy*, which is answered by Giovanni Della Vecchia, an Italian journalist. Present political happenings and conditions have their usual careful attention and seemingly more than usual space, and the effect of present politics on the much discussed Nicaragua Canal is the subject of special papers by Lindley Miller Keasbey, whose book on the topic is already well known, and by Emory R. Johnson.