

# The Critic

NEW YORK, AUGUST 25, 1891.

NEXT week's *Harper's Weekly* will announce the name of the winner of the \$3000 prize illustration of Domett's 'Christmas Hymn.'

The wish so frequently and publicly expressed, that the theologians would give to the world a more definite statement of the principles on which they consider that the defence of theology and Christianity properly rests as against current agnostic and materialistic arguments, has induced Prof. S. Harris of the Yale Theological school to put in the Messrs. Scribner's hands the MS. of a volume on 'The Philosophical Basis of Theism.'

'A Castle in Spain' will come to an end in the November *Harper's*. The frontispiece of the October number of that magazine will be an engraving by Kruell of Gilbert Stuart's portrait of Washington in the possession of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. This is apropos of an article by Mr. J. T. Headley on 'The Last Days of Washington at Newburgh.' An early number of *Harper's* will contain a paper on 'Artistic London,' which will give the illustrator a fine opportunity.

'Boston Illustrated,' Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.'s excellent hand-book of the Hub, appears in a new and carefully revised edition.

Messrs. Scribner will publish Dr. Gerhard Uhlhorn's 'History of Charity in the Early Christian Church.' They have also in press two or three new editions of successful books, among them Plato's 'Best Thoughts,' and Merrill's 'East of the Jordan,' in new style and at a lower price.

A number of the more important paintings exhibited this year at the Munich and Amsterdam expositions are reproduced in the September *Art Amateur*.

The venerable Bronson Alcott, now a confirmed invalid, has cut his long white hair and raised a beard.

Agnew's Surgery will be completed on September 1st by the publication, by Lippincott & Co., of the third and last volume of the work.

The Princess Louise is to contribute some of her paintings to the coming exhibition at Boston, and has telegraphed to ask on what day pictures should reach the city.

Vol. I., No. 6, of *The Library of Cornell University* gives a list of the more important additions from February to April last. It also continues the list of works relating to mathematics. Its Notes explain certain anonyms and pseudonyms, and some valuable 'references for the history of the settlement of western New York' are given.

Liberty Hall, the home of the late Alexander H. Stephens, is for sale for \$10,000, which will cover the library as well. There is talk in Georgia of buying the place for a high school.

Elizabeth Thompson, now Mrs. Butler, the painter of 'The Roll-Call' and other military pictures, comes of an artistic family. Her mother, Mme. Thompson, it seems is a painter of no mean talents, and has recently exhibited a 'Mary Magdalen at the Tomb' that is highly spoken of by the English papers.

Thirteen colored plates are to be issued to subscribers to *The Art Interchange* next year, and the price of the paper will be raised accordingly from \$2 to \$3 per annum.

Just before its meeting at Boston in 1880, there were a few more than 1000 members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. There are now nearly 2000. *Science* suggests that the consequent increase in the Association's funds be utilized in the endowment of research, and particularly in the making of an annual grant to the Naples zoological station.

'Historical and Other Sketches,' selected from the works of Mr. Froude by President Wheeler of Allegheny College, is the latest issue in Funk & Wagnalls' Standard Library.

From a daguerreotype portrait of Burns in the possession of Mr. E. C. Stedman, the frontispiece of the September *Century* has been engraved.

Mr. Wm. F. Allen, editor of the *Official Railway Guide*, explains in the September *Century* his system of 'Standard Time,' which is expected to be adopted by the American railroad managers in October. In the same number Mr. Roger Riordan writes of 'Ornamental Forms in Nature,' and Lieut. Schwatka describes 'A Musk-Ox Hunt' in King William Land.

John E. Potter & Co. have published a new edition of their *French Syntax*, by Prof. Harrison, of Washington and Lee University. A series of practical exercises has been prepared for the new edition by Prof. Eastman of the University of Pennsylvania. Prof. Whitney of Yale is credited with saying of this book: 'So far as I know, there has been nothing hitherto in English that filled anything like the same place.'

'The Price She Paid,' a novel by Frank Lee Benedict, first issued in London a few months ago, has just been brought out by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

The new Commentaries of the Rev. Joseph Agar Beet on Romans (fourth edition) and Corinthians (second edition) have just been republished here by Thomas Whitaker, who has nearly ready 'English Cathedrals: Their Architecture, Symbolism, and History,' compiled by Miss E. W. Boyd, of Albany—a concise, illustrated hand-book.

Prof. Alexander Agassiz's laboratory on the Neck at Newport, where the warm waters of the Gulf Stream bring close to shore strange specimens of animal and vegetable life, is described by Ernest Ingersoll in the September *Century*. A portrait of the Professor accompanies the article.

*The Continent* has introduced a new and valuable feature in its Reference Calendar, in which the more important current events are recorded, and a summary given of the books or reviews in which the topics touched upon are treated.

The English version of the Sanskrit 'Hymn to Ushas,' which Paul Griggs repeats the morning after his first meeting with Mr. Isaacs, was printed by Mr. Crawford in *THE CRITIC* of Feb. 25, 1882, nine months before the publication of the popular novel in which it reappeared.

An anonymous writer—evidently Lieut. Schwatka—contributes to *Science* of August 17 the first of two or more papers on 'The Igloo of the Innuits'—the snow-and-ice house of the Eskimo of North America.

The \$35,000 statute presented to California by Mr. D. O. Mills, to be placed in the rotunda of the State House at Sacramento, is said to be one of Mr. Larkin Mead's best works in marble. Mr. Edgar Mills, a brother of the donor, was one of the State-Commissioners charged with the construction of the building in which the colossal statue is to stand.

J. B. Lippincott & Co. have nearly ready a large-type edition of 'The Booklover's Enchiridion,' with revisions and additions by an American editor. They also announce a new translation by Mrs. Wister, 'Banned and Blessed,' from the German of E. Werner; and 'The Wit and Wisdom of Proverbial Philosophy,' by Marshall Brown, a collection of paragraphs from the 'funny men' of the press, illustrating or burlesquing well-known proverbs.

*Science* is publishing full and excellent reports of the proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its just-closed session in Minneapolis.

Messrs. Roberts have begun the publication of a classic series with 'The Lay of the Last Minstrel,' 'Marmion,' and 'The Lady of the Lake,' bound in one neat volume, and printed in clear type on good paper.

Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, editor of *Good Cheer* and a frequent contributor to *Harper's Magazine*, *St. Nicholas*, etc., has taken charge of a department of the weekly *Philadelphia Press*, with the object of promoting discussion of all topics interesting to women, and the collection of notes and queries on topics of special interest to them.

Judge Tourgée thinks 'an immense amount of twaddle has been written of late on both sides of the water upon what is termed the "American element in literature."' This element, he urges, is not to be found in 'the use of an American setting for fictitious characters, the employment of dialect peculiarities to be met with only in the United States, or the delineation of phases of life peculiar to our civilization and development.' The native element in any work is wholly independent of the subject-matter. It is simply the native element in the author's thought. Thus, 'there is no work of fiction in which the American element is more distinct and appreciable than in Hawthorne's "Marble Faun";' yet the scene is laid in a foreign land, and the characters have hardly a hint of the New World about them.' And 'Leather-stocking' has in it 'less of the American element than one of James's international series.'

*The English Illustrated Magazine*, the new six-penny journalistic venture of the Macmillans, is to appear in London in October. It is to be very fully illustrated, and printed on paper that will show the pictures to the best advantage. Specimens of the illustrations prepared for the first number are said to indicate a higher class of wood-engraving than characterizes any of the existing English magazines.

'*La Pluie et le Beau Temps*,' a one-act comedy, by Leon Gozlan, and '*Autour d'un Berceau*,' a little piece in one short scene, by Ernest Legouvé, have been added to Mr. Wm. R. Jenkins's '*Théâtre Contemporain*.'

Napoleon Bonaparte will fill an unusual space in the new volume of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the article on his character and career having been written by the author of '*Ecce Homo*.'—Prof. Seeley, of Cambridge University.

Portugal's representative in France is a descendant of the representative Portuguese poet, De Camoens.

Since May last, Newport has had a Natural History Society, with Prof. Raphael Pumpelly for President, Prof. Alexander Agassiz for first Vice-President, Mr. George C. Mason for Corresponding Secretary, Lieut. Wm. McCarty Little, for Librarian, and Dr. J. J. Mason for Curator. Its object is to promote the study of science among residents and visitors, to investigate the geology, botany, and zoology of the neighboring lands and waters, to form a museum and library, and to establish an aquarium and zoological garden. The annual membership fee is only \$3. Contributions to the library are solicited.

Prof. H. Newell Martin, of Johns Hopkins, has been appointed Croonian Lecturer of the Royal Society of London for the current year. His subject is the effect of changes of temperature on the action of the heart; while the subject of the first Croonian Lecture, delivered 145 years ago by Dr. Stuart, was the motion of the heart.

Mr. Joseph Knight, editor of *The Gentleman's Magazine*, and dramatic critic of *The Athenæum* and several London dailies, has been made editor of *Notes and Queries*, the former editor, Mr. Tule, having recently died. Mr. Smalley says in the *Tribune*: 'Mr. Joseph Knight's range is a wide one; but, like most men who go far a-field in culture, he has a specialty,—early French literature; and in early French literature he has a collection of books which Mr. Francisque Sarcey thought worthy of a descriptive article in *Le Temps*; or was it *Le XIXe Siècle*, since Mr. Sarcey writes for both those papers?'

The new and enlarged edition of Dr. S. Wells Williams's '*Middle Kingdom*' will be published in London (simultaneously with its publication here by Messrs. Scribner) by Messrs. W. H. Allen & Co., official publishers to the India Company. The value of this book will be increased by the addition of new maps prepared under Dr. Williams's direction, and numerous colored illustrations.

Messrs. Routledge have in preparation a new holiday book by Miss Kate Greenaway, whose popularity seems to be increasing. Miss Greenaway has taken for her text this year 'Little Ann' and other poems by Jane and Ann Taylor, the old-fashioned air of which is admirably suited to this artist's old-style drawings. Messrs. Routledge will publish a Greenaway Calendar for 1884, a little larger than the liliputian volume of last year.

According to the *Cornhill*, the Parisian daily, *Le Temps*, 'affects translations of English novels, as being of a higher moral tone and more in harmony with its Protestant principles than most of the works of contemporary French writers. Bret Harte, Mark Twain, Hawthorne, Mrs. Gaskell, Miss Braddon, Wilkie Collins, Rhoda Broughton, Henry James, etc., have seen many of their works translated in this journal.'

To accompany a '*Topical Course in U. S. History*,' prepared for the use of pupils in the Oakland, Cal., Public Schools, Mr. W. A. Fisher has printed a useful list of works relating to United States history, which children may read in connection with their text-books.

Mr. Charles Dudley Warner in the '*Drawer*' of the September *Harper's* says that American handwriting has no general characteristic, except that it is 'sprawling' and 'unformed.' He says: 'We signed the Declaration very well, on the whole, but we have hardly as a nation lived up to it.' Certainly the French, the Germans, and the English are much better penmen than the Americans.

There are two articles in *The Bibliographer* for August (Bouton) which will interest not only bibliophiles but the general reader,—if that anonymous gentleman ever peruses the columns of this monthly 'journal of book-lore.' One of these is a history of *Chambers's Journal*, the other a history of the famous old printing-house of Christopher Plantin, at Antwerp. Very nearly, if not quite, one half of the titles in Mr. Foster's continued 'Bibliography of Skating' in this number refer to American books or journals.

Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. have in press an illustrated edition of Palgrave's '*Golden Treasury of Songs and Lyrics*,' edited by John Forster Kirk, who has added a fifth part containing selections from the works of the more recent English poets.

At the base of a bluff 300 yards from the site of the house in Westmoreland County, Va., in which Washington was born, the Government is about to erect a monument. The site was selected last week.

Edward Clodd's '*The Childhood of Religions*' has just been added to Fitzgerald's Humboldt Library.

We understand that the sale of 'Dr. Claudius' has already come up to within two or three thousand of that of 'Mr. Isaacs.'

*The Catholic World* joins in the general chorus of praise of the Meisterschaft System of learning foreign languages, comparing it very favorably with the older Mastery System of Prendergast.

Mr. Theodore Thomas has returned from his transcontinental tour and sailed for Europe to join his family and look up novelties for the coming season in New York.

Rev. Wm. M. Baker, the popular author of '*His Maesty Myself*,' '*Blessed St. Certainty*,' '*A Year Worth Living*,' '*Carter Quaterman*,' '*Col. Dunwoddie*,' '*The New Timothy*,' '*Mose Evans*,' '*The Inside: A Chronicle of Secession*,' etc., died at his home in South Boston on Monday last. A full-page portrait of Mr. Baker, with a personal and critical sketch from the hand of an admirer, appeared in *THE CRITIC* of August 13th, 1881. A short story from his pen—'*Excommunicated for Laziness*'—appears in the September *Manhattan*, issued to-day.