

Hawthorne's Wonder Book.

A Wonder Book for Boys and Girls. By Nathaniel Hawthorne. Illustrated by F. S. Church. [Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.50.]

The fascinating legends of classic mythology have never been told with greater grace than by Hawthorne in his *Wonder Book*, of which there have been many sorts of editions, and of which there appears this fall one of dimensions and quality to leave all that went before to be forgotten, and to make it certain that after this, when "Hawthorne's Wonder Book" is called for, only one particular book can possibly be intended. Happy the bright-eyed boys and soft-hearted girls who wake up Christmas morning to find this choice and beautiful volume among the love-gifts of their friends. The Riverside Press has touched the wonder-words of the gifted necromancer of the Old Manse with a magic of its own, and set them forth with a largeness and a brilliancy which leave almost the effect of a sensation, while the artist Church has made free use with his pencil of the captivating subjects of the tales. There are between thirty and forty drawings, all, we believe, imbedded in the text. They are delicate rather than imposing, and charm by their lightness and the sympathy of their manner with the author's spirit, rather than by any attempted independence of genius. Here in succession are the terrible Gorgon's head, with its writhing serpent hair; the little Perseus and his mother drifting helplessly in the curious carved chest upon the lonely sea; King Midas nursing his treasures, and invoking the aid of his strange visitor that everything he touched might be turned to gold; Pandora and Epimetheus, gathering fruits from the laden boughs in the innocent days before the mysterious box was opened; the mighty Hercules with his ponderous club, entertaining the maidens at the river side as they twine their wreaths of flowers; good Baucis and Philemon, hospitable to strangers, and so entertaining angels unawares; and the handsome young Bellerophon, pausing by the fountain to interview the pretty maiden and her companions in behalf of his search for the fleet Pegasus. The incomparable text on which these picture beads are strung is printed in large type, whose edges are cut with the sharpness of the facets of a diamond, and whose face shines with a coal-black luster. Heavy calendered paper, ample margins, gilded edges, and a tempting cover complete the sum of rare attractions with which this book is endowed. Such a book as a mere object to look at is an education to a child's judgment and taste in the mechanics of book-making; while when we taste its contents, how far elevated their staple is above the "stuff and nonsense" with which some purveyors seem to think it proper that young minds be fed.
