

THE LIBRARY

The Cynic and the Youthful Enthusiast were discussing new things in ephemeral literature.

The Youthful Enthusiast started it: "I am so glad Mrs. Humphrey Ward has begun her new story. 'Sir George Tressady in the November Century' has an interesting beginning and promises to be as good as 'Marcella.'

"I cannot share your enthusiasm," remarked the Cynic. "As you say, it promises, but what does it promise? Simply a repetition of all the incidents and socialism of 'Marcella.' The first installment of the story is nothing but 'Marcella' over again, and in Lady Maxwell, the character talked about, but not as yet introduced. I am prepared to find a person who will give vent to Mrs. Ward's ardent and somewhat tiresome views for many long months to come. You can get all of these views or opinions by attending the meetings of the Socialists here in Lincoln or by listening to the approved populist orators."

"Well, what did you think of Chester Bailey Fernald's 'The Tragedy of the Comedy' in the same number of the Century?"

"A pretty enough twelve-page story that could have been told in two pages, with pictures by Howard Chandler Christy that are palpable imitations of Gibson."

"I thought of that suggestion of Gibson in Christy's illustrations, and speaking of Gibson reminds me of Harding Davis' 'About Paris,' which I have just finished reading. It is altogether one of the prettiest, daintiest books I have seen for a long time. It is in Davis' most delightful style, and with Gibson on one hand and Davis on the other I am sure one can find many interesting things in Paris. I don't suppose it is a great book; but it is full of spice and life and is interesting—and after all the greatest thing in a book is to be interesting."

"A critic of this book said that Davis shows no trace of genius, but plenty of evidence of art. I agree with him," said the Cynic. "For my part I am tiring of Gibson. There is rather too much of him in his friends book, but 'About Paris' is a handy and useful thing to have about the house."

"Have you read 'With the Procession,' by Henry B. Fuller?" inquired the Youthful Enthusiast.

"No; what is it about?"

"Why, it is the story of a rich family in Chicago trying to get into society—"

"Kind of 'Silas Lapham' y-a-n-e-h?"

"Yes, it is something like it."

"I suppose there is a girl like Penelope in it?"

"Yes, Jane is something like her."

"And is there a grouchy and foolish old father like Silas?"

"There is an old Mr. Marshall who has rather more sense in the beginning than Silas and less in the end."

"And I suppose getting into society breaks up the family?"

"Yes, and come to think of it, the Marshalls built a new house as the Laphams did."

"What is there in it that wasn't in Silas Lapham—anything?"

"Pathos, for one thing. It is really a heart-rending tale."

The Cynic hasn't any heart to read, and his comment was characteristic:

"I can get all the pathos I want without reading stories of Laphams and Marshalls getting into society. I stood the Laphams, I'm afraid I couldn't stand the Marshalls."

"Do you ever find anything you really like?" asked the Youthful Enthusiast.

"Sometimes, but never when I am

looking for it. The other day I picked up Haggard's new book, 'Joan Haste.' I expected to find Haggard as I have known him before. I found, instead, a kind of modern Dickens, and in a temperate kind of way, I liked the book."

"Oh, so did I—immensely. But I do not think it is anything like Dickens. To me it is a jolly good novel of English country life, not much like Haggard, it is true, but not like Dickens, either."

"I'll wager a bound volume of the Chap Book against a postage stamp that you skipped most of the pages where there wasn't any 'talking'—well, that's where there was something of the Dickens quality. 'Joan Haste' is really a good deal more than the ordinary novel of English country life. It is the best thing Haggard has done. There is some character sketching in it that is equal to anything of this kind we have had recently."

ABOUT PARIS, by Richard Harding Davis; published by Harpers, New York.

WITH THE PROCESSION, by Henry B. Fuller; published by Harpers, New York.

JOAN HASTE, by Rider Haggard, published by Longmans Green & Co., New York.

The Century Magazine celebrates its quarter centennial in its November issue with an "Anniversary Number." In honor of the occasion it dons a new dress of type with new headings, etc., and it appears in a new and artistic cover. Although The Century has reached an age that is unusual among American magazines, it continues to show the youthful vigor and enterprise that have characterized it. The program that has been arranged for the coming year contains a number of interesting features. Much has already been written concerning Mrs. Humphry Ward's new novel, "Sir George Tressady," which has been secured for its pages. There was a very spirited bidding for this novel on the part of several prominent publishers, with the result that the author will probably realize from the serial and book rights of it one of the largest sums that has yet been given for a work of fiction in the English language. The story describes life in an English country house, and also touches somewhat upon industrial questions. It begins in the November number with an account of an English parliamentary election. It will be the leading feature in fiction for the coming twelve months, other and shorter novels being contributed by W. D. Howells, F. Hopkinson Smith, Mary Hallock Foote, and Amelia E. Barr. There will also be contributions from Mark Twain and Rudyard Kipling (the latter furnishing to the Christmas Century one of the most powerful stories he has ever written); a series of articles on the great naval engagements of Nelson, by Captain Alfred T. Mahan, author of "Influence of Sea Power Upon History"; three brilliant articles on Rome, contributed by Marion Crawford, and superbly illustrated by Castaigne, who made the famous World's Fair pictures in The Century; a series of articles by George Kennan, author of "Siberia and the Exile System," on the mountains and the mountaineers of the Eastern Caucasus, describing a little-known people; articles by Henry M. Stanley and the late E. J. Glave on Africa; a series of papers on "The Administration of the Cities of the United States," by Dr. Albert Shaw. The Century will also contain during the year a great number of papers on art subjects, richly illustrated. Prof. Sloane's "Life of Napoleon," with its wealth of illustrations, will reach its most interesting part,—the rise of the

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