

A SHADOW OF THE ROCKIES.

The mountains from my window
lie outrolled,
Their solemn peaks with
coronals of snow
O'er which the fires of dawn
and sunset flow,
And keen, high ridges by
fierce winds patrolled.

With evening comes a
mighty shadow cold
Across my doorway
as the sun sinks low,
And, high above, the
loftier summits show
Faint, as in the twilight
tames their outlines bold.

Then from the heights
the spirit of repose
Steals earthward, with
the peace that long has lain
Secure amid the deep,
untrodden snows—
A shadow stream, for which
my soul is fain,
That from the answering
peak of silence flows,
And pours its balm
upon the toiling plain.

—Meredith Nicholson, in
September Century.

A LOVER'S EXIT.

Sir Walter Besant tells much that is interesting in the September Century, of that East London hamlet which bears the name of Ratcliffe.

The house beside the church is now the vicarage. It is a square, solid house built about the end of the seventeenth century. It is remarkable for a dining room the walls of which are painted with Italian landscapes. The story is that there lived here early in the eighteenth century a merchant who rode into London every day, leaving his only daughter behind. He desired to decorate his house with wall-paintings, and engaged a young Italian to stay in the house and to paint all day. Presently he made a not unusual discovery, that the Italian and his daughter had fallen in love with each other. He knew what was due to his position as a city merchant, and, as might have been expected, he rose with dignity to the occasion. That is to say, he ordered the young man to get out of the house within half an hour. The young man obeyed, so far as to mount the stairs to his own room. Here, however, he stopped, and when the angry parent climbed the stairs after the expiration of the half-hour to know why he was not gone, he found the young lover dead, hanging to the canopy of his bed. His ghost was long believed to haunt the house, and was only finally laid, after troops of servants had fled shrieking, when the wife of the vicar sat up all night by herself in the haunted chamber, and testified that she had neither seen nor heard anything, and was quite willing to sleep in the room. That disgusted the ghost, who then went away of his own accord. I wish I could show you one room in the house. It was the old "powdering room." When your wig had been properly curled and combed, you threw a towel or dressing-gown over your shoulders, and sat in this little room, with your back to the door. Now, the door had a sliding panel, and the barber on the other side was provided with the instrument which blew the white powder through the panel upon the wig. The operation finished, you arose, slipped off the dressing gown, and descended to your coach with all the dignity of a gold-laced hat, a wig as white as the driven snow, lace ruffles, a waist-tie, and a black velvet coat—if you were a merchant—with gold buttons and white silk stockings. A beau-

tiful time it was for those who could afford the dignity and the splendor which made it beautiful. For those who could not—hnmph! not quite so beautiful a time.

CHINA'S AWAKENING.

The Reverend D. Z. Sheffield, for many years a missionary in China, returned to that country in June, on learning of the destruction of the North China College at Tungchau, of which he is the president. Before sailing he had written for the September Century, a paper on "The Influences of the Western World on China."

Men from the west have been explaining to the Chinese for a round generation the vastness of the agricultural and mineral resources of the country. The stock theme of conversation on meeting scholars or officials is the value of steam and electricity, coal and iron, western machinery and labor-saving devices. The Chinese are impressed with the evidence of the wealth and prosperity of Christian nations. Wherever the foot of a European rests, property, for some reason, seems to take on a new value. The Chinese, when there are money incentives involved, are not slow in learning. The best men among the officials, scholars and merchants, are not still sleeping and dreaming of the ancients, all ignorance and indifference as to the resources of the country and the proper means for their development. Many of them are keenly awake to the opportunities and needs of the times. They lack confidence in their government; they lack capital; they lack knowledge and skill and experience; they are aware of their need of foreign help to get possession of this wealth. They are now discussing with great earnestness the difficult question as to how they may secure the needed help, and yet prevent the lion's share of profits crossing the "great waters."

Thus many and powerful influences are already operating upon China from without, producing impressions that will be far-reaching in their results. Through the missionaries, in their evangelistic, educational, and literary work, a new moral ozone is being breathed into the life of the people, and new thoughts of material and intellectual progress are being wider propagated. Through the customs service of the home and foreign diplomatic service, the Chinese are learning that they are not, as they had supposed, the only dwellers within the circle of civilization, and that the supposed "outside barbarians" have valuable truths to communicate to them, and worthy institutions that they will do well to study and imitate. Through increasing trade they are learning that the "fire-wheel ships" bring wealth to China, and they are beginning to grapple with the new problem of gaining possession of their vast but undeveloped resources.

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