

TO THEOCRITUS.

O Singer of Persephone,
In the dim meadows desolate
Dost thou remember Sicily?

Still through the ivy flits the bee
Where Amaryllis lies in state,
O Singer of Persephone.

Simoetha calls to Hecate,
And hears the wild dogs at the gate;
Dost thou remember Sicily?

Still by the light and laughing sea
Poor Polyheme bemoans his fate,
O Singer of Persephone.

And still in joyous rivalry
Young Daphnis challenges his mate;
Dost thou remember Sicily?

Slim Lacon keeps a goat for thee,
For thee the jocund shepherds wait;
O Singer of Persephone,
Dost thou remember Sicily?

Oscar Wilde.

THE MOST POPULAR BOOKS.

The latest returns of the New York "Bookman" (December) shows the following to be the six most widely read books in America, in the order of their popularity:

1. The Master Christian. By Marie Corelli.
2. Eben Holden. By Irving Bacheller.
3. Tommy and Grizel. By J. M. Barrie.
4. The Redemption of David Corson. By C. F. Goss.
5. The Reign of Law. By James Lane Allen.
6. Alice of Old Vincennes. By Maurice Thompson.

Of these, the third and sixth only were not on the list of last month, and all but the first and third are by American writers.

Besides these, the following are among the most widely read or most important books:

FICTION.

- Eleanor. By Mrs. Humphrey Ward.
Monsieur Beaucaire. By Booth Tarkington.
The Gentleman from Indiana. By Booth Tarkington.
Robert Orange. By Mrs. Craigie.
The Cardinal's Snuff Box. By Henry Harland.
Elizabeth and Her German Garden. Dr. North and his Friends. By Dr. S. Wier Mitchell.
The Voice of the People. By Ellen Glasgow.
Philip Winwood. By R. N. Stephens.
Uncanonized. By Margaret H. Potter.
Richard Yea and Nay. By Maurice Hewlett.
To Have and To Hold. By Mary Johnston.
Richard Carvel. By Winston Churchill.
Janice Meredith. By Paul Leicester Ford.
David Harum (illustrated edition). By E. N. Westcott.
Stringtown on the Pike. By John Uri Lloyd.

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, ETC.

- Gliver Cromwell. By John Morley.
The Life of Shakspeare. By Hamilton Wright Mabie.
Napoleon: The Last Phase. By Lord Rosebery.
Thomas Henry Huxley. By P. Chalmers Mitchell.
The War in South Africa. By Captain A. T. Mahan.
Ian Hamilton's March. By Winston Spencer Churchill.
With Both Armies. By Richard Harding Davis.
China in Transformation. By A. R. Colquhoun.

China, the Long-lived Empire. By E. R. Scidmore.
The Breakup of China. By Lord Charles Bessford.

POETRY AND DRAMA.

An American Anthology. By E. C. Steadman.
Early Poems of Alfred Lord Tennyson. Edited by J. Churton Collins.
L'Aiglon. By Edmond Rostand. Adapted into English by L. N. Parker.
Home Folks. By James Whitcomb Riley.

CRITICISMS.

Critical Studies. By Ouida.
Critical Kit-Kat. By Edmund Gosse.

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY.

The Riddle of the Universe. By Ernest Haeckel.
The Doctrines of Grace. By Dr. John Watson.
Theories of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. By James Merchant.
The Evangelization of the World in this Generation. By John R. Mott.
Trinitarianism and the New Christology. By the Rev. Dr. L. L. Paine.
A Dictionary of the Bible. Edited by James Hastings. Vol. III. Kiri-Pleiades.
History of the Devil. By Dr. Paul Carus.
In England, as has been usual of late, fiction is greatly in the ascendant. Some eighty or ninety new six-shilling novels have appeared in London during the past month. The most widely read books have been the following, of which all but the sixth are by British authors:
The Master Christian. By Marie Corelli.
Quisante. By Anthony Hope Hawkins.
The Isle of Unrest. By Henry Seton Merriman.
The Infidel. By Miss Braddon.
Boy. By Marie Corelli.
The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg. By Mark Twain.
Rue, with a Difference. By Rosa Nouchette Carey.

LITERARY NOTES.

The faults and failures as well as the successes and beauties of the Paris Exposition are described with great frankness by Mr. F. Hopkinson Smith in the Outlook's January magazine number. The illustration for the article consists of half a dozen or more fine reproductions from watercolor drawings made expressly for the Outlook by the author.
(\$3 a year. The Outlook Company 287 Fourth Avenue, New York).

Encouragement.

Bashful lover, (timidly)—Did yeer iver think av marryin, 'Biddy?"
Biddy (cooly)—Shure now th' subject hos niver entered me thoughts.
Bashful lover (turning away)—It's sorry oi am.
Biddy (hastily)—Wan minnit, Pat. Ye've set me t' thinkin'. —The Bazar.

Do you get your Courier regularly? Please compare address. If incorrect, please send right address to Courier office. Do this this week.

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Todd (pityingly)—Never, old man. You think too much of your family and your business.

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FOR 1900?



EVERYDAY LIFE IN CHINA.

Two scenes very common in China are pictured here. The opium den, in all its pristine ghastliness, flourishes in the celestial empire as nowhere else on earth. Especially is this true of Canton, where the sketch here reproduced was made. One of the principal employments of women is the sorting of tea, shown in the other picture.