

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

McClure's Magazine for January is an attractive illustration as in reading matter, and what first strikes one in glancing through it is the notable wealth of portraits. One of Parkman the historian, serves as frontpiece; and in the "Human Documents" department (which, by the way, abates none of its interest and novelty), are others of Parkman, as well as a series of Rider Haggard the novelist, and a series of the eminent French physician and scientist, Charcot. The article likeliest to first seize the reader's attention is Cy Warman's vivid description of the ride he took on the engines of the "Exposition Flyer" from New York to Chicago. For twenty hours, and through nearly a thousand miles, without sleep or rest, Mr. Warman, himself an old engineer, kept his place in the "cab," and took note of all that was done in "keeping them going" at a speed attained by no other train in the world. Scarcely less thrilling than the account of this unparalleled journey, though, are some of the promises of progress recorded in a series of predictions contributed by Professor Huxley, Max Muller, Professor E. J. Houston, Archbishop Ireland and other Americans and Europeans of special authority in religion, science and literature. A study of Jules Verne at home, largely autobiographical, a biographical and critical study of Francis Parkman, and an account of the Maxim air-ship, the newest and most promising appliance for aerial navigation, are also notable articles. W. D. Howells, G. W. Cable, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Professor Tynndall and others contribute a series of reflections and mottoes suggested by the new year. The short stories of the number are by Gilbert Parker, Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton and I. Zangwill.

We take great pleasure in announcing the publication of a work interesting and valuable to all. "Neely's History of the Parliament of Religions and Religious Congresses at the Columbian Exposition." Issued complete in one large volume of about 1,000 pages. A careful compilation of the proceedings—at once a fascinating story and a book of universal value. A narrative of the grandest achievement in modern religious history. The book contains biographical sketches of Dr. John Henry Barrows and President C. C. Bonney; origin of the parliament of religions; proceedings of the meetings of the parliament; speeches delivered and papers read at the various sessions; the beliefs of the various religious denominations; opinions of eminent divines; influence of the parliament upon the religious thought of the world; a condensed report of the proceedings of the religious congresses. Many full-page illustrations with portraits of many of the speakers and foreign delegates. Published by F. T. Neely, Chicago. Price: Cloth, \$2.50; full sheep, \$4.00. Agents wanted.

The short days and long nights of winter give the Atlantic Monthly quite sufficient reason for making the January number particularly strong in its fiction. Mrs. Deland's new novel, "Philip and His Wife," opens with the greatest promise of interest. The heroine of Miss Jewett's story, "The Only Rose," has been married three times, but it is not through the treatment of any "question" that the story is delightful. Humor and sympathy and skill give it a high place in Miss Jewett's best work. "Wolfe's Cove," by Mrs. Catherwood, a story of the taking of Quebec, and the continuation of Charles Egbert Cradock's "His Vanished Star," supplying the rest of the fiction. Captain A. T. Mahan, the well known naval writer, contributes a careful study of the career of Admiral Earl Howe. A hero nearer our own day is General S. C. Armstrong, of the Hampton institute. The Rev. J. H. Denison, his classmate at Williams college and his life-long friend, tells, with appreciation of a rare character, the story of General Armstrong's life. Miss Edith M. Thomas appears in yet another of her delightful studies of nature, "From Winter Solstice to Vernal Equinox," and shows the poet's hand both in the verse and in the prose of which the paper is made up. Of uncommon interest to students of literary history are ten letters, hitherto unpublished, from Coleridge to Southey, and "Down to Tower'd Camelot," a "Talk at a Country House," by Sir Edward Strachey, himself the editor of the Globe edition of Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*, with which the "Talk" is concerned. Professor Shaler says another word for the colleges in his "Transmission of Learning Through the University." The two poems of the number are of unusual charm, and one of the book reviews, on "Lowell, Brooks and Gray in their Letters," has especial contemporary interest.

A GIRL WITH NERVE.

In Oklahoma City, I. T., there is a most extraordinary young lady, who illustrates true American grit better than anybody that we have heard of for some time. She is Miss Ada Curnutt, and she is clerk of the district court and also a deputy United States marshal. The other day she got a telegram from a United States marshal stating that

two well-known desperate characters who were badly wanted were at Oklahoma City, and to send an experienced deputy there at once to arrest them. As it happened all of the deputies were at that time out on the "scout" with warrants, but the men must be arrested, and the plucky little woman took the train herself to Oklahoma City. Arriving there she learned that the men were in a gambling house and saloon. Miss Curnutt is a slender woman about twenty years of age, well dressed, modest, but with determined looking gray eyes and unflinching courage. She found the toughs, who were desperate-looking creatures heavily armed and very much under the influence of liquor, read the warrants and placed them under arrest. The toughs considered it quite a joke at first and refused to accompany her. But although she was entirely unarmed, in a locality where the only thing that commands thorough respect is the Winchester and the revolver, she told them that they must go with her and that she could instantly summon every man on the street as her posseman to assist her. The men allowed her to fasten them together with handcuffs. She marched them to the railway station, took them to Guthrie and turned them over to the authorities. Miss Curnutt went to Oklahoma very shortly after the country was opened to settlement with her sister and brother-in-law, and her ability soon won her a place in the court clerk's office. She knows no cares nothing for politics, but she understands her business and sticks to it. She is the daughter of a Methodist clergyman and was born in Illinois. She devotes most of her spare time to china painting!

FASHIONS FOR MEN.

I hear that the frock coat has received a severe blow in England and that the cutaway, with longer tail, and in grays and drabs, has been seen at afternoon functions. This is hard to believe, but it is important if true. The cutaway, or morning coat, is a very comfortable garment and one which is extremely serviceable. With the advent or rather revival of the cutaway, comes the adoption of the tie over the four-in-hand scarf. Men also wear colored shirts with white collars much more generally than formerly and I know many well-dressed men who wear them at afternoon functions. In fact, Englishmen are devoted to the colored shirt. I think myself that it varies the monotony of a man's dress and gives a bit of color to sober apparel.

Notwithstanding the effort to introduce the paddock coat, with long skirts and velvet collar and cuffs, the overcoat worn by the smartest men is the melton, dark blue or black, with simple velvet collar. The skirts come only a little below the knee, and there is no attempt at exaggeration. As for the frock coat, I should be sorry to see it go. It is to me a very distinguishing and useful garment. A man always looks well dressed in a frock coat, whereas the cutaway or morning coat gives him, no less volens, a slouchy and unkempt appearance. I am partial to the sack in the morning—it is comfortable and becoming. It has the lazier air about it, which makes the charm of a morning coat.—Vogue.

THE VOGUE IN JEWELS.

Turquoises and diamonds have become the vogue in jewels, since the daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh, now Crown Princess of Roumania, has decreed that this combination is the prettiest imaginable. It is one that has been growing in favor with the smartest people since the marriage of Princess Louise of Wales, but in the Crown Princess of Roumania's case there is another and personal reason also, an intensely womanly one, for this preference—namely: the turquoise is exquisitely becoming to the seventeen-year-old bride's pretty pink and white complexion, her bright, wavy, fair hair, and her blue eyes. The tiara, necklace, and earrings given to her by her father are most exquisite, and there is one of her evening gowns with which they will look quite perfect. The emeralds in the queen's present, a very beautifully-designed pendant, are of wonderful beauty, but sapphires and turquoises are the jewels most suited to a fair girl. Emeralds and rubies look superb on brunettes, and of course all must be set with diamonds to secure effect. French and Russian women are having broad flat bands of turquoises mounted as collars and belts, which look extremely pretty, and the soft, velvety blue gems are also used for shoe buckles, garter fasteners, and even chateaines.

After Breakfast.

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CORBETT INTERVIEWED

Corbett has been interviewed by a reporter of a Florida paper and this since his arrival in the land of oranges. The reporter asked Corbett: "What do you think of Mitchell as a fighter?" and Corbett replied without hesitation: "I don't believe he will stand up to be knocked out. I believe my advantages, however, of four inches in reach and four years in age will win the fight for me. In addition to this I can out-wind him." "Weren't you a little bit afraid of Sullivan when you faced him in New Orleans?" "No; if I had been I wouldn't have fought him. I felt of him for a few rounds to find his measure and some of his friends began to hiss me. I knew after the first round that I had him beaten. In the fourth round I gave him a fearful rap in his wind and he called to me not to take any unfair advantage of him. I replied, 'I don't have to, I've got you whipped now.' Sullivan is a brave man, he took a tremendous lot of punishment. I only felt one of his blows and that was the one in my side. I wanted to finish him early in the fight, but Delaney would not allow it and cautioned me to fight carefully and take my time. I saw the white of his eyes several times in the fight, they looked glassy and death like."

"Didn't you feel a little sympathy for the old gladiator when exhaustion overcame him and his arms dropped to his side and you death him that awful smash to finish him?"

"Oh, of course, but there was too much depending on it to hesitate." "Prize fighting like all other sciences is improving."

"There are new things in electric lights, phonograph and all that. The fighter of today is far superior to the fighter ten or even five years ago."

"One of Sullivan's upper cuts would have put me to sleep, but I easily saw all of them coming in time to avoid them. Speaking of being afraid, I was not frightened but just that nervous tension which makes the race horse fret at the pole expresses what I felt at the start of the fight."

"Do I smoke during my training? Why, yes, moderately. I take a good cigar after meals. I never found it to injure my mind."

"No I don't drink except a glass of claret or possibly a little champagne at dinner."

"When I am out of training I occasionally drink but I never lush."

DOWN IN KENTUCKY.

One day as I sat in the door of a Kentucky mountain town, which was also a postoffice, a long, gangling youth of twenty-two or twenty-three came in. The town of 2,000 was a great city to him, and he was one of the most verdant variety of yep.

"Is this the postoffice, mister?" he asked of the postmaster.

"Yes, sir," was the polite response.

"Is that a letter here for Miss Liz Smith that I writ from Short Run last week?"

The postmaster looked over the list but found no letter.

"Shore that ain't none?" he asked persistently.

"Sure."

"Is that any other postoffice in town?" he asked.

"Two more," responded the postmaster, who was catching on, and the young man went out to look for them.

In half an hour he returned.

"Say, mister," he said sheepishly, as the postmaster appeared, "I made a mistake. Her name ain't Smith, it's Gipson; my name is Smith and I got kinder tangled up, never been in town much. Is that a letter for Miss Liz Gipson?"

The postmaster looked over the Gs, but there was no letter.

"Well, mister, I'm obliged to yer," said the caller. "I writ her a letter 'o'her day sayin' as how I'd be comin' up to see her—she lives over on Cross Crick—and I reckoned I'd just take the letter along with me. Good-bye," and he went out without showing in any way that he wasn't doing the thing just as it should be done.

OF INTEREST TO HER.

I used to think the luxuries of life cost more than the necessities, and always subscribe heartily to Dr. Holmes's immortal sentiment, "Give us the luxuries of life, and we will dispense with the necessities," but I am beginning to doubt the truth of my belief, remarks a contributor to a New York society journal. Certainly flowers are luxuries, and food is a necessity, also the times at present are very hard, but I find at many of the wedding and reception feasts that I have attended this season luxury in the way of flowers was evident, while necessity in the way of food was decidedly in the vocative. After all, perhaps the luxury of the floral display on these occasions was more apparent than real, for if there were a good many flowers there was in

proportion much greenery, and greenery is not expensive.

I have been told of a most effective and unusual treatment of chrysanthemums which was seen on a dinner table a few days ago. The blooms were of the anemone kind, which are lighter looking and more easily adapted to an artistic table decoration than the larger and fuller varieties. The flowers were arranged in fan-like shapes in quaint blue nankin china vases. Large fans, in rather high ones, for the center, and smaller ones round at intervals. Farleyeuse fern was used as a background, and a few sprays were left carelessly drooping from the fans, taking away all appearance of stiffness. On the center piece, which was richly worked in gold cord and heavy gold embroidery, mimic fans of fern were scattered about. The candle shades, too, were fan shapes, and made of gold network with sprays of the fern attached by invisible wire.

The variety of ways to arrange these flowers is almost inexhaustible. They are at their best grouped in bold masses. I mean the deep bronzes and yellows together, the whites in the several tints, the brilliant reds, which shade down into the palest pinks and rich crimsons. They seem to blend more happily with the quaint bowls and jars that come from the east, with their little odd figures and eccentric scenes; perhaps it is because they both originate there, certain it is that this season the great bowls of nankin blue china and Japanese vases that have been banished for some years, are again in evidence, and always filled with a mass of these gorgeous blooms.

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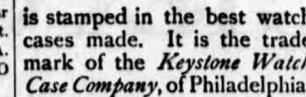
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