

like to have our grocer keep young onions and Limburger in stock against some neighbor's need. But it is at least regrettable that this Trilby should have been printed in a magazine that has earned the reputation, and incurred the obligation, of a magazine like *Harper's Monthly*. There is no harm in keeping the ideas and traditions of sweet, pure womanhood that we are so proud of in America, uncompromised, unimpaired. There are a good many young men and maidens throughout the country who should not be invited to read Trilby. If to study art abroad means what Du Maurier has shown, let our youth be kept ignorant of it all until they go to Paris. Of course that is not saying that Trilby has not many excellencies. It is very likely as remarkable a piece of work in some points of conception and in execution as any novel of the year. But when we remember that its piquancy and its takingness are wholly French, and that there a dozen stories of the Revue within three years that have been every way cleverer and finer by the same standard, we should not congratulate ourselves too strongly. It is, surely, not a book that will attract us to re-read."

Of all the critics of "Trilby" it has remained for Professor Sherman to enjoy the distinction of being almost the only person who has found fault with the morality of the book. Most critics have, in the reading, found so much real pleasure in the beauty of the story and the exquisite manner in which it is set forth, that they have been content with discussing the essential elements of the book, instead of probing below the surface in a finicky spirit for some imaginary objection. If the gifted author of the "Analytics of Literature" can see none of the beauty of "Trilby," and is impressed solely by an idea that it is a bad book one feels impelled to hold out a measure of sympathy to this reviewer. Not to be able to see anything good in this story argues a deficiency in the quality of appreciation of the good and the beautiful, and a consequent impairment of the faculty of enjoyment. Hence the professor is entitled to sincere sympathy. His case, to judge from the review in the *News*, is serious.

The idea expressed by Professor Sherman probably has not occurred to one person in a hundred who have read Du Maurier's latest work. To criticize *Harper's Magazine* for publishing the story is preposterous, and indicates what in anybody else but Professor Sherman would be called narrow provincialism. The American people for whose moral well-being in the face of the publication of "Trilby" in an American periodical, the professor expresses such tender solicitude certainly have not up to the present time realized their danger, and unless the review in question secures a much wider publicity than now seems probable, they will in all likelihood never know that this charming book which many of them have read with such keen enjoyment is bad and not fit to have around the house.

A young girl whom misfortune or fate has cast into the artist world of Paris is first introduced to us as a model. In an atmosphere of unconventionality Trilby's conduct, at least until she comes within the influence of Little Billee and his friends is not at all times in consonance with the conventional standards of morality. But there is naught, even in the early chapters, to which any well-balanced mind can take exception. And one of the principal charms of the book is the evolution of Trilby from the uncultured and morally irresponsible girl among the ateliers of Paris into virtuous, lovely womanhood, a lily sprung from a bed of corruption. In the maturer Trilby there is purity and innocence and grace and ineffable delicacy and refinement, and in the gradual unfolding of her character, the blossoming of the flower, there is a deep moral

lesson, if one is looking for this sort of thing. The effect on the reader of "Trilby" is an increased veneration for the homely virtues exemplified in the lines of the three friends, and a heightened admiration for the simplicity and ingenuousness that governed the relations of all of the principal characters. There is pure and wholesome love, friendship, unselfishness and nobility in "Trilby." The good in it appeals to the reader, and the art in it excites his keenest admiration.

A flood of light is thrown upon the change in the condition of the country by the summary statement just issued from the bureau of statistics at Washington under the direction of Worthington C. Ford. Since that gentleman became chief of the bureau these monthly statements have been much amplified, and the increased speed with which they are compiled and issued makes them of immediate and real value to the business community. The number just at hand, for instance, covers the imports and exports and other data for the last month of the fiscal year, corrected up to July 28. It appears from this that the merchandise imported during the year was valued at \$645,995,151, which is \$211,405,771 less than in the previous year. But this enormous shrinkage is not all. Turning to the statistics of imported goods in bond it is seen to be \$4,434,490 larger than it was twelve months previous, so that the decrease in the consumption of foreign goods for the year appears to be \$215,840,251. The actual decrease in consumption of course, was not so great as indicated by these enormous figures, because traders have refrained from replenishing their supplies to the usual extent, because of the impending change in the rates of duties. It is curious, however, to note that while the shrinkage in the consumption of foreign goods averages about twenty-four per cent, the shrinkage in articles of luxury is very much heavier. In jewelry and precious stones and imitations of the latter for instance, the falling off is 66 per cent; in silks it is 36 per cent, and in wines and spirits 23 per cent. The decrease in these three items for the year is as follows:—

Jewelry decreased.....	\$10,570,636
Silks decreased.....	14,168,282
Wines etc., decreased.....	3,680,851
Total decrease.....	\$28,419,769

There was a remarkable decrease in the importations of the skins of animals—hides and furs. The hides imported, including goat skins, were valued at \$16,786,152, a decrease of \$11,561,744 and the furs at \$7,619,218 a decrease of \$2,948,569, a shrinkage of \$14,510,338 in these two items, representing the former coverings of beasts. A good many people have been omitting dessert at dinner to judge from the fact that the amount of fruits and nuts imported for the year was only \$18,752,664 or \$5,000,000 less than in 1893. A good many smokers must have "tapered off" for imports of tobacco in its various forms amounted to only \$13,155,944, which is about \$3,500,000 less than in 1893. We imported nearly \$3,000,000 less of earthen and China ware and nearly \$3,000,000 less of glassware. Imports of eggs were cut down nearly one half, being only 1,791,430 dozen. Paper and manufactures of it were cut down to \$2,628,064, being a reduction of \$1,202,917.

Perhaps one of the most unpleasant things to contemplate in connection with the recent Rock Island disaster in this city is the morbid curiosity exhibited by the people at the scene of the wreck. The morning sun had hardly cast its first feeble light

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