

the personae of Miss Belden's story are American, as well as the style, but the vistas, which open in the story, to other days and the tremendous effect wrought in 1,500 words is French, an effect as of walking through a stately gallery with open doors on either side through which glimpses of interesting dramas are suggested, but the gallery is pre-eminently charming and the visitor is not tempted to pass out of it until its short length is paced. The quality is known as breadth and in a picture of mountains suggests plains and the rest of the world that lies outside the corner of it the artist has painted.

The Omaha Midway.

The managers of the Omaha midway are beginning to reflect that the advice to leave the success of last summer undimmed by a sequel had sense. The beautiful grounds are not thronged by the people of the state. The emptiness of the buildings reminds visitors of a sideshow which has all the monstrosities and trained animals on the outside in the gorgeous pictures at the entrance. Only the midway is spasmodically vociferous as night comes on and a few citizens of Omaha stray in to spend their dimes.

The County Commissioners.

The law requires the county commissioners to make an estimate every year of the county expenses for the ensuing year, and to fix and announce the levy for the same. So far as I have been able to ascertain the commissioners are not obliged to make any public report of how and for what the county fund has been expended. At any rate they do not and any taxpayer who is anxious to know for what purpose the county monies are spent and applied at the court house for such information is directed to a heterogeneous mass of papers. Reporters from *The Courier* have been informed several times, that no books containing items of expenditure are kept. As the law does not require an annual and detailed statement from the commissioners who in recent years have ordered expensive bridges laid on roads running nowhere or into private property which is the same thing so far as concerns the county commissioners, it should be amended. Inasmuch as no such report is demanded by the law the commissioners are not officiously anxious to publish their own mistakes and nobody blames them for not furnishing one, but before the next legislature gets down to work the right of the contributors to a fund to know how that fund is disposed of, should be recognized by an amendment compelling the commissioners to publicly account for what they have spent. The annual estimate or guess as to what they will spend is of no more importance than any other latter day prophesy and receives no more attention though some of the items, like that of "corkage" in a European hotel bill, require an explanation or an indexed concordance.

Madame Dreyfus.

Perhaps even more than her husband Mme. Dreyfus possesses the sympathy of everybody for her persistent loyalty to M. Dreyfus and her faith, when his prospects were darkest, that he would be vindicated, eventually. Convinced from the first of his innocence, she never ceased to assert, with a woman's sentimentality, that justice would interfere and reinstate her husband in his full rights and erase the stain of treason from his name. M. Dreyfus himself languishing in his desolate island prison, re-

ceiving no letters nor news which was not first inspected by his gaoler, concluded from the silence that his wife had accepted his sentence as final and was not endeavoring to accomplish his recall. Hence, when the Sfax brought him back to France, he was not particularly rejoiced to see his wife and showed that he was not. Long before this he must have been convinced of her incessant search for the real traitor, and her entreaties to the senators, to the president and to all others in authority who had anything to do with the Dreyfus matter. His friends and his lawyer will have told him of the miracles his wife has wrought. Many a time it has seemed that a rehearing of the Dreyfus case was impossible. Notably at the trial of Zola when it was shown how unjust were the laws and customs to an accused prisoner, even one possessing the unimpeachable patriotism of the novelist. How much less chance had a prisoner on a desert island, with all the military of France arrayed against him? But Mme. Dreyfus was not dismayed though her husband's best friends undertook to save her from inevitable disappointment by pointing out to her why Dreyfus' rehearing was impossible. She kept on, informing the newspapers of new details of the conspiracy and encouraging every official who had shown an inclination towards justice, to persevere in his efforts to gain M. Dreyfus a rehearing.

The Leiters in India.

London correspondents report to New York papers that passengers arriving from Simla on the last Indian steamer are talking about the demands that Mrs. Leiter and the Misses Leiter are making on Simla society for the same kind of homage that is paid to the Vicereine herself. We might have known that Mrs. Leiter would have made trouble in Simla society. The consideration she demanded from Washington society and did not always receive, was the occasion of many an unpleasant contretemps there. Now, as it is well known her vice majesty Lady Curzon has set up a court in India exactly like the queen's in England. Every detail of the etiquette of the court of the Queen is copied to the most minute details, and the state functions are the most gorgeous in the world, thanks to the magnificence of the uniforms of the Indian service. Lady Curzon receives all the honors paid to royalty. When she drives, files of sowars (troops) precede and follow her carriage and guards are mounted at her palace. The court moves en masse from Calcutta to Simla in March to escape the hot weather, remaining until November. Since Lady Curzon has been Vicereine there has been a constant succession of society functions. The chief social event of the year is the drawing room on Empress' Day. Every detail of the Queen's drawing rooms is followed, even to the trains, gowns, feathers, ornaments and bouquets of the ladies presented. Lady Curzon, Vicereine of India, has established the same rules of etiquette that are in force in Queen Victoria's palaces, and the wives of the officers of the British troops revolted at the efforts of the Vicereine's mother and sisters, Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter and the Misses Leiter, to exact the same homage. Here are some of the rules: No one may remain seated while the Vicereine is standing. Every visitor must back out of her presence. When she rises to withdraw every one must rise, bow and remain standing until she has left. No one is admitted to official society until after presentation at a drawing room, except where presentation has been made to the Queen. Names of candidates for presentation must be presented to the military secretary of the Viceroy, who will submit them to the Vicereine.

Mrs. Leiter is unable to see why the mother-in-law of the India viceroy should not receive the same awed homage as his wife. But the white people

of Simla of whom there are only six hundred, see the difference and withhold the demonstrations which they freely offer the Vicereine. On account of these demands from the Leiters mere et soeurs the Simla season cannot be called successful though it has been unusually brilliant. Many of the officers' wives have refused to attend functions at which the Leiters were present and the situation has become exceedingly uncomfortable. The refugees have appealed to the queen to settle the amount and character of the submission the Leiters are entitled to. The Indian papers are ridiculing the whole dispute. Members of the English peerage, know just as the officers of our own army know those who rank them, just who the people are who go out ahead of them to dinner and why they are entitled to. No one is better calculated than Mrs. Leiter, who is never quite certain of whether a plural subject takes a singular verb or not, to enrage these English people who are in the habit of receiving homage and of jealousy looking out that no one else receives a part of what is, by long custom, theirs. Feeling towards Americans as even the best and kindest Englishmen do feel, viz., that we are still not a part of the colonial property of England only because of our incorrigible uppishness, it is comparatively easy to appreciate the indignation of the noble English in Simla towards an American woman whose daughter has married a viceroy, but has not, by the same token, ennobled or cultivated her mother. Queen Victoria herself cannot make the English men and women of Simla many of whom date their patents from 1066, bow the knee to a foreign family but lately married into a connection with a man who represents royalty in India.

Mrs. Eddy's Advertisement.

An advocate of a new belief is apt to be human. Objections to Christian Science urge that Mrs. Eddy is simply a phenomenally good business woman who has made a business market for her very high priced books. Mrs. Eddy is certainly not less oblivious than other yankees to chances of making a little money. A recent number of the Christian Science Monthly contains on the editorial page the following advertisement under the guise of admonition:

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SPOONS—On each of these most beautiful spoons is a motto in bass relief that every person on earth needs to hold in thought. Mother requests that Christian Scientists shall not ask to be informed what this motto is, but each scientist shall purchase at least one spoon, and those who can afford it, one dozen spoons, that their families may read this motto every meal and their guests made partakers of its simple truth—MARY BAKER G. EDDY.

The possession of such a well developed commercial instinct by the founder of a new religion is not a trustworthy indication of the unreliability of her inspiration, but to the commercial travelers of this weary world the foregoing seems like an inspired advertisement. With reading matter on four sides of it, in the middle of an editorial page, and not another ad. in sight, the effect upon the minds of those who take Mrs. Eddy's monthly is incalculable. It has a slight Lydia Pinkham flavor, however, which is distasteful, at least to dissenters.

The President and Gov. Roosevelt.

Notwithstanding Mr. Roosevelt's reply to many questioners that all the President wanted of him was to ask him for recommendations of capable officers for the Philippines, there is more than a suspicion that the President intended to offer him the

war portfolio which has proven too heavy for Secretary Alger. If Governor Roosevelt is named as secretary of war and accepts it, the department will no longer be under suspicion. The governor may make mistakes but they will not be those of jobbery. The conduct and methods of Secretary Alger have been the only serious blot upon the present administration. The general verdict of Washington correspondents is that the president has now relieved secretary Alger of all direction of affairs in the Philippines. The President is long suffering but the scandals concerning the distribution of valuable franchises and privileges in the new territories, following upon the beef scandal have been too much and from now on until his successor takes charge, the President will do Mr. Alger's work. In addition to his presidential duties proper this is too heavy a burden and nobody blames the President for seeking to shift them to shoulders as young and strong and reliable as Governor Roosevelt's.

Mrs. Potter's Snub.

Mrs. James Brown Potter says she does not care if she never comes back to America, that her friends are dead and that she has found her fame and appreciation in foreign countries, rather than in America. She says that her principal memories of American tours pertain to badly cooked food in uncomfortable hotels, etc. Mrs. Potter's return is not looked forward to with eagerness. Her talent is forced and was cultivated for the money and fame that may be made by a good actor rather than from the inherent love of literature and life which must inspire a real genius. Mrs. Potter deserves the success and recognition which she has won. No harder working or more determined actress lives. But she lacks the inherent taste and feeling which characterize the work of Julia Marlowe or Modjeska. The effect she produces is the result of perseverance and a painstaking industry. Teachers of the young tell them that industry and determination with perhaps a dash of good luck is all that is necessary to make them artists, authors, actors and presidents. It is of questionable wisdom to stimulate childish ambition in this way. For the world lies in wait just outside the kindergarten door, to teach the pupil that one ounce of genius is more appreciated than tons of praiseworthy intentions and eight horsepower industry. What Mrs. Fiske does, inspired by the spirit, Mrs. Potter learns by heart and the business learned from another loses the force of originality. If Mrs. Fiske had signified a purpose to remain in England or some other undeserving place in Europe there would be real mourning over here. But as it is only Mrs. Potter, there are others who can take her place and in the present state of international harmony we do not care to be selfish if England really wants her to stay.

Hypnotism in Lincoln.

The men whom the hypnotist Flynt selects to amuse his audiences have with exceptions, depraved, ignoble and repulsive faces. Those whom he calls "good subjects" were recently arrested for hypnotizing ignorant young women. Weak rather than wicked when the hypnotist began to practise on them and use them, as an organ grinder does a monkey, to collect a few pennies for him, they have gradually but perceptibly lost the look of respectable young men, they had when he first began to weaken their wills. Such exhibitions as Flynt gives are objectionable both if hypnotism is and if hypnotism is not, what he claims it is. If he can put his will into another man and destroy his identity, he ought not to be allowed