

arrogance. There are people whose deep seated-convictions of annointment can not be shaken and occasionally there is a bold woman who can not be snubbed into a knowledge of propriety. Neither journalism, medicine, painting nor any other profession or occupation ever has ever can destroy the eternal feminine. To be honest, truthful, and brave used to be considered exclusive masculine attributes. The woman who has any influence, nowadays, whose children, sons and daughters, have made their generation better, is honest, truthful and brave. Finishing-school accomplishments no longer pass muster for character and the woman's clubs are rapidly separating accomplishments from character. Reliable, brave reporters who will get the news for their papers are valuable irrespective of sex and a profession where such attributes are essential has not hurt the women who are engaged in it.

A Champion.

A man who is forever laboring to convince a contented people that they are abused and offering himself as their champion to right indignities which they are unconscious of, is a man to be watched. He evidently has not enough business of his own to keep him busy. In the middle ages younger sons who were without special interest in the administering of their sire's estate used to set out upon the road with the design of rescuing the oppressed. Many a knight traveled hundreds of miles without meeting a man-eating dragon, or a maiden strapped to a horse's back, by a caitiff carrying her away from her folks. There were doubtless knights who wandered the country over and got back to an expectant castle without making a single rescue. Mr. Bixby is one of these forlorn knights who can not find a lady that is anxious to be carried back by Sancho Panza into what he calls a safe and proper seclusion. According to his daily offer of protection the century is too conspicuous for women and Turkey is the only country where women know their place and are properly restrained.

Our China.

As China is one of our largest customers of cotton goods and wooden ware, the United States is within its rights in insisting that China be not partitioned and despoiled by the other nations of the earth. That curious "right" to an old customer which is recognized as a value which may be sold and which may not be destroyed by an outsider is thoroughly established in our own commercial customs. For instance a doctor sells his "good will" or patients to another doctor. One of the most important elements of value in any established business, be it professional, trade or mercantile, is the good will. The United States has the good will of China. China is a market which has been developed by American exporters and importers and Americans have the right to insist that neither Germany, Russia nor England exact outrageous indemnities that will for years utterly destroy China's power to buy what and as she has been accustomed to buy.

Mr. Thomas F. Millard in the current Scribner's warns Americans of the impending destruction of their market in China and of the confidence which the Chinese feel and exhibit towards the American *entente*. "Of all the powers, the United States' political and moral conduct shines brilliantly. And the Chinese know it. In October, a special commissioner for the United States and a number of naval officers were being banqueted

at Hankau, a thousand miles inland, in the very heart of the Yang-tse valley. At the table, where sat more than thirty top-side Chinese, all men of great influence in the commercial and political life of the empire, reference was made by one to the conduct of the United States and contrasted with that of other powers. The speaker referred to the refusal of Admiral Kempff to participate in the bombardment of Taku forts and expressed the hope that the restoration of peace would lead to closer commercial relations between China and America."

The Piano.

With nearly one hundred tones, the piano has a range greater than any other instrument. Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, were men of genius and would have made compositions for other instruments if there had been no such full-toned harp as the piano, but with the piano as a medium, they were untrammelled by mechanical imitations. A noble instrument whose tones sounded in the imaginations of the great composers while they wrote immortal themes, is in these days, in somewhat poorer standing. There are few houses of any pretensions which do not contain a piano or organ and intermittently throughout the days of the whole year the keys are struck by irreverent people who like the noise and are congenitally unable to distinguish it from music. The piano has come to be the toy of a great many people who care nothing for music but are entranced by the idea of a solo performance. A busy mother sometimes gives her baby a stick and a tin pan. He beats the pan with the identical expression of rapture with which the familiar type of callow youth beats the piano which has a greater variety of tone than the pan of his babyhood, and amuses him for a longer time. After playing stiff-fingered for a period, the youth, discovers that there are various pleasing combinations that sound something like what he has heard the village brass-band play. Then his musical discoveries are made one by one at the expense of his neighbors who in spite of Beethoven and all the noble and dignified real musicians, wish, for very protest of tortured nerves, that the piano had never been constructed. Singers of ability never hum. Pianists of inspiration do not strum. But the tin-pan people are in overwhelming majority and their strumming is incessant and the pianos are everywhere. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes says that everybody has an unconquerable, ever-deepening aversion, Carrie Nation is fortunate in being able to smash hers, and the time may come after hands that were formed to hold a plow-handle or force a spade through twelve inches of sod have persisted in beating coon-tunes out of a piano that patient men and women will take hatchets to the instrument which more than any other is making life a disappointment.

Women Architect.

Mrs. Nichols, the Brooklyn woman architect, ascribes the limited number of her sex who enter the profession of architecture to the dearth of schools which admit women to the architectural courses. She says: "In no other profession are women so handicapped. Yet I believe that architecture provides a fair field for women—especially in the work of building homes. I think too, that all women should study architecture as they do any other art. Such knowledge has a practical bearing on household economics, which a majority of

women are called upon to administer, and as a social force will add greatly to make the American towns the City Beautiful of our dreams."

The Habit of Lynching.

What was an unusual and desperate crime has become a daily occurrence. If lynching had any perceptible effect upon crime, it might be justified. A community which gratifies a lust for cruelty, by lynching a prisoner once is brutalized and another lynching is sure to occur in the same locality again. Immediately after the Cudahy boy was abducted in Omaha if Pat Crowe had been arrested, he would doubtless have been lynched, though there is and was a reasonable doubt of his guilt. Nothing is more remarkable in our supposedly growing culture than the increase of lynchings in the United States. They rarely occur abroad. Never in despised China where the law is held in great respect. The thin layer of civilization which separates most of us from savagery is revealed by the horrible scenes at lynchings where negroes are burned and where women and children crowd their way to the fire to secure souvenirs of bone. Punishment for such cruelty is not inflicted by the law, but be sure that unborn generations will expiate the depravity which contemporary society is not wise enough to protect women from having an opportunity to cultivate. Society is like an individual and no individual can indulge in an orgy, without forever being the worse for it. The rapid recurrence of lynchings all over the United States is a very serious criticism on the weakness of our law, on the cowardice of sheriffs and officers sworn to execute the law and on a barbarous, morbid, vulgar people when assembled in a crowd and unterrified by law.

The Isle of Unrest.

Literary criticism, or rather criticism of things literary may be based on the critic's personal taste or upon certain rules and standards adopted by other critics. In France the academy still establishes a standard; in England and America it is a matter of individual taste and Mr. James in England Mr. Howells in America have attained the dignity and authority of deans. With the assistance of a novelist like Meredith and a poet like Browning they have at least and at last shown the most intemperate devotee of adventure that works of authors like Marie Corelli and Hall Caine are unworthy serious attention. Out of drawing, casting impossible shadows, in a chemical light, their heroes and heroines will scarcely survive the first quarter of the twentieth century. The psychological novel, the development of a character from the inside, the constant view of the whole internal machinery is what we see in James and Howells, Meredith and the rest. Not much if anything happens. It is not now good form to startle, frighten or even keep the reader awake, he must not even fall in love with the characters in a book; not that there is much danger. The rules are very strict in regard to the room or scenery through which the characters move. It is necessary to know the scents which they smelled while they contemplate certain actions. According to the rules, we must know the clothes (cut and color) which they wear and above all, the changes of the weather.

Most of the professional critics have learned these rules, but occasionally somebody's book sells out edition after edition in defiance of system. If it were not for the horse-trading episode in

David Harum and the sort of universal masculinity which pervades it, it would not have reached popularity. The lack of form, modern conformity and style caused it to be rejected by the readers employed by several publishing houses before it finally reached a publisher who would accept it.

The Isle of Unrest by Henry Seton Merriman is a story of Corsica. In the struggle which the two new householders are obliged to maintain in order to hold on to their property the reader is reminded of "Phroso" and her turbulent and unreconciled islanders. According to Mr. Merriman Corsica is an island of vendettas, where men are stabbed in the back and where the tribal system is maintained in perpetuity. The "Isle of Unrest" relates a series of exciting adventures, murders and escapes, but it is not altogether from the outside. The author catches himself now and again and does some fine shading and analytical examination while his heroine is in suspense, but in the main Mr. Merriman does not claim to be one of the "artistic writers" who deal entirely with motives and disdain the aid of incident and moving accident by flood and field.

In regard to copying French style in the expression of Anglo-Saxon ideas the editor of Scribner's Magazine says: "The manner of doing constitutes nearly the whole of modern French influence. Ideas—the stuff with which we work—have come, of late, rather more from other countries. The Frenchmen's appeal has been that of fashioners of material. But that, exactly, is an eternal appeal. Ideas may have their seasons, but the striving for perfection in how to put a thing is never without its body, large or small, of worshipping rotaries."

The Canteen.

Bishop Potter in his recent address to the faculty and students of the university of Pennsylvania said that the abolition of the canteen was due to the influence of saloon-keepers who before the establishment of the canteen made large profits from the dives established near every barracks. The universal testimony of army officers in regard to the canteen has been that drunkenness has diminished and that good order and decency has been the rule among private soldiers since the canteen system was adopted. Bishop Potter is not an extremist and he is very certain of his facts before he asserts them publicly. In yielding to the demands for the abolishment of an institution which has been proved so thoroughly satisfactory, a demand made by saloon-keepers and reinforced by unreasonable members of the W.C.T.U. the members of congress who voted against the canteen were cowardly. The unbroken testimony of competent and conscientious officers was in favor of the canteen. As it is now the dram-shops will be set up wherever the army camps and the poisonous whiskey sold to soldiers will set them wild. The canteen did not sell whiskey or anything stronger than beer or mild wines.

National Types.

Members of the City Improvement Society and others interested in the objects of the organization are giving at the auditorium a fair of nations. National colors, costumes and products designate the different booths. Arranged and operated for the purpose of getting some money for needed park improvements, the entertainment has accomplished another and important end, namely setting the