

tion of Hyde Clarke's 'New and Comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language,' published in London as long ago as 1869

In a pamphlet, "The Old State-house defended from unfounded attacks upon its integrity," Mr W H Whitmore replies to Dr George H Moore's second paper, read before the Bostonian Society in February last. The points in dispute are insignificant, but, however they may be settled, Mr Whitmore cannot be controverted when, complaining of the personalities of Dr Moore's argument, he says, "He is especially rancorous when he has an opportunity to assail any person or thing relating to Massachusetts, and he has recourse to ways in vogue in past centuries, but happily since discarded by literary men." We ourselves long ago remarked upon this peculiarity of temper in Dr Moore, which so vitates with *tendenz* his most valuable historical discussions.

The seventh annual report of the Harvard "Annex" tells of a surprising increase in attendance—73 against 55 in 1884-85—partly to be attributed to the newly-acquired local habitation. The health of the students has been satisfactory. The demand upon the graduates for teachers has continued, and in other ways it is evident that the School is leavening in remote sections the higher education of women. The tuition expenses are more than met by the income from students, but money is still needed for necessary enlargements of the School building, especially for scientific work, and for other advantages. Some \$8,000 had, on August 1, still to be raised for the purchase of the Fay House.

The *Bibliographical Notices, I*, which Prof Willard Fiske is on the eve of issuing at Florence, comprises a list of such of his books from Icelandic presses, during the years 1578-1844, as are not enumerated in the catalogue of books printed in Iceland published by the British Museum. For the period in question the catalogue enumerates 170 titles, and Prof. Fiske owns 84 of these. He therefore describes in his supplementary list only 139 titles, or the remainder of the 223 in his possession. From 1845 to 1880, the date at which the Museum catalogue ends, the disparity is still greater in favor of Prof. Fiske's collection.

The Leonard Scott Publication Company, Philadelphia, will hereafter add to their reprints of the British quarterlies the *Scottish Review*.

"Misunderstandings Halleck and Grant," is the well-chosen title of a weighty and temperate article in the December *Magazine of American History*, by Gen James B Fry. Its aim is to demolish the Badeau-Grant allegation of injustice to the latter on the part of Gen Halleck, and it shows clearly that Gen Grant's references to this subject in his Memoirs contradict his earlier expressions towards and concerning Halleck, and are not borne out by the documents. A capital portrait of Gen Halleck accompanies this paper. Under the caption, "Creole Peculiarities," Mr P F de Gournay gives a very pleasant and compact sketch of the development of New Orleans out of the four nationalities, French, Spanish, English, and German, with some remarks on the characteristic traits of the Creoles. The segregation of the several colonies goes far to explain the obstacles to the growth of public spirit in the chief city of Louisiana.

Unwin's Christmas Annual, 'The Witching Time,' edited by Mr Henry Norman, is even better this year than it was last. Austin Dobson introduces it with some appropriate rhymes, and eight stories and two other poems complete its contents. Most of the tales are of the ghostly kind immemorially associated with the season, Crawford, Laurence Alma-Tadema, Norris, Vernon Lee, and William Archer are names that insure entertainment, and, except for the vampire-

horror of Von Degen, none carry on the game repulsively. Natural explanations account for the wonders in most, and in Mr Norris's contribution the mingling of realism and the supernatural is inexpressibly comical. Some of them have no ghosts, and of these is Mr Norman's own sketch, well set and well told. In literary merit and in narrative power this Annual is far ahead of rivals for Christmas favor.

The Christmas number of the *London Art Journal* (New York International News Company) is wholly given up to "L. Alma-Tadema, R. A. his Life and Work," by Helen Zimmern. The tone of this long article or sketch may be judged as well from this sentence as from any other: "Alma-Tadema's archaeological knowledge is admittedly unrivalled, and we may be quite certain that every detail is scientifically accurate." Our reasons for holding the contrary opinion are fresh in the minds of our readers. The reproductions of the artist's pictures accompanying Miss Zimmern's thin and fulsome discourse are of various kinds and of great unevenness, the best being none too good.

In Cassell's *Magazine of Art* for January the opening paper, by Mr Charles De Kay, is on "Movements in American Painting the Clarke Collection in New York," with illustrations, and, for the rest, some discourse about Mrs Siddons, with a group of portraits, is most noteworthy. America again comes to the front in *L'Art* for November 15 (Macmillan), M Alexandre de La-tour having something to say about American Art Museums, in consequence of the article on "The Western Art Movement" in a late *Century*—"une revue mensuelle que l'on ne saurait trop justement louer." The writer sees in the spontaneous endowment of art in this country an industrial danger to France, of which evidence is already visible, he says, in the American art products exposed for sale on the Avenue de l'Opéra. In the December *Portfolio* we remark the fine Amand Durand reproduction of Van Dyck's etching of the portrait of his fellow-artist Jean de Wael, in its first state.

Cassell's Family Magazine for January presents some very instructive views of the changes wrought by the recent tremendous volcanic action in the Hot Lake district of New Zealand. Two lovely "pink" and "white" terraces, such as similar conditions have produced in the Yellowstone Park, were once favorite places of resort, and were pictured in the same magazine four years ago. They are now reproduced, and beside them are cuts of the same sites after the eruption—the very abomination of desolation.

The readers of Prof Thorola Rogers's 'Agriculture and Prices' and 'Six Centuries of Work and Wages,' who have been interested in his citations from the treatise of Walter de Henley on farming, which Prof Rogers attributes to the thirteenth century, and which was supposed to exist only in manuscript, will be glad to learn that it has been printed and is not difficult of access. In the "Bibliothèque de l'École des Chartes," 4th series, vol II (1856), pp. 123-41 and 367-81, was published a manuscript of the thirteenth century, of unknown authorship, under the title of 'Traité d'économie rurale composé en Angleterre au XIIIe siècle.' In the *London Academy* of October 30 Mr Bourne of Yale University suggested that this work probably had some close relation to Walter de Henley's, and perhaps was an abstract of it, inasmuch as there was a great similarity in the contents of the two treatises, and many sentences quoted from the Henley manuscript by Prof Rogers were to be found in the 'Traité.' Prof Rogers immediately replied in a characteristic letter to the *Academy* of November 6, in which he says that he has compared the 'Traité' with the Bodleian MS. of Walter de Henley, and that they are the same

work, except that, besides many variations in the text, the 'Traité' as printed is without the preface which is found in the MS. Prof. Rogers raises one or two interesting questions about Walter de Henley. He has read somewhere that Bishop Grosseteste was the real author of this little treatise, but that he believes to be impossible.

Boussod, Valadon et Cie have republished Halévy's 'Princesse,' with all the illustrations of *Les Lettres et les Arts*, and upon the same paper, in an edition of fifty numbered copies, only thirty of which are offered for sale. These copies are forty francs each, which is almost as much as the Paris price of the two numbers of the *Revue* containing the story and so much besides.

The Italian copyright law appears to embrace newspapers in respect to the requirement of a deposit with the National Library at Florence. The last number of the *Bollettino* issued by this institution, for example, describes with the greatest technical particularity twelve new journals. Whether complete files have to be maintained, we are unable to state.

The peculiar sunrise-shadow of Adam's Peak in Ceylon has been a matter of note with many travellers. Instead of lying flat on the ground, the shadow appears to rise up in front of the spectator like a veil and then suddenly to fall down to its proper level. Among the various theories propounded to account for this, that of a mirage of some sort has been generally accepted; but in the course of his late meteorological tour around the world the Hon Ralph Abercromby spent the night on the top of the Peak, nearly 7,400 feet above the sea level, and obtained unmistakable evidence that the appearance is due to light wreaths of thin morning mist being driven past the western side of the mountain by the prevailing northeast monsoon up a neighboring gorge. The shadow is caught by the mist at a level higher than the earth, and then falls to its own plane on the ground, as the condensed vapor moves on. In a paper communicated to the late meeting of the British Association, the thermometric observations of Mr Abercromby completely disprove the idea that this phenomenon is due to mirage of any kind. It is, in fact, a phenomenon peculiar to Adam's Peak, for the proper combination of a high, isolated pyramid, a prevailing wind, and a valley to direct suitable mist at a proper height on the western side of a mountain, is only rarely met with.

—The new *Scribner's* has a marked individuality which is not confined to its plain, unpretentious covers. It begins, at least, by attempting to carry out its promise to be a literary magazine first of all, to have good reading, and let the text take care of the illustrations. The division of the contents among different departments may fairly be taken to be indicative of the future programme. About one-third of the space is given to fiction, and it is by authors whose reputations are still in the making. Mr Harold Frederick opens a serial of life in the northern country of New York with some strongly drawn chapters which introduce a group of definite, living characters, detail a good deal of family history, and depict some scenes of a dreary but powerful kind; it is an excellent beginning, but one foresees there is to be more truth than charm in the story. The second serial is by Mr Bunker, on whom the heavens look favorably, and in this introduction the New York of the first years of the century is picturesquely set before us, and in the treatment one perceives the union of grace and strength which may denote the work of a writer of the first contemporary rank in America. The two short stories have less distinction. Two papers belong to the province of history in its popular form. The extracts from the diaries