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ST. DUNSTAN'S HOUSE, E.C.:
December 7, 1889.

CHRISTMAS, with all its tender and happy associations, is rapidly drawing near, and old and young, rich and poor, are looking forward, each in their own way, to the chief holiday of the year. Dwellers in cities and towns, immersed in the practical business of life, and absorbed in meeting its clamorous demands from day to day, are apt to grow oblivious of the times and seasons, for, as Wordsworth puts it, 'The world is too much with us.' This may account, in part at least, for the circumstance that almost before we had accustomed ourselves to think of his approach, Christmas—like a welcome, but unexpected guest—is standing on the threshold once more. Indeed, it seems after all but yesterday since we were wishing one another, in the home, the church, the market, and the street, the compliments of the season, and it is therefore difficult to believe that the one red-letter day of the year, which we all share in common, with its deep memories of the past, its cheery summons to happy gatherings at which 'friends long parted grow single-hearted,' and, above all, its uplifting and far-reaching hopes, is close at hand.

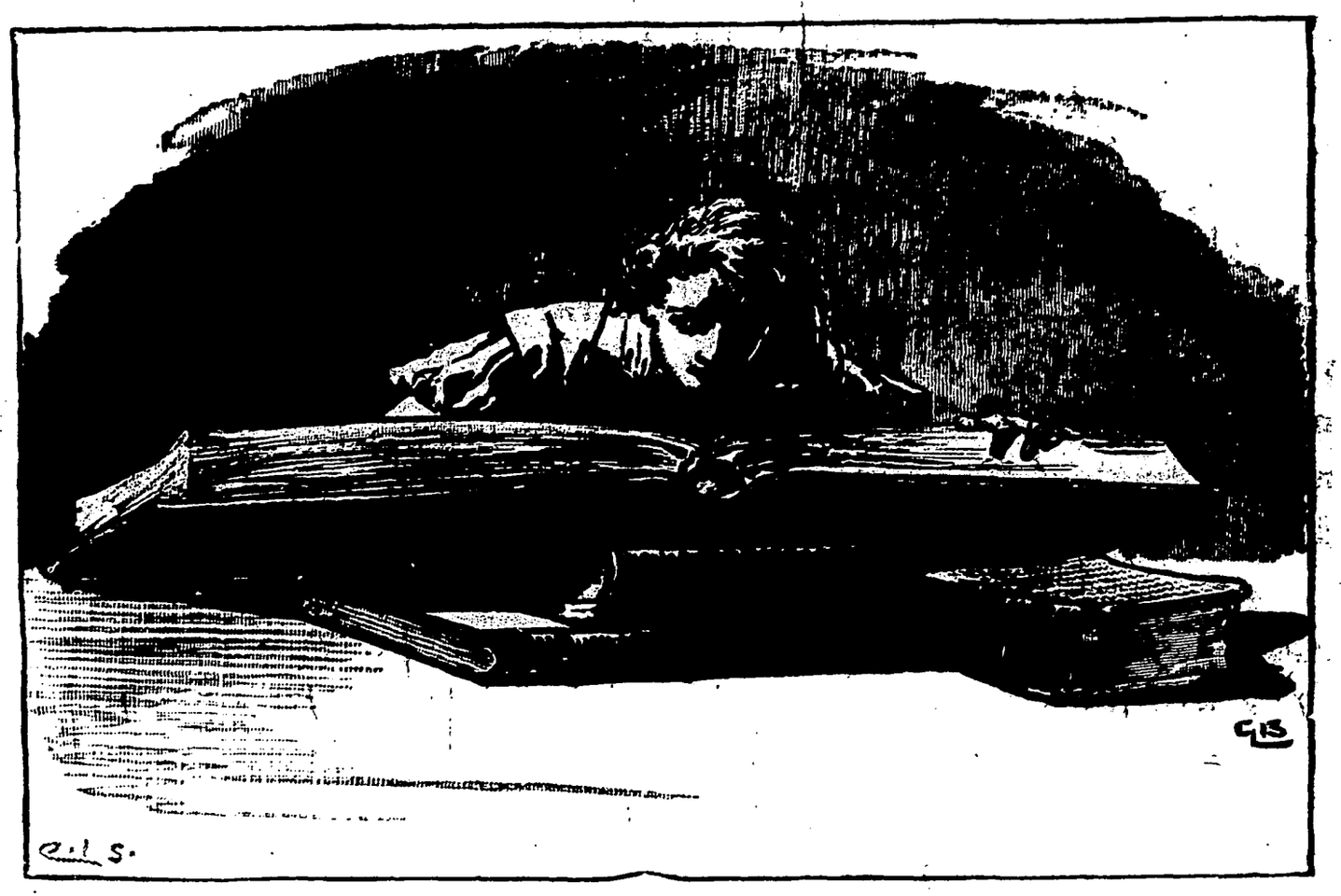
Meanwhile, the books of the season, like gaily dressed heralds, are announcing the approach of Father Christmas, and the bright windows of the shops are piled as usual with pleasant reminders of the good cheer and good-will which are traditionally associated with the mistletoe and holly. It seems to us that the publishers have catered very successfully this season for all sorts and conditions of boys. Of course, the world over, tastes differ; but grave or gay, dreamy or dashing, practical or poetical, smart or sentimental, that lad must be hard to please who cannot find a volume after his heart amid the new and beautiful books which have been prepared this year for his delectation. Probably a sharp boy would retort that he could easily pick out the books he liked—if the chance was given him. Parents, preceptors, benevolent aunts, and well-disposed uncles, not unnaturally, however, refuse to surrender the right of selection, and for the wisdom of this arrangement, though possibly it presses hard in some cases, the young gentleman aforesaid, and others of that ilk, will find there is a good deal to be said when—they arrive at years of discretion. Speaking broadly, books of adventure by land and by water are most in evidence, and if what Charles Kingsley would term muscular Christianity does not distinguish the coming race, the fault will not lie at the door of those who at the present time seek to fire the imagination and kindle the enthusiasm

of youth for a life of stirring exploits. Most people, when inspired by the amiable mood from which presents spring, find it a rather more difficult task to select books which are really suitable for girls in their teens. For some mysterious reason best known to themselves, authors and publishers as a rule seem rather shy about attempting to gratify the literary tastes of the young ladies who are accustomed to walk out, two and two, in demure procession twice a day under the watchful, and we venture to think quite necessary, supervision of their lynx-eyed guardians. Possibly, the ordinary dearth of really fresh and vigorous literature for girls may be accounted for by the fact that it is more difficult to write a novel of motive and character, full of quiet everyday heroism, than to conjure up blood-curdling deeds of impossible valour. Whatever the reason may be, the fact remains that boys and young men—who do not in the majority of cases read half so much as their sisters—are pelted with books good, bad, and indifferent, whilst the girls have often to go on short commons, or else to fly in despair to those 'standard' books which otherwise few of them would ever condescend to notice. This year, however, woman's rights are so far recognised by the publishers that there is actually a fair sprinkling of books for girls which are neither wishy-washy nor goody-goody. When the movement gets a little more headway, possibly the lads may find out that authors and artists have gone over to the opposite camp, and have elected —as we should certainly do—to keep more attractive company than is furnished by their noble selves. There are not many fine-art gift-books of the more expensive kind this year; but some of those which have appeared are superb examples of grace of design within and without, and of artistic and literary workmanship. The autocrats of the nursery never had better reason to congratulate themselves than this Christmas on the glorious picture-books and fairy tales which cunning hands have fashioned for their entertainment.

Beautiful was the custom which led our ancestors to throw wide their doors in hospitality at Christmas, so that when nature was frozen and dreary the bright and genial light of kindliness and sympathy within their dwellings might make amends for the cold and cheerless aspect of the outside world. But there is another aspect of Christmas, and one which none of us ought to ignore. Penury, scanty clothing, empty grates, the wail of hungry children, and the desolation which broods over so many poverty-stricken households in the land, come home to us all at this season of the year with special force, and mean indeed must be the heart and completely out of tune with the keynote to which the music of the Christmas bells is set which can forget the need of those for whom nothing is prepared. The Founder of the Christian Religion has Himself not only said, 'The poor ye have always with you,' but has stooped to throw His shield over the weakest with the words, 'Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto Me.' Let this season serve then to strengthen the bonds which bind us to each other, and as for the rest, 'far from us and from our friends be that frigid philosophy' which fails to yield any response to the generous impulses of a Festival which proclaims anew glad tidings of peace and good-will.

CHRISTMAS WITH MY BOOKS.

THERE is a tribe of surly and ill-conditioned persons in existence, and I regret to see that their number is annually increasing, who contemn all Christmas observances. These profane Philistines, if they had their way, would abolish the mistletoe bough and the gracious greenery of holly and laurel. They are too sober-minded to snatch a fearful delight at snap-dragon, a game at forfeits is to them either childishness or senility, they affect to despise even the confused sweetness of a mince-pie, the bells of Yule for them are jangled and out of tune, and the time-honoured waits are only a relic of barbarism. I have no sympathy with these misanthropists. Because their virtue is of the sorriest kind shall there be no more cakes and ale? Surely life is not so intrinsically joyous that we can afford to dispense with its innocent pleasures. True wisdom lies rather in breaking up as much as we can the killing monotony of the year with all seasonable pastimes.



For myself when Christmas approaches I capitulate beforehand and surrender everything to the benign influences which await me. I give myself up, so to speak, and let the season have its will upon me. I make no reserves. I welcome every custom, every association. They are all delightful, the games and the carols of childhood, the decoration of house and hall with scarlet and green, the mantling wassail cup, the strains of music heard at midnight, the morning walk to church, the service with its Divine hope, and the kindly remembrance of the poor.

If Christmas chances to come at a time when winter has really established itself, so much the better. I have an old-fashioned dislike of a green Yule, and, the doctors notwithstanding, I cling to the belief that it makes a 'fat churchyard.' I speak for myself, and avow that my spirits rise as the glass falls and in exact proportion. If the pond will bear the skater, and the snow lies deep upon the ground, and the stars sparkle in the sky, I have got my ideal Christmas. At such a time the height of enjoyment is reached when, with doors closed and curtains drawn closely round, we pile great logs on the fire and subside into quietness. The games and the feasting are over—

> The girls all kiss'd
> Beneath the sacred bush and past away;

and the bowl 'half-way ebbed.' Then the final pleasure begins—the pleasure of books. For me Christmas without its proper books would be shorn of half its attraction. Its associations are all embalmed there; and, as I turn over the well-known pages made sacred by long years of use, delight is duplicated. The two things have so long run together in my mind that I could not separate them if I wished. Christmas calls up my favourite authors, my books awaken recollections of Christmas. It would be easy and not unprofitable to make a Christmas Library; and some of the books dearest to Englishmen would be found there. We do not need to ask for novelty, it is enough to read again and again the passages which we have read before; indeed, no small part of the charm lies in the familiarity. If the thing be only good to begin with, repetition will neither stale nor wither its variety. My Christmas books are not on a separate shelf, but I know where to find them. They are old friends, and even by the flickering firelight I can put my hand on each volume as I want it. I like to begin with *La Mort d'Arthur* because that 'famous history' carries me back most speedily and completely into the region of old romance, and as I turn over its quaint pages I think how often on Christmas nights centuries ago in hall and grange it must have been pored over by our ancestors. I turn to that passage which tells how, on Merlin's suggestion, the Archbishop of Canterbury summoned all the lords and gentlemen to London on Christmas Eve, how many of them 'made them clean of their lives that their prayers might be the more acceptable to God,' and how in the greatest church of the city the young Prince Arthur, by drawing forth out of the stone the mystic sword, as no other Knight could do, proved himself to be the born King of England. Shakspeare comes next with one of the sweetest passages he ever wrote:—

> Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
> Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
> The bird of dawning singeth all night long:

And then, they say, no spirit dares stir abroad:
The nights are wholesome: then no planets strike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time.

Milton comes next with the solemn music of his 'Ode on the Morning of Christ's Nativity':—

See how from far upon the eastern road
The star-led wizards haste with odours sweet!
Oh! run; prevent them with thy humble ode,
And lay it lowly at his blessed feet;
Have thou the honour first thy Lord to greet,
And join thy voice unto the Angel Quire,
From out his secret altar touched with hallowed fire.

It was not in too presumptuous a spirit that our great poet essayed to join the Angel Quire. Such lofty and mysterious strains as are to be found in this Ode are not unworthy to be ranked after the harmonies of heaven.

Old Thomas Tusser is not among the poets. He is only a prosaic rhymer at his best, but in his 'Five Hundred Pointes of Good Husbandrie' there are many homely allusions to Christmas which we would not miss:—

At Christmas we banket, the rich with the poore,
Who then (but the miser) but openeth his doore?
At Christmas of Christ many carols we sing,
And give many gifts to the joy of that King.

Robert Herrick left no season of the year untouched—the spring with its daffodils, the summer with its roses, autumn with its harvest-home, and winter with its feasting. Among his 'Charms and Ceremonies' we read the following for Christmas:—

Come bring with a noise
My merry merry boys
The Christmas log to the firing;
While my good dame, she
Bids ye all be free,
And drink to your heart's desiring.

In the pages of saintly Herbert we find, among others, the following lines for Christmas:—

O Thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light,
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger;
Since my dark soul and brutish is thy right,
To Man of all beasts be not Thou a stranger:
Furnish and deck my soul that Thou mayst have
A better lodging than a rack or grave.

Side by side with Herbert's 'Temple,' I find the 'Sacred Poems and Ejaculations' of Henry Vaughan, the Silurist, and there I read the following under the title of 'The True Christmas':—

Then leave your open house and noise,
To welcome Him with holy joys,
And the poor shepherds' watchfulness,
Whom light and hymns from heaven did bless.
What you abound with cast abroad
To those that want, and ease your loade.
Who empties thus will bring more in;
But riot is both loss and sin.
Dress finely what comes not in sight,
And thus you keep your Christmas right!

Our modern writers, as we might expect, are not so deeply imbued with the spirit of Christmas as are their elder brethren, but there are yet among them many volumes which I always take down from their shelves and dip into at this time. Although Charles Lamb has no essay specifically upon Christmas, there is one on 'New Year's Eve' which always suits my mood. In it is the following passage: 'Of all sounds of all bells—(bells, the music nighest bordering upon heaven), most solemn and touching is the peal which rings out the Old Year. I never hear it without a gathering-up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the past twelvemonth; all I have done or suffered, performed, or neglected—in that regretted time. I begin to know its worth, as when a person dies. It takes a personal colour; nor was it a poetical flight in a contemporary, when he exclaimed—

I saw the skirts of the departing Year.'

The 'contemporary' to whom Lamb alludes was Coleridge, and I like to read from his pages the 'Virgin's Cradle-Hymn'—

Sleep, sweet babe! my cares beguiling;

the 'Christmas Carol'—

The shepherds went their hasty way
And found the lowly stable-shed,
Where the Virgin-Mother lay.

and certain passages from 'Religious Musings; a desultory poem, written on the Christmas Eve of 1794.' In the poems of another friend and contemporary of Lamb's—William Wordsworth—I find the dedication of the 'Duddon Sonnets,' the first stanza of which furnishes this beautiful picture:—

The minstrels played their Christmas tune
To-night beneath my cottage eaves;
While, smitten by a lofty moon,
The encircling laurels thick with leaves
Gave back a rich and dazzling sheen
That overpowered their natural green.

Then there are the ever-delightful Christmas Sketches of Washington Irving with Randolph Caldecott's sympathetic illustrations. This volume, with one other, I will not have removed from my table until the season is past. That other is the Laureate's 'In Memoriam,' through the whole of which, it should be observed, the idea of our English Christmas runs, the record of a Christmas Day beginning or governing each of the sections into which it might be divided. With one stanza from this poem, I should always wish to usher in my Christmas morning:—

Rise, happy morn, rise, holy morn,
Draw forth the cheerful day from night;
O Father, touch the east, and light
The light that shone when Hope was born.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS A CENTURY AGO.

LOOKING at the piles of gaily dressed, extensively illustrated, and otherwise expensively got-up Christmas books which meet us at every turn, and, as it were, challenge us at every step, we cannot help wondering whether our forefathers of 1789 were happy in having no Christmas stories of ghosts, fairies, ghouls, and other uncanny beings. But Englishmen of a century ago had little time, and perhaps no inclination, to devote to *les contes des fées*, or to more exciting literary recreation. The times indeed were out of joint. We had not yet got over the blow which the loss of America had given us; and we were paralysed with the horrors of the French Revolution.

At home the impeachment of Warren Hastings was engrossing public attention, whilst Pitt and Fox were wrangling for political mastery. The Englishmen of 1789 also appear to have lived at an unpropitious period, so far as books are concerned. They were, to use an Americanism, a little 'too previous.' Cooke had not yet hit upon the happy and profitable idea of issuing those dainty little numbers which at a later period provoked the somewhat extravagant eulogy of Leigh Hunt. The feeble, and frequently very foolish, 'keepsakes,' 'annuals,' and what not had not yet come into fashion. 'Give books: they live when you are dead,' was an injunction which was not only incorrect as regards the get-up of the volumes then published, but an obvious paradox as regards the literary quality of ninety-nine out of every hundred—a barren wilderness of commonplace.

Still, the exceptions, and many others which are not exceptions, come well within the category of gift-books—just as John Dennis and Elkanah Settle are included in the list of poets! Theology of course, then as now—and as will be the case to the end of the chapter—greatly outdistanced every other subject. Not for worlds would we be guilty of disturbing the serenity—and the dust—which envelops the extensive octavos and folios of the worthy men who suffered from *cacoëthes scribendi*—a painful and expensive malady.

Books of 'entertainment,' as novels were then called, were issued in small numbers, for the movement which has led the servant-girl and the errand-boy to insist upon their share of intellectual food was then unknown. Applying as a general rule the remarks a contemporary reviewer used in regard to a particular book, we may say that, if 'somewhat deficient in probability and too full of hair-breadth 'scapes,' 'still, to a reader not very nice and attentive,' these volumes would at that time 'appear interesting and entertaining.' We plead guilty to a degenerate taste which finds them neither the one nor the other; but we will 'oblige' our readers

with a few titles so that they may satisfy themselves in this matter. There was the 'Tyranny of Love' to rival 'The Progress of Love' (published by Vernor); 'Fashionable Infidelity, or the Triumph of Patience' (Hookham), to dispute the interest of 'The Triumph of Friendship,' by which Mrs. Jane Timbury made a bid for immortality, and failed. The 'Child of Woe,' by Mrs. Elizabeth Norman, is highly suggestive of nightmare, and 'Agitation' of a quarrel with one's mother-in-law. 'William and Charles, or the Bold Adventurers,' is quite *à la* the *Boys of England*; 'Heferfort and Clara' and 'Teila in the Desert' being from the German and French respectively, we hesitate to draw up an indictment against either. These works of 'entertainment' were generally in two or three volumes, and ran from half-a-crown to three shillings per volume. The money was worth it!

Omitting other than an incidental reference to 'plays,' which were sold usually at a shilling each, and bore the imprint either of Debrett or of Lowndes, we pass on to poetry. And here with what a galaxy of genius are we met! Who does not know 'The Guinea' (in three books), 'Leith Hill,' 'The Abbey of Ambresbury,' 'The Grove of Fame,' 'The Mine' (which, by the way, reached a second edition), and even 'Matilda'? And who, having read, can forget that happy moment of genius when James White, Esq., in his poem on 'Conway Castle,' described a fashionable wife to the moon? In these pages, also, the enterprise of Mr. Douglas, an Irish bookseller, deserves mention, for did he not institute an annual commemoration of the famous siege of Londonderry, by giving a prize medal for the best poem on that event? The highly romantic subject of 'Suicide' found a poetic champion in M. D. Blackett, and, although it runs into only eighteen pages quarto, we can assure our readers that it is a stiff piece of work. The following two lines possess a lucidity and poetic beauty which must have taken our grandfathers' breath away:—

> And every bright idea restrain'd,
> Coward, sayst thou, was Caithness base?

For those who liked a little piquant scandal served up with their poetry, there was Peter Pindar's 'Expostulatory Odes to a Great Duke and a Little Lord,' which Mr. Kearsley published at half-a-crown. The houses of Longman, Cadell, and Dodsley apparently had no literary 'tasters' in 1789, but who can imagine the 'taste' which could make gifts of books of such a kind?

During the year 1789 many works of travel and adventure were published, and this class of book was ever a popular one with 'givers.' 'A Narrative of Four Journeys into the Country of the Hottentots and Caffraria' (18*s.*) was Lieutenant W. Paterson's contribution in quarto form, and offered some novel attractions, as did also 'A Journal of the Passage from India by a route partly unfrequented—Mesopotamia, Armenia, and Natolia, or Asia Minor' (15*s.*), which was the work of Dr. T. Howel. An ungenerous posterity has forgotten both authors, but it has not done so with the third author whom we mention in this section. The 'Observations and Reflections made in the Course of a Journey through France, Italy, and Germany' (2 vols., 12*s.*), by H. L. Piozzi, have themselves passed into oblivion, but the memory of Dr. Johnson's friend still claims a kindly feeling in our hearts. True, Peter Pindar advised her to

> Give up her anecdotical inditing
> And study housewifery, instead of writing;

but then we know that Dr. Wolcot was a rude person.

Biographical works and volumes rich in anecdote would naturally be in much demand as gift-books. In this section, Kearsley published the Rev. John Adams' 'Anecdotes' of great men (3*s.*); whilst Debrett made a more ambitious bid in 'The Life of Frederick the Second, King of Prussia' (2 vols., 10*s.* 6*d.*), which was a translation from the French. Another characteristic work of the period was the 'Memoirs and Anecdotes of Philip Thicknesse, late Lieut.-Governor of Landguard Fort, and, unfortunately, father to George Touchet, Baron Audley,' which was 'printed for the author,' in two octavo volumes (10*s.* 6*d.*). But most important of all was Dr. Gregory's 'Life of Thomas Chatterton,' which claimed to contain not only criticisms on the poet's genius and writings, but also 'a concise view of the controversy concerning Rowley's poems.' It was published by Kearsley at 5*s.* 'A Sketch of the Lives and Writings of Dante and Petrarch,' by 'a young gentleman of Oxford,' was published at 2*s.* 6*d.* by Stockdale, the well-known Piccadilly bookseller. A seasonable book, which would naturally be in request, was 'Historical Remarks on the Castle of the Bastille,' with curious and entertaining anecdotes of the famous prison (4*s.*), but this, like so many others, was merely a translation from the French. A more sedate sort of book was Dr. Mavor's 'New Description of Blenheim' (Cadell), but its interest was not wide. For those who loved books relating to country matters and country life, there were 'The Rural Economy of Gloucestershire,' by Mr. Marshall (Nicoll, 2 vols., 10*s.* 6*d.*), and William Gilpin's 'Three Essays on Picturesque Beauty;' whilst the countryman who had a *penchant* for London might present himself with 'The Adventures of a Speculist, or A Journey through London' (6*s.*), which was compiled from the papers of G. A. Stevens, the facetious author of the 'Lecture on Heads.'

The wants of the well-to-do shopkeeper were not at all overlooked. He could present his wife with Richard Briggs' 'English Art of Cookery,' which the Robinsons would sell for 7*s.*; and she, good woman, could make an appropriate return by giving her lord and master Dr. Truster's 'The Honours of the Table, or Rules of Behaviour during Meals' (2*s.* 6*d.*)—perhaps an equivocal

sort of return—or, if parsimonious, 'The Toastmaster, a genteel collection of sentiments and toasts,' which might be had for 6*d.* For the good apprentice there was Mr. William Wright's '*Complete Tradesman*' (2*s.* 6*d.*).

A nice present was obtainable in the second edition of Thomas Sheridan's 'Dictionary of the English Language,' in quarto, and priced at 16*s.*, by Mr. Villy. From the same bookseller's shop, also, could be had a great deal of heavy reading in 'Essays, Philosophical, Historical, and Literary,' at less than one-third the prices demanded for the dictionary. But most expensive of all was the gift which consisted of the third and fourth volumes of Dr. Burney's 'General History of Music,' at a guinea and a half each, published by Payne, Robson, and Robinson, who wisely issued them early in the autumn of 1789, so that the charitably disposed had time to save up their spare cash to made the purchase before Christmas.

Such, then, are the principal books which our forefathers presented to one another a century ago. All things considered, we of to-day have no cause for complaint. Those who talk of the 'good old times' should endeavour to acquaint themselves with facts, and then they could not help coming to the conclusion that the old times had disadvantages—with, indeed, a very small percentage of the contrary. The boys and girls of to-day have books written specially for them by the hundred; the youth of a century ago had for the most part to put up with dull and formal stories full of windy platitudes.

Books and Rumours of Books

General Boulanger, who has gone to the Channel Islands in search of sunshine, is reported to be preparing a book on military science in modern Europe.

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We hear that Mr. Gosse has prepared for publication a selection from his poems, nearly all of which are out of print. The book will have the title of 'On Viol and Flute.'

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Amongst forthcoming books the Memoirs of Marshal MacMahon may be expected. The work, we believe, will abound in interesting incidents relating to the Second Empire.

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It is stated that Mr. J. M. Barrie, author of 'A Window in Thrums,' is writing an historical drama, in which Steele and Savage and some of their contemporaries are to figure.

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Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have in preparation 'Readings on the Inferno of Dante, chiefly based on the Commentary of Benvenuto da Imola,' by the Hon. William Warren Vernon. The work will be issued in two volumes.

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Messrs. Richard Bentley & Son will publish immediately 'The Correspondence of the Princess Lieven and Earl Grey,' translated by Mr. Guy Le Strange, with introduction and notes. The work will be in two volumes, with portraits.

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Mrs. Jackson, widow of that gallant and heroic soldier, General 'Stonewall' Jackson, is writing a biography of her husband, which will contain many stirring episodes concerning the Civil War in America which have hitherto not found their way to the light.

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A new Catechism, we are informed, has been prepared at the Vatican, which is intended for general use throughout the Church of Rome. It embodies all that is considered essential in the various catechisms now in use. It will, of course, be translated into numerous languages.

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We understand that the Government of New Zealand has originated a novel literary enterprise. It has offered to pay Mrs. Cudlip ('Annie Thomas') for writing a novel to illustrate the advantages of the colony as a field of emigration. The story is to be well charged with local colour.

Mr. Carnegie's spread-eagle book, 'Triumphant Democracy,' has been translated into Spanish, and is now in circulation in the Argentine Republic. The collapse of the Empire of Brazil meanwhile lends fresh significance to the title, which now may be said to describe the political situation in the South American Continent as well as in the North.

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Sir Arthur H. Gordon, K.C.B., has undertaken to write a monograph on his father, the fourth Earl of Aberdeen, for 'The Queen's Prime Ministers,' a series of political biographies which Mr. Stuart J. Reid is editing for Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co. Sir Arthur held the post of private secretary to his father when the latter was Premier, and therefore the book ought to prove one of great historical importance.

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Mr. George Bancroft has entered his ninetieth year, but still retains his interest in literature; indeed, he has commenced to write the life of President Polk, and hopes to complete his task this winter. Mr. Bancroft has already written some two hundred manuscript pages of the work, and his many friends on this side of the Atlantic will rejoice to learn that the veteran historian is in good health and spirits.

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M. Ollivier's new work has appeared in Paris. It bears the title '1789–1889,' and is creating a good deal of interest in social and literary circles. He maintains that the most perfect form of government would be a Sovereign elected for life by a College of Sages. M. Ollivier says that, theoretically, hereditary power is not the most perfect form of political power. He adds that a democracy that does not conduct itself with prudence will eventually find a Cæsar.

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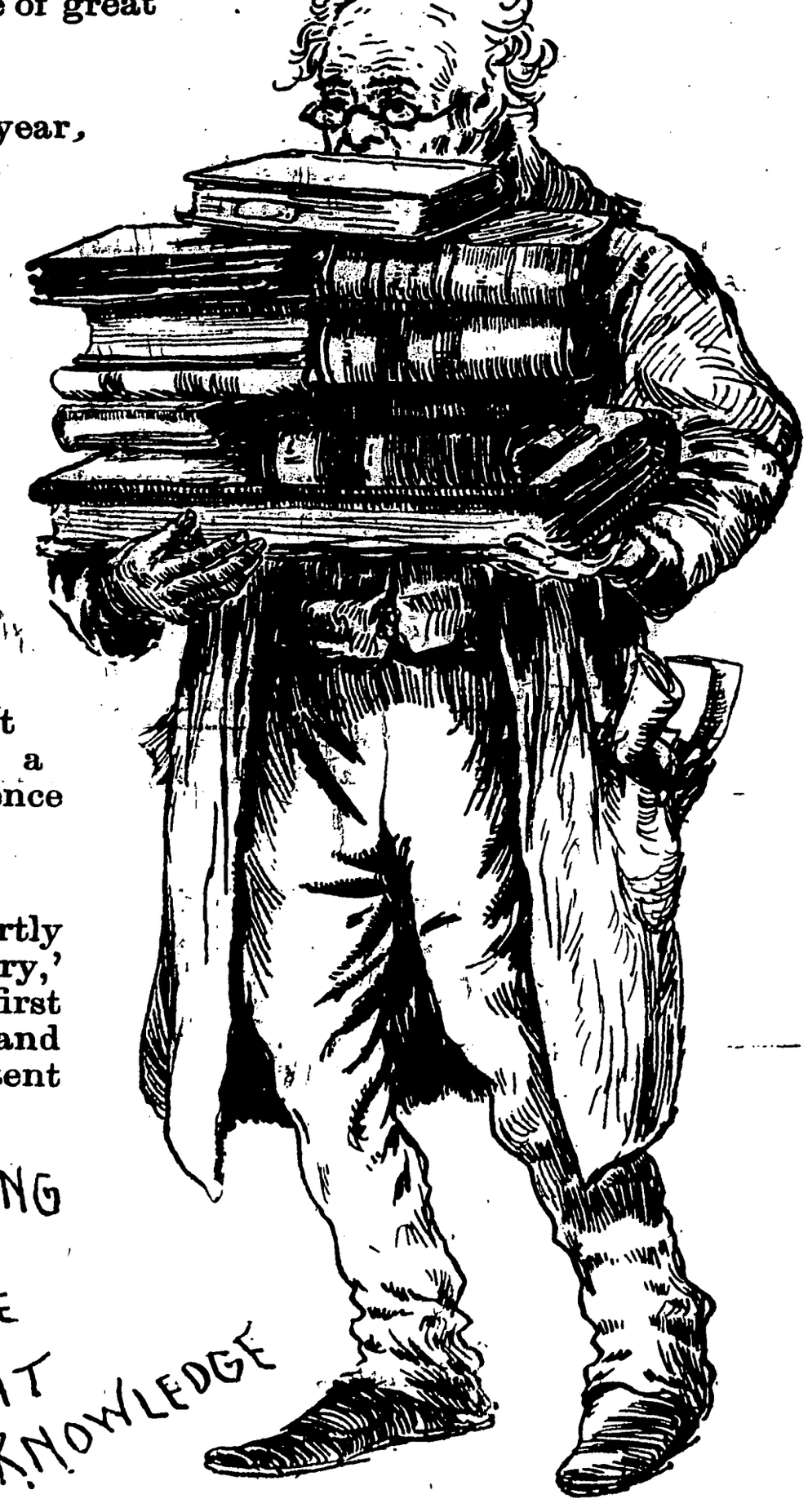
Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co. will shortly issue 'Lectures to Nurses on Antiseptics in Surgery,' by E. Stanmore Bishop, F.R.C.S., &c., being the first of 'The Nursing Record Series' of text-books and manuals which are being compiled by competent authors upon nursing and its allied subjects, the object being to provide a complete library of nursing works. The volumes will be issued at intervals of about two months and published at popular prices. The series will be edited by Mr. Charles F. Rideal.



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The most brilliant of contemporary French novelists, Alphonse Daudet, is to contribute a humorous serial story to the new volume of *Harper's Magazine*. Mr. Abbey proposes to illustrate Shakspeare's comedies, and Mr. Andrew Lang has undertaken to write the accompanying comments. Lord Wolseley has promised to write a set of articles on the British Army, and Mark Twain proposes to discuss 'A Majestic Literary Fossil.' We may also expect a group of illustrated papers on the Old Taverns of New York.

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It is to be hoped that William Allingham kept a journal. Carlyle took a great fancy to him, and used to pour out his fiery eloquence upon the genial Irish poet during the afternoon walks which the two continually took together in the closing years of the sage's life. Few men knew more of the inner life of Thomas Carlyle than William Allingham, or were more completely trusted by the stern old moralist. This is an age of cheap books. When are Messrs. Longmans going to give us a popular edition of Froude's biography of Carlyle?

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Mr. Lovett, author of 'Irish Pictures,' has prepared a new edition of his 'Norwegian Pictures.' The book has had a large sale since its issue in 1885, and has done much to

increase the popularity of Norway as a holiday resort. The new volume will contain 137 illustrations, nineteen of the old woodcuts having been replaced by twenty-nine choice new engravings. The chief additions are a fine series illustrating the famous Viking's Ship, now kept at Christiania University, and some splendid woodcuts by Mr. E. Whymper illustrating the additions to the letterpress descriptive of the Jötunheim and the Jorund Fjord. The new edition, thoroughly revised and partly re-written, will be ready early this month, and, like all the members of the 'Pen and Pencil Series,' will be published by the Religious Tract Society.

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Horace Greeley used to be tormented by those 'mosquitoes of literature,' the autograph hunters. On one occasion a gushing but brazen-faced youth wrote to him in the following terms: 'Dear Sir,—Among your literary treasures you have doubtless preserved several autographs of our country's late-lamented poet, Edgar A. Poe. If so, and you can spare one, please inclose it to me and receive the thanks of yours truly.' The reply was prompt and pointed; it ran thus: 'Dear Sir,—Among my literary treasures there happens to be exactly one autograph of our country's late-lamented poet, Edgar A. Poe. It is his note of hand for fifty dollars, with my indorsement across the back. It cost me exactly fifty dollars, seventy-five cents (including protest), and you may have it for half that amount.—Yours respectfully, HORACE GREELEY.' The correspondence ended there.

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Matthew Arnold, in private life, was a genial and fascinating companion, and his conversation was full of pleasant surprises, naïve confessions, and wit of the delicate brand known as 'dry.' His literary and social judgments sparkled through his affluent and stimulating talk, and he often surprised those who knew him but slightly by outbursts of genuine enthusiasm over men and books which, at first sight, did not seem at all likely to awaken more than a languid interest in the breast of the 'Miniature Goethe.' He once gravely reproved a friend for not taking the opportunity of hearing Henry Ward Beecher on the occasion of his last visit to England. 'I like Beecher,' said he, with emphasis, 'and consider him a really great man.' His appreciation of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous romance 'Treasure Island' was expressed in a characteristic phrase: 'I read it on my voyage home from America, and it afforded me that rarest of all human pleasures—admiration.'

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Lord Carnarvon will publish in a few days a new series of 'Letters of Philip Dormer, fourth Earl of Chesterfield.' They were addressed by the 'English Rochefoucauld' towards the close of his life to his kinsman Philip Stanhope, who succeeded to the title in 1773 as fifth earl. The correspondence begins in 1761, and extends over the next nine years; in all there are two hundred and thirty-six letters, and Lord Carnarvon has edited them from the original manuscripts, which came into his possession through his marriage with the daughter of the sixth Earl of Chesterfield. The correspondence is described as being of great literary and political interest, and it abounds in references to the famous statesmen and men of letters whom Lord Chesterfield had known, such as Bolingbroke and Chatham, Addison, Pope, and Swift. Much of the cynicism which disfigured the earlier series of Lord Chesterfield's letters is conspicuous by its absence in the present collection; and, according to Lord Carnarvon, the writer 'appeals to loftier principles than we are wont to associate with his name.' The book is to be published in a limited edition—with a facsimile letter of Lord Chesterfield and numerous illustrations in collotype—by the Clarendon Press.

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The first number of Mr. T. Wemyss Reid's new review, *The Speaker*, will appear on January 4. It will be published weekly, and the price is sixpence. Mr. Reid states that in politics the journal will advocate those principles which are common to all sections of the Liberal party; foreign affairs will be dealt with by men who possess a practical knowledge of questions of international policy which affect the peace and prosperity of the world. The readers of the PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR will be glad to learn that *The Speaker* will devote special attention to literary criticism. Great care, it is promised, will be taken to ensure prompt notices of new books; whilst one special feature of the literary portion will be the 'appearance of a *causerie* from the pen of a well-known essayist and critic, in which literary news and personal information on literary topics will be blended with criticism.' Although, as a rule, the articles in *The Speaker* will be anonymous, the editor proposes to publish from time to time signed contributions from men and women whose names, it is believed, will add weight to their writings, and whose opinions on questions of the day the public will be eager to learn. Many distinguished men have promised their co-operation, and amongst them it is, perhaps, enough here to mention Mr. Gladstone, Sir William Harcourt, John Morley, Professor Freeman, Professor Bryce, Sir C. Gavin Duffy, Sir Henry Roscoe, Sir Lyon Playfair, William Black, Frank Hill, James Payn, George Augustus Sala, Norman Lockyer, Stopford A. Brooke, Dr. A. M. Fairbairn, Augustine Birrell, and G. W. E. Russell. The editorial offices of *The Speaker* are 115 Fleet Street, E.C.

THE GIFT-BOOKS OF THE SEASON.

THERE are at least three reasons why we are inclined to-day to think that brevity is the soul of wit: The rapid approach of the holidays, and consequently the need of crying the literary wares of the season in the ears of all whom it may concern without another day's delay; the pressure upon our space, and we can honestly say that it was never greater; and the pressure upon our table, the active service of which is seriously imperilled by the huge pile of 'light' literature for Christmas, which causes it to groan ominously beneath so heavy a burden. It is a 'far cry' from Mr. W. H. Allen to Mr. Frederick Warne, and therefore, without another word of preface, we proceed to make ourselves acquainted with the contents of the piles of parcels which the publishers have sent us.

Messrs. W. H. Allen & Co.

Miss Charlotte M. Yonge's monograph of the **Prince Consort** is avowedly based on Sir Theodore Martin's elaborate if somewhat prolix biography, and on other memoirs which have since been published, notably those of the Duke of Coburg, Bishop Wilberforce, and Count Vitzthum. In the course of less than two hundred pages, Miss Yonge sketches with a light and graceful touch the chief events in Prince Albert's short and blameless life, and we gain many vivid passing glimpses of his character, influence, and aims. The English people, for many years, misunderstood the Prince Consort, and, for a long time, not a few of the English aristocracy treated him with studied neglect; whilst some, even of the foremost statesmen in the land, regarded him with jealous suspicion, and took up an attitude towards him, which greatly ruffled a prince who was as sensitive as he was unselfish. It is scarcely too much to say that it was not until the closing years of his life that the true nobility and quiet power of the Prince Consort were fully recognised, and, perhaps, the interval between the Crimean War and the irreparable loss which befell the Queen and the nation in the dark days before the Christmas of 1861, was the happiest as well as the most influential period in Prince Albert's career. The Prince himself, at first, scarcely understood the temper of the English people, and he took up in consequence much too formal an attitude towards them, but his character mellowed visibly during the last ten years of his life, and the country was just beginning to appreciate his wisdom as well as his worth when he was snatched from Her Majesty's side at the early age of forty-two. In point of actual information there is nothing very fresh in this volume, but Miss Yonge has, nevertheless, woven together with a skilful and judicious hand, out of the widely-scattered materials which are now available, an impressive and not too laudatory description of the character and achievements of Albert the Good.

Mr. J. W. Arrowsmith.

Prince Prigio, by Andrew Lang. This dainty little book is full of delicate satire, dry humour, and imaginative skill. It is a fairy story, in which sly hits are dealt out at a kind of folly which is always young. The character of Prince Prigio is suggested by his name, and his adventures as he goes through the world are described in a droll and racy manner. The King and Queen of Pantouflia are puzzled by the wisdom of their much too knowing child, and his exploits at the Court and beyond it drive the royal couple almost to the end of their wits. Prince Prigio was a favourite of the fairies, who made him too clever by half, and his worthy father, the King, who was not too liberally endowed with brains, felt that life was not worth living with Prince Prigio at his heels. Those who want to find out how the immaculate young wiseacre eventually fared must—consult Mr. Andrew Lang. The illustrations are by Gordon Browne, and they catch very cleverly the spirit of the story.

"PUT ON YOUR ARMOUR AND, BE OFF WITH YOU!"

C. L. S.

The groundwork of **The Doubts of Dives** (Arrowsmith's Christmas Annual), by Walter Besant, bears a slight resemblance to that on which 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' and 'Vice-Versâ' are constructed. Two young men, the one rich, and the other poor, resolve to exchange identities for three months by each drinking a few drops of a wonderful liquid. The transformation having been effected, the young man whose wealth had hitherto saved him from the necessity of even doing a stroke of work now applies himself laboriously to literature in order to earn a living; whilst his friend, suddenly surrounded by untold riches, carries out sundry benevolent and philanthropic schemes which for a long time had only simmered in his brain. In the end the temporary exchange is considered so satisfactory, especially to the man of letters, that it is decided to continue it *ad infinitum*. Many amusing complications take place in the course of the story, arising chiefly from the love affairs of the two friends.

Messrs. Bagster & Sons.

The Comprehensive Teachers' Bible. This volume—bound in Turkey levant morocco, emerald octavo—contains the Authorised Version of the Old and New Testaments, together with new and revised helps to Bible study, a fresh and elaborate concordance, and an atlas of coloured maps with index reference. The 'Bible Helps' deal with such subjects as revelation and inspiration, ancient and modern versions, the canon, and detailed articles on the different books of the Bible. Amongst other subjects discussed are the geography and topography of the Holy Land, the symbolical language of Scripture, the Tabernacle and the Temple, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the Epicureans and Stoics, and a variety of related topics. With this splendid book in his hand the Sunday-school teacher and Bible student is fully equipped for the intelligent exposition of Scripture.

The same publishers also send us two small volumes entitled **Daily Light on the Daily**

Path. They are devotional text-books for the morning and evening of every day in the year, and they consist entirely of selected passages of Scripture woven together with reverent care so as to illustrate and bring out in various ways the full significance of some central truth. These miniature books are printed in clear and beautiful type, and are bound with exquisite taste in polished levant morocco.

Messrs. Bemrose & Sons.

Flower-land, an Introduction to Botany, by the Rev. Robert Fisher, M.A., is an exceedingly good and useful book on elementary botany. The first part is a republication of a small volume previously issued. But the second half is altogether new. The information is given in a very simple and interesting way, so that any young person could take up the first part and obtain from it a fair knowledge of flowering plants without being troubled by a single technical term. In the second part Mr. Fisher deals with the morphology, the anatomy, the physiology, and the classification of plants. In this part scientific terms are gradually introduced, but in all cases the etymology of the words is given in foot-notes. In the appendix many terms not dwelt upon in the text are explained. The volume has a good index and is well illustrated. We do not remember meeting with so suitable a book as this to place in the hands of those who may desire to obtain a knowledge of botany; it is simple, and, at the same time, scientific, and will form an excellent introduction to more advanced books on the subject.

Messrs. Bickers & Son.

A Narrative of the Peninsular Campaign, 1807-1814, by Lieut. Gen. Sir W. F. P. Napier, K.C.B. This is an abridgment, by Mr. William T. Dobson, of Napier's classic work, the celebrated 'History of the War in the Peninsula.' That book has long taken its place as a standard work and as a masterpiece of military history, written by a competent eye-witness who took part in many of the battles and sieges described. From the present volume mere opinions, military observations, and statistical details are wisely excluded, as the main object of the book is to direct attention to the great chain of battles by which Wellington curbed the power of Napoleon, and overthrew the military despotism of France. The book contains ten illustrations in permanent photography, of some of the most critical battles and sieges of the campaign. It is interesting to recall the fact that passages from Napier's 'War in the Peninsula' used to be recounted round the watch-fires during the siege of Sebastopol, and many a gallant soldier drew fresh courage and hope from this impressive and fascinating record of the glorious achievements of the British Army in the past.

Messrs. Biggs & Debenham.

Our Stories, by Ascott R. Hope. The writer's well-known gift for pleasing boy-readers is again apparent in this capital book. The stories are written in a droll and genial strain, varied with several hairbreadth escapes, whilst lessons of generosity, pluck, and self-forgetfulness abound.

Messrs. Blackie & Son.

An Emigrant Boy's Story, by Ascott R. Hope. This is essentially a book for boys, being full of the adventurous incidents and hairbreadth escapes. The hero is a young German, and plays a gallant part during the terrible outbreak in 1862 of the Indians against the settlers in the state of Minnesota. The excitement throughout is continuous, beginning as it does with the attack on the farm, which is the hero's home, and describing his flight to Oakwood City, the unsuccessful siege of which by the Indians concludes the story.

John A'Dale, by Mary C. Rowsell. This little story is written in a chatty, pleasant way, which is sure to attract the attention of children. It follows the fortunes of a travelling tinker, who in the course of his wanderings effects the rescue of a stranger from a forest pool into which he had fallen while out hunting. This personage turns out to be none other than King James I. The tinker of course gets knighted for his pains, and ends his days in prosperity, thus offering an instance of virtue rewarded.

Max or Baby, by Ismay Thorn. Although possessing no particular plot, this little story of domestic life is of a character well adapted for the nursery, and might be read with some interest by elder folk. It is somewhat after the style of 'Little Lord Fauntleroy,' making,-

as it does, a child the medium in softening an old man's heart, and showing what may be done by little folk to make home happy.

Readers will expect a treat in reading **By Pike and Dyke,** a Tale of the Rise of the Dutch Republic, by G. A. Henty, and they will not be disappointed. It contains several full-page illustrations, and, to make it clear that its aim is instruction as well as entertainment, it also contains four maps. 'By Pike and Dyke' is the story of the Netherlanders' struggle against Spanish oppression. Ned Martin, the hero, is the son of an English merchant sea-captain; his mother is a Dutchwoman, whose relations have been massacred by the Spanish. Ned takes service with William the Silent, who entrusts him with important despatches to Brussels, then in the hands of the enemy. The story of Ned's disguises, his adventures by the way, his falling into the hands of the Blood Council, and various marvellous escapes, is graphically told. The horrors suffered by the Netherlanders during the siege of Haarlem, Leyden, and Antwerp are vividly depicted; and Ned makes himself so valuable by his adroitness, courage, and enterprise, that Elizabeth knights him, and appoints him special envoy to the Prince of Orange, with such appointments as would enable him handsomely to support his position. We heartily commend this really good book.

Among the large number of attractive gift-books of the season, **Miriam's Ambition,** a Story for Children, by Evelyn Everett-Green, takes a high place. It is the story of a girl of sweet disposition who has the strong desire to make someone happy. This is her 'ambition.' In pursuit of it she is led to befriend a sickly boy; with the result that she discovers the clue to unravel a mystery which for years had darkened the lives of two old ladies and their nephew. In this and other ways she makes many happy. Sister Frank and Mr. Kinglake, who becomes 'brother Tom,' are finely-drawn characters. The funny talk of little Babs, a young lady of five, is very amusing. We have read 'Miriam's Ambition' with very great pleasure. It is a splendid book for children, well got up and illustrated.

Mr. Lipscombe's Apples, by Julia Goddard. A brief story for boys, concerning the theft of Mr. Lipscombe's apples, and the false suspicion which fell on Michael Lawson. The actual thief at last confesses his guilt, and Michael's character is vindicated. The disastrous results of gambling and 'evil communications' are effectively enforced.

A Warrior King, the Story of a Boy's Adventure in Africa, by J. Evelyn, with three illustrations. The author gives the youths for whom he writes a thrilling narrative, with many exciting scenes and hairbreadth escapes. The tale concerns a boy who, while out hunting with his father and a party of Englishmen in Central Africa, is captured by a tribe of natives, and becomes the friend of the chief's son, who protects him. The chief dies in war, and the son reigns in his stead, and is the Warrior King of the story. He is a most advanced and enlightened heathen, and possesses the politeness and honour of a boy bred in the cultivated sphere of our public schools. His chivalry and prowess would almost do credit to the Knights of the Round Table. We have encounters with wild beasts, warfare and victory, with romance intertwined in a way that is sure to beguile the heart of any British lad.

Thorndyke Manor, by Mary C. Rowsell. This is not a child's story, but a novel of ordinary ability. The writer shows a fair familiarity with the times. The master of the manor, like a good Samaritan, brings home on his own back a man he finds with a broken ankle. He cares for him and takes him into his employ; but the man turns out to be a spy and traitor. There is no remarkable study of character, though the character of the doctor is well described.

Tales of Daring and Danger, by G. A. Henty, illustrated, is a book in which boys will especially delight, but the interest of it will not be confined to them, as their seniors will read it with pleasure. It consists of five short stories. 'Bears and Dacoits' and 'A Pipe of Mystery' are of adventures in India; 'The Paternoster' is of a yachting excursion and a shipwreck; 'White-faced Dick' is of American backwood life, and 'A Brush with the Chinese' is an account of two midshipmen's adventures in China. These stories are told with the graphic simplicity which characterises everything from Mr. Henty's pen, and the titles will sufficiently indicate what is in store for the reader. The book is neatly got up, and will meet with a warm welcome at the hands of those for whom it is written.

The Seven Golden Keys, by James E. Arnold, with frontispiece. This is a fairy-tale in seven chapters, describing a little girl's quest of the golden keys of truthfulness, patience, kindness, &c. It is an exquisite bit of work, characterised by variety, picturesqueness, and great imagination.

The Loss of John Humble, What led to it, and what came of it, by G. Norway. This is an admirable book for boys, with eight full-page illustrations of great merit. Young John Humble leaves his Swedish home for England. He is seized by the press-gang, but, after being subject to the ruffians' cruel treatment, escapes to a Norwegian vessel, which is subsequently wrecked in the Arctic regions. Here a number of stirring adventures take place and severe privations are endured. At length John Humble finds his way back to the Swedish

farm, to be welcomed by friends who thought him dead. The story is marked throughout by a clever delineation of character and graphic descriptive powers.

Cousin Geoffrey and I, by Caroline Austin, relates how Mabel Grey, upon the death of her father, becomes dependent upon an unscrupulous relative whose unnecessarily harsh treatment of her brings about a series of complications. The story of Mabel's courage and unselfishness under most trying circumstances is good healthy reading. The get-up of the book is pretty, and the illustrations excellent.

A Gypsy against her will, by Emma Leslie. This story is suitable for working girls, and teaches the lesson of contentment with the surroundings of humble life. A girl dissatisfied with domestic service seeks refuge amongst the gypsies, but in a short time is heartily glad to be released from such company and to resume her former vocation.

The Lost Thimble, and other Stories, by Mrs. Musgrave. Children just able to read will be delighted with this little book. It contains few words longer than two syllables, and nothing beyond the mental capacities of the youngest reader.

Down the Snow Stairs, by Alice Corkran, is far and away one of the best story-books of the season. It is a beautiful allegory of child-life, full of absorbing interest, and written with great ability. A little maiden called Kitty, in disobedience to her mother's wishes, takes her younger brother, a lame and delicate boy, out into the cold to see a snow giant which a group of children have fashioned. Kitty and her brother stay out too long, and the consequence to the latter is a dangerous illness which fills conscience-stricken Kitty with remorse. In a dream the child wanders 'down the snow stairs,' and finds herself in Punishment Land. Here she witnesses some wonderful things, but, greatly to her own surprise, meets the Angel of Love, who gives the little penitent the kiss of forgiveness, and takes the naughty spirit out of her heart. She trips home free and glad at heart, but the evil tendency still follows her and lingers by her side as a wicked elf who seeks to tempt her to do wrong. But Kitty's good Angel comes to her aid, and she gains—though not without many a fight—the victory at last. The story is told with great beauty and naturalness, and is lit up, not only by a high purpose, but by imagination and fancy of quite an exceptional kind. The struggle between light and darkness is indicated without a touch of undue moralising, and in a way which appeals irresistibly to all that is best in the reader. The book contains sixty illustrations by Gordon Browne, and when we assert that they are worthy of the story, we pay the artist a handsome but deserved compliment.

Highways and High Seas, by Frankfort Moore. Cyril Harley met with many exciting adventures both by sea and land, and the story belongs to the period when highwaymen abounded on the roads of England and smugglers along the coasts. The hero tells his own story with humour and picturesqueness, and in the course of it he shows how little courage and romance there was after all on the side of such law-breakers, who often, however, led other people, including himself, into very critical and exciting positions. The illustrations are uncommonly spirited.

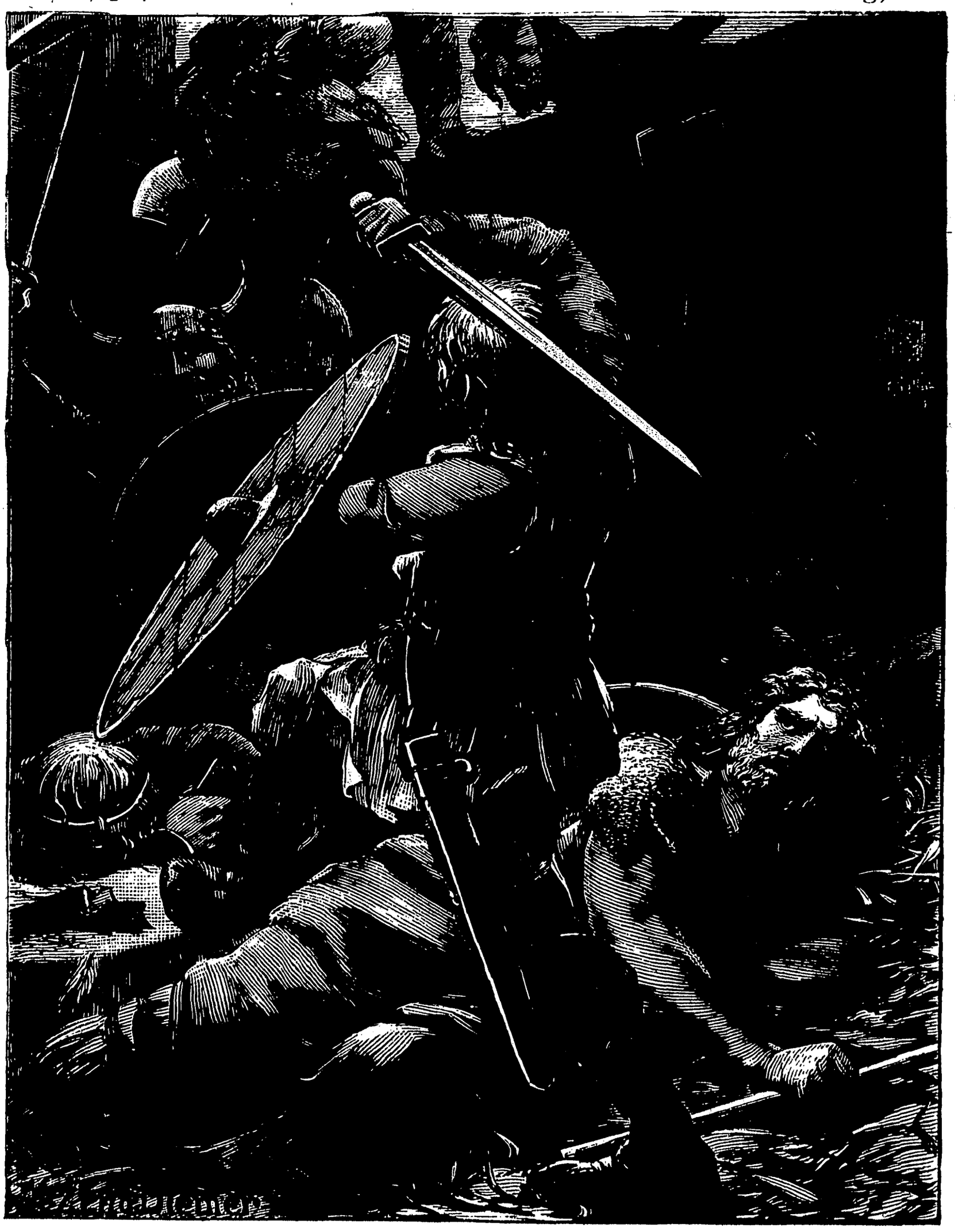
One of the healthiest and heartiest tales for boys which has been published for some time is **Afloat at Last,** by J. C. Hutcheson. It is a narrative of the experience of an English lad who had the well-known craze to go to sea. Declining his father's offer alike for the law, medicine, and the Church, he becomes midshipman aboard the 'Silver Queen,' bound for China. The story of the voyage is told with much glow and naturalness. The witty Irish bo'sun, the stern, courageous captain, the famished stowaway, Neptune's court in crossing the line, the chase and attack of the Malay pirates, as well as all other interesting items of a voyage, are told with charming effect. The author writes like a sailor, which is more than can be said for every one who tells sea tales. His description of nautical details is

more exact than his knowledge of the Lancashire idiom as shown in Joe Fergusson's conversation. There is a freshness and vivacity about the tale which will make it popular with all readers, young or old.

Sam Silvan's Sacrifice, the Story of Two Fatherless Boys, by Jesse Colman, illustrated. The chequered career of two fatherless lads in five different homes is here related with a *naïveté* that makes the story intensely real. The touching devotion of the elder brother is of pathetic interest, and the incidental information about country-life will be full of novelty and instructiveness, especially to town-bred boys.

White Lilac, by Amy Walton. This is a charming rustic idyll told with a fine appreciation of child-life. Some of the incidents are rather startling; the heroine, 'Lilac,' quits herself bravely, and the story of her life is told with tenderness and sympathy.

In the pages of **Grettir the Outlaw** the author of 'John Herring,' 'Mehalah,' and other well-known novels, gives us a brilliant and fascinating historical romance based on a famous Icelandic Saga. Mr. Baring-Gould is not merely a novelist but an historian, and a most erudite student of folk legends and lore. He tells his boy-reader, in the course of an interesting preface, that it was laborious work making out the Saga of Grettir the Strong, and that no less than thirty years have elapsed since he first began to study it. Since then he has visited Iceland, and traversed nearly every bit of the ground made famous by the adventures of his hero. The story—a most romantic and exciting one—is here told with great literary skill, and some of the battles and weird adventures which are described in the book are related in a most dramatic manner. The superstitions and legends of the old Icelandic heroes and their brave exploits by sea and land are admirably portrayed in this able book.



With Lee in Virginia, by G. A. Henty. The hero of this stirring historical romance is a young Virginian planter, called Vincent Wingfield, who threw in his lot with General Lee, and fought under the Confederate flag with distinguished valour. Mr. Henty has woven his plot with great skill, and has told, in a graphic and picturesque manner, the story of the gallant defence of Richmond by the brave old soldier, who, after a magnificent

defence, was finally compelled, by overwhelming numbers, to surrender his sword to General Grant. The young planter is wounded in battle, and on more than one occasion is taken prisoner, and passes, as might be expected, through a series of startling adventures. Though a Confederate, he proves himself a true friend to the slaves, and the manner in which his sympathy for the coloured people is interwoven with the part which he played 'With Lee in Virginia' is not the least clever trait in a powerful and thoroughly interesting book for boys.

The Hermit Hunter of the Wilds, by Gordon Stables, is a thrilling story, combining adventure with some excellent teaching. Lads will revel in the striking scenes described in the far-off wilds and forests of other lands. The tale has the excellent characteristics of Dr. Stables' books. Four capital illustrations are given.

Gladys, or The Sister's Charge, by E. O'Byrne. One cannot but love the two children whose fortunes and troubles form the subject of these few pages. Gladys is a regular little mother to the brother left in her care, while his confidence in his sister is certainly touching. The story tells how, their parents having gone abroad, the two little ones are sent to live with a crusty old maiden aunt, who, although possessing many admirable qualities, certainly does not understand the care of children. The result is a continual state of warfare between this elderly relative and her little charges. Of course, with the return of their parents, this unpleasant state of affairs comes to a conclusion, and here ends the story.

Things will take a Turn, by Beatrice Harraden. This certainly is an attractive little tale. The heroine is the grandchild of an old second-hand bookseller, who spends more time reading his books than selling them, which, perhaps, is scarcely his fault, as few people seem to require the musty old volumes forming his stock-in-trade. Of course, poverty is the result, but when things appear to be at their very worst, a piece of good fortune happens, which transfers the old man and his little grandchild from the tumble-down old book-shop to a comfortable home in a large house in the West-end of London, where we leave them, the former installed as curator to the owner's spacious library, the latter as nurse and companion to his little invalid daughter.

Lady Daisy, and other Stories, by Caroline Stewart. A charming group of short and telling stories suitable for the youngest readers. 'Papa's Christmas Story' is quite a gem in its way.

Mr. George Cauldwell.

Twice Born, an Autobiography, by Alfred E. Knight, with illustrations by the author. The autobiography referred to in the title is that of a boy, and closes with his fourteenth year. As the title 'Twice Born' indicates, the record is chiefly of his life in its religious aspects up to the age stated when he becomes 'converted' to Christ. With that second birth the book closes. This youth is the son of a Baptist minister. His mother dies while he is young; his elder brother Edmund leads for several years a wild and dissipated life; his sister Lilian becomes worldly-minded; his aunt, who presides over the household, is but formally righteous. But in the end Edmund becomes a mission preacher; Lilian recovers her faith; the aunt dies in hope. The title, 'Twice Born,' comes therefore to be descriptive of the happy change which takes place in the whole four of the family. The atmosphere of the book is gloomy and depressing. Although the volume may not prove attractive reading to some, it must be admitted that, considering his theme, Mr. Knight has written in a way that will prove gratifiying to those who share his views on religious subjects.

Very attractive in its get-up, and forceful in its teaching, is the story **In Fellowship, or the Possibilities of Influence,** by the Author of 'Brotherhood.' A very old idea pervades the narrative, but it is told with force and feeling. Philip Robinson is left fatherless, enters a good house of business in a lowly position, but resolves to keep to principle and fight his way. He shares apartments with Arthur Graham, a fellow-clerk, who is good-natured and gentlemanly, but indolent and easily led. The chief episode of the story is Arthur's financial difficulty through gambling. Philip, to help him, obtains a heavy loan from a private friend, without saying for whom the loan is intended. Presently Arthur fails to repay the instalments of the loan, and circumstances combine to render Philip an object of distrust to Mr. Twining, the lender. Still, he suffers and is strong. The teaching of patience, self-control, fidelity, and manliness in Philip's character is as inspiring as Arthur's vacillation and vice are warning. A capital book for young folk.

Eveline's Keynote, or In Harmony with Life, by Edith C. Kenyon. Miss Edith Kenyon has written a quiet story of everyday life, entitled 'Eveline's Keynote,' in which is set forth the evil which waits on pride and luxury, and the satisfaction which follows duty well done. Eveline Seymour, the daughter of the Vicar of Maplestone, is an admirable character, and her influence over every member of her family is beyond praise. Hugh Anderson teaches valuable lessons to every boy who will read about him. The main force of the story consists in the revelation of the pride and fraud of Mr. Howard, a bank-

manager, who passes through the experience of embezzlement, detection, and ruin. There is a good deal of healthy suggestiveness in the book.

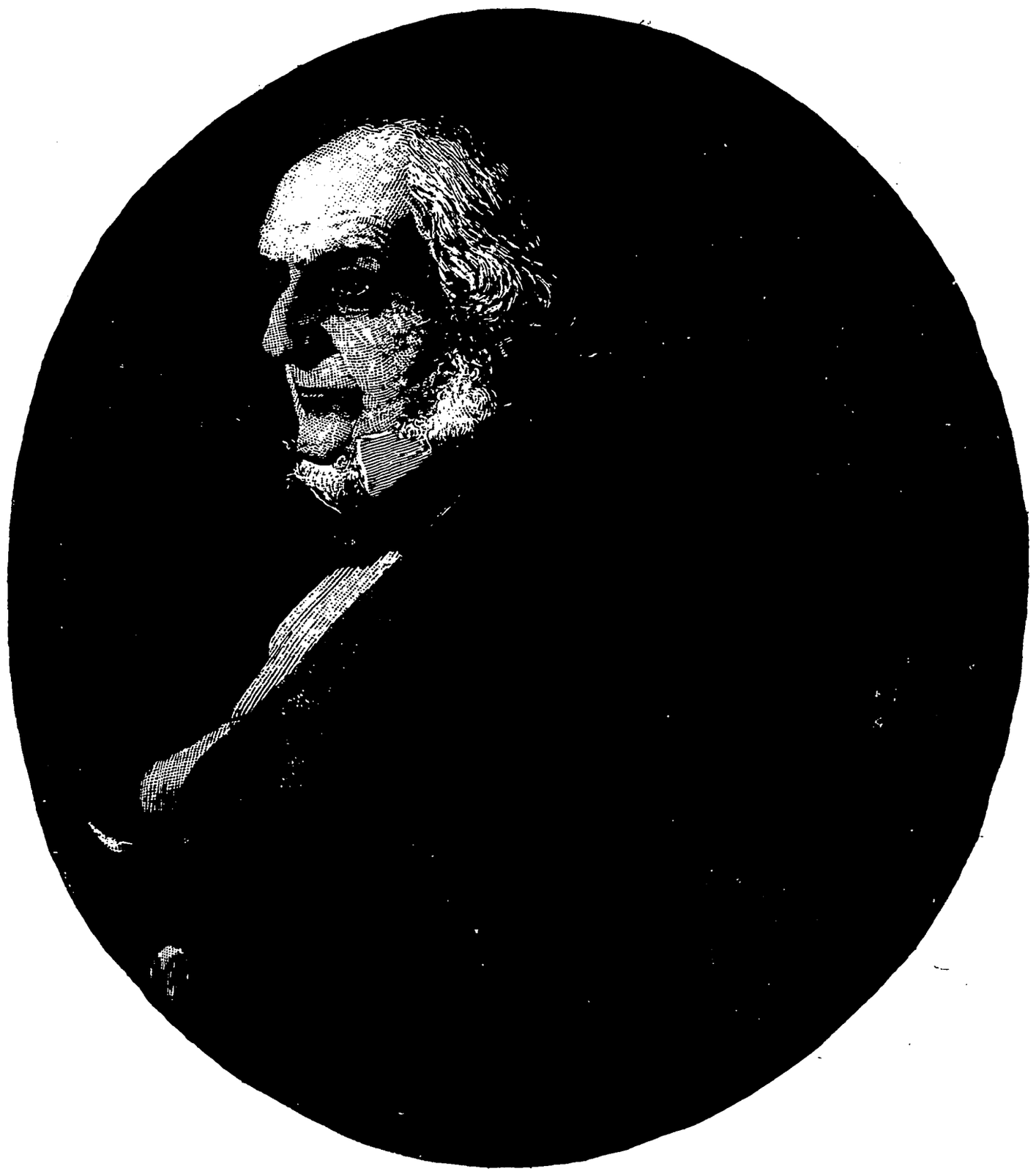
Edgar Berwick's Inheritance, by William J. Lacey. It would be easy to criticise, but it is easier to praise this little story, which pictures the hardships and temptations of an orphan lad left in the hands of an unscrupulous and pitiless relative.

Messrs. Cassell & Co., Limited.

The World of Adventure, Vol. I. This new and attractive publication is sure to find many readers, for its pages bristle with adventures and the record of deeds of valour and

daring. Tales of battle, hunting exploits, descriptions of brave acts of rescue, stories of pestilence, and tragedies of the sea, heighten the realistic impression made by a lively and exciting book. The pictures are extremely plentiful, and in most instances uncommonly good.

The Magazine of Art, for 1889, forms a superb volume alike from a literary and artistic point of view. It contains a large number of finished and striking illustrations, and many papers which not only lovers of art but all cultivated readers cannot fail to value.

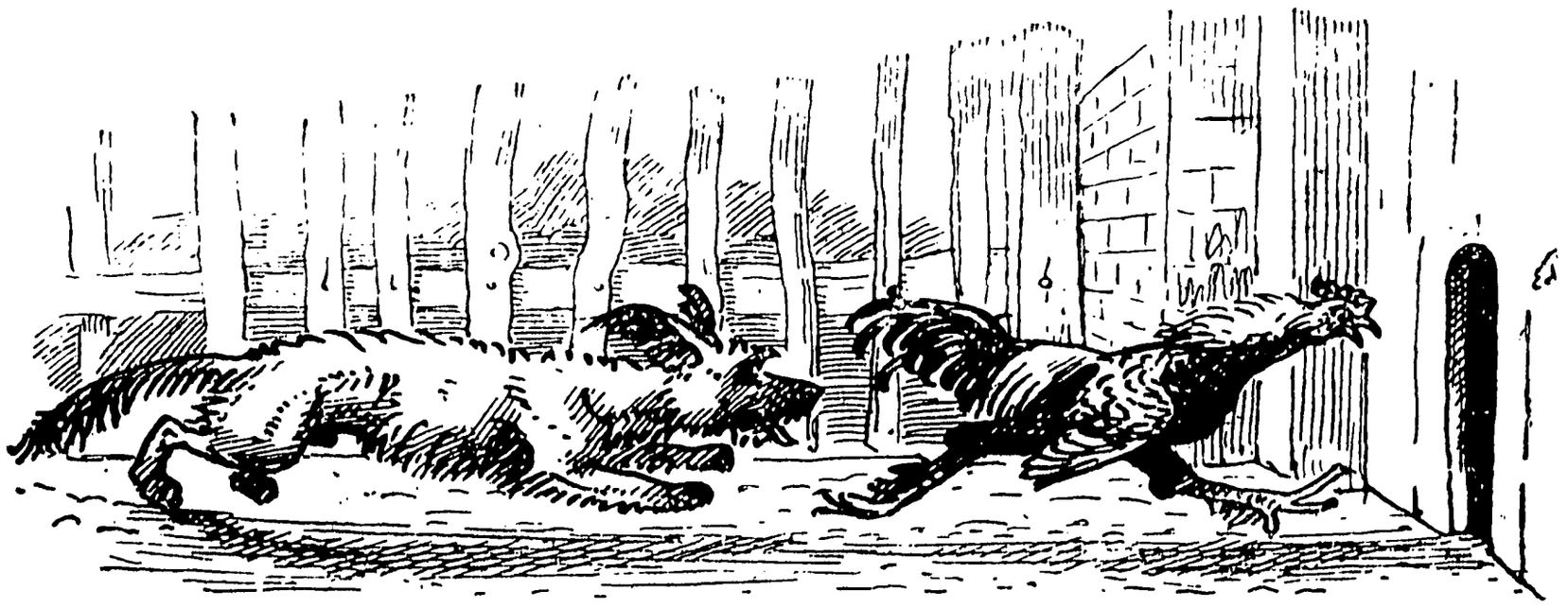


The second volume of Cassell's **New Popular Educator** has just reached us, and more than sustains, in the quality and variety of its contents, the favourable opinion everywhere expressed on the appearance of the previous volume. The book aims at being a 'complete encyclopædia of elementary and advanced education,' and it bids fair to realise to a large extent this worthy ambition. Many changes have occurred since the original publication of this book, but the present edition has been completely remodelled and greatly enlarged, and is now fully abreast of the times.

Cassell's History of England (Jubilee edition), Vol. III. The new volume of this popular history covers the period commencing with the Great Rebellion, and ending with the fall of Marlborough. The text is thoroughly revised, and the numerous illustrations, especially of the historical portraits, show a high degree of excellence. Our illustration is taken from an article on the 'Portraits of Mr. Gladstone,' from the pen of Mr. Wemyss Reid.

Mr. R. L. Stevenson's latest novel, **The Master of Ballantrae,** has already been so widely and favourably discussed by the critics that it would be superfluous on our part at this time of day to describe its merits. We shall therefore content ourselves by saying that no historical romance has, in our judgment, appeared in recent years which is more likely to win its way to the rank of an English classic in the realm of fiction. No more vigorous delineation of Scottish life and character as it existed in the most turbulent and romantic years of last century has been written in the Victorian era.

The new volume of **Little Folks** is certain to charm all the children who are fortunate enough to gain possession of it. 'Uncle Silvio's Secret' is uncommonly well kept, and 'Freda's Conquest,' the second of the two serial stories, is charmingly described. Then we have 'Butterfly Ballads,' 'Fanciful Rhymes,' 'Legends of the Birds,' 'Poems of the Month,' 'Untold Tales of the Past,' 'Peeps at Some Out-of-the-way People,' besides quite a budget of short stories. The 'Editor's Pocketbook' is like a conjurer's hat; its hidden treasures seem endless. The illustrations, especially those which depict child-life, are altogether admirable; and there must be something radically wrong with one who does not appreciate such a book.



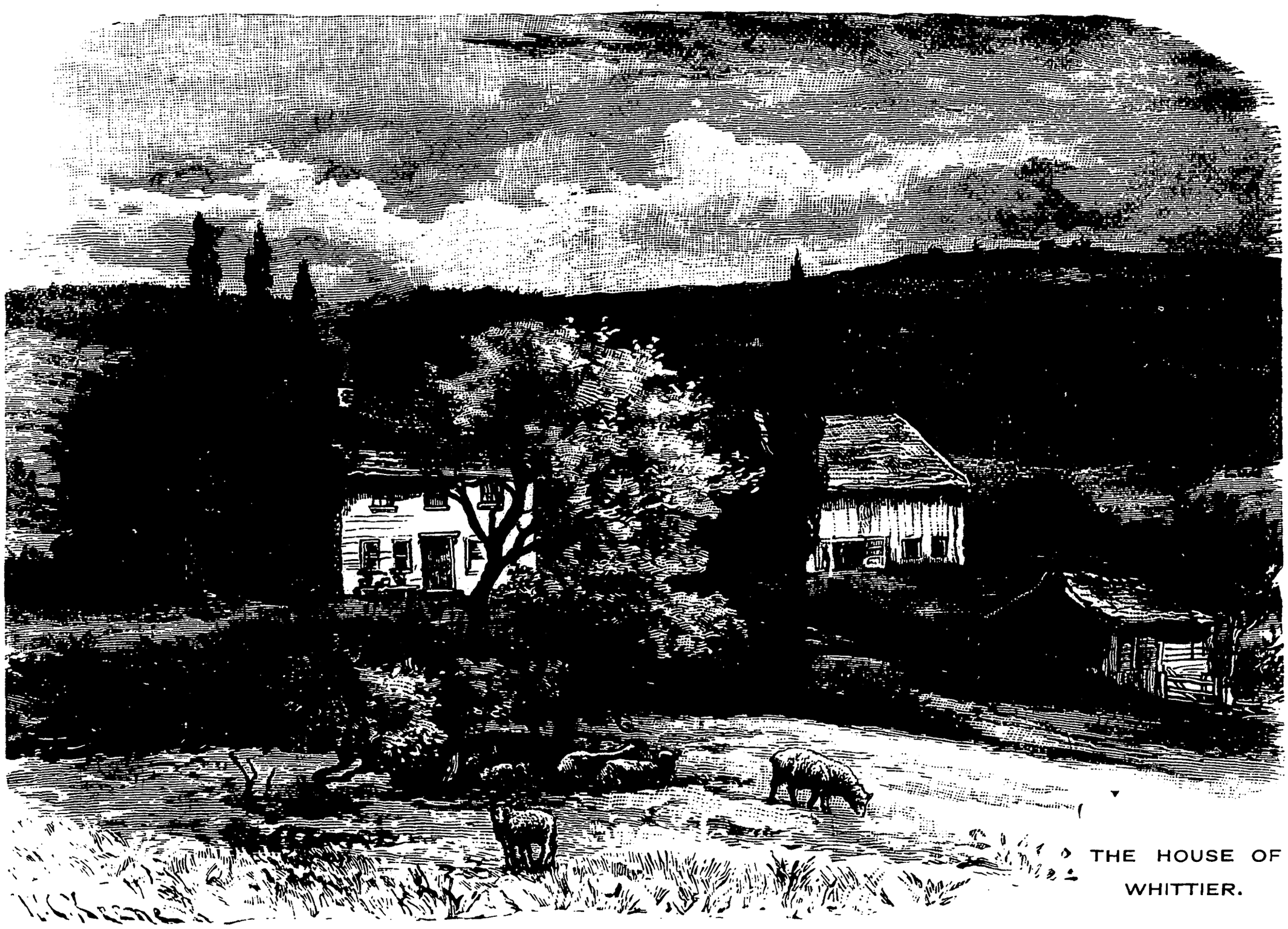
The Woman's World, for 1889, edited by Oscar Wilde. This volume is in every respect a great improvement on its predecessor; there is greater variety and vigour about the literary contents, and the illustrations are far in advance of those which appeared in the previous year. Most of the papers are written with a light and delicate touch, and deal gracefully with subjects which are more or less prominent in the sphere from which this most artistic magazine gains its title.

Cassell's Saturday Journal, October 1888 to September 1889, makes quite a bulky volume of 1,200 pages. It contains upwards of 200 complete short stories besides the five serials by Julian Hawthorne, Frank Barrett, D. G. Adde, Barclay North, and Florence Warden. There are, moreover, a number of Detective Stories, written by Mr. Henderson, Chief Constable of Edinburgh, the outcome of his own experience, as well as a great variety of pleasant and practical papers on all manner of subjects. The illustrations are numerous and spirited.

Two welcome guests in many households all over the world are **The Quiver** and **Cassell's Family Magazine.** The first has long been an established favourite with the whole community, and the characteristics, by which it has won and kept its great and deserved circulation are all apparent in the new volume. At the same time the editor is evidently determined not to rest on his laurels, and several new and attractive features have been added in the course of the year. Short expository papers, wholesome fiction, clever pen-and-ink portraits of celebrities, and vivid and sympathetic sketches in the wide fields of religious activity and social reform are given. Perhaps the most notable story in the book is 'To the Lions,' by Professor Church, written with a complete mastery of the period, and with that rare gift which Dean Stanley used to term 'historical imagination.' *Cassell's Family Magazine* contains as usual papers by the 'Family Doctor,' bright and lively literary and social essays, and pithy, practical papers which touch the interests of everyday life. Frank Barrett contributes a powerful serial, 'Under a Strange Mask,' and 'The Gatherer' has been even more diligent than usual. The illustrations are numerous, graceful, and often fresh and unconventional.

Polly, a New-fashioned Girl, by L. T. Meade. This is a story in which Polly, the principal character, is shown to be a girl with some good qualities, but she is too fond of having her own way. She sustains an unspeakable loss in the death of her mother while she is quite young, and having to manage her father's family she makes many failures, and needs many lessons to bring her to herself. By-and-by her relations with Flower, a very passionate girl, are painful, because of the foolish teasing she gives her. The sequel of Flower running away with Polly's baby-sister, of her falling into the hands of thieves, of the loss of her diamonds, of the severe illness of Dr. Maybright, Polly's father, and of the reforming influence which this has on his daughter's character, is told in a very effective style. The

characters here drawn are true to life. The story will greatly interest and profit every girl who reads it.



THE HOUSE OF WHITTIER.

Cassell's Book of the Household, Vol. I. This is one of the most useful works of reference which has yet been issued by the eminent publishers of La Belle Sauvage. Isolated recipes and scattered odds and ends in domestic economy are discarded; and the book aims at setting forth the main points of what a housekeeper needs to know. As far as possible, each chapter is complete in itself, and the treatment of the whole subject is as systematic as it is sensible and practical. The present volume discusses Family Life, Furniture and Furnishing, Daily Food, Health and Disease, the Position and Duties of Masters, Mistresses, and Servants, the Care of the Wardrobe, and many other similar subjects. The illustrations really serve to elucidate the text.

A very good story for boys is **The Hunters of the Ozark,** of the 'Deerfoot Series,' by Edward S. Ellis. It is a narrative of two boys who fell into the hands of a hostile Indian of the Winnebago tribe, but were rescued by a friendly Indian named Deerfoot. The incidents comprise wanderings through the prairie, the upsetting of a canoe in a turbid stream and a perilous swim for life, the shooting of bisons, the night fire in the cavern, the attack of the 'Indian devil' and his death, and other exciting experiences. Deerfoot is a fine specimen of the truly religious Indian who carries his Bible and is ruled by its precepts. The story will have much fascination for readers who are fond of excitement and romance.

The Camp in the Mountains, of the 'Deerfoot Series,' by Edward S. Ellis, is the continuation of the story referred to above—viz., 'The Hunters of the Ozark.' The style of the tale is, of course, very much like its predecessor, and is equally interesting. The characters are traced through their further adventures in Indian territory, and there is much to invigorate the mind and quicken the imagination in the whole narrative. The character of Deerfoot, the friendly Indian, comes out splendidly here. He shows as much the nobility and greatness of his race and tribe, as Ap-To-To of the Winnebagoes shows treachery and deceit. The great run of Deerfoot will prove highly entertaining to boys, and the whole story is so full of pleasant and instructive incident that we heartily commend it to young readers everywhere.

The Last War Trail, by Edward S. Ellis, several illustrations. This is the third, and we suppose the last volume of the 'Deerfoot Series,' in all three of which Deerfoot is the hero. It is a story of life amongst the American Indians, in the times when the Moravian Mission to them was beginning to tell upon the tribes. Deerfoot is an Indian who had become a Christian, and this volume is to show how he aided his white brethren in an attack made upon their settlement by the Winnebagoes, when deliverance was wrought by his intervention

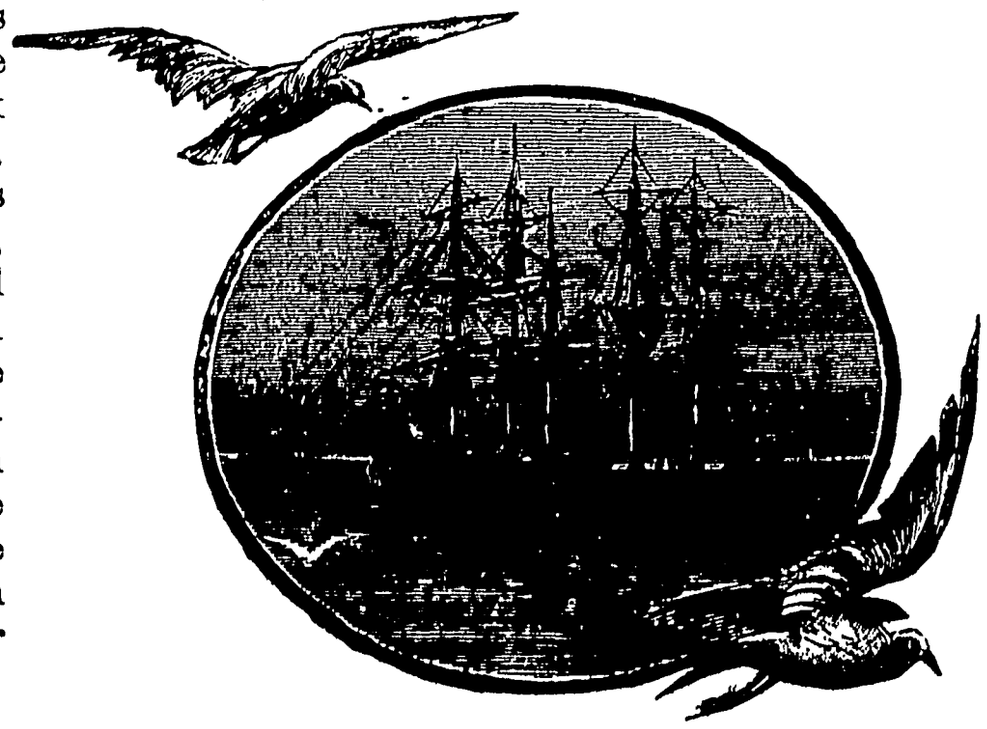
and skill, his wife and child were killed, and he himself died. The monument put over his grave bore the inscription, 'Deerfoot, the friend of the white man.' The character sketch of Deerfoot is very beautiful and touching, as is also that of the missionary Griffiths. This is an extremely readable and interesting book, and is sure to become a favourite with boys.

Printed in bold type, with large pictures on every other page of considerable artistic merit, **Tittle Tattle Tales** and **Wandering Ways** are exactly the sort of books which children between the ages of five and ten are certain to appreciate. There is a genial healthy tone about them both, and nothing in the least degree mawkish or sentimental.

Mr. Hugh Raker, in **Scrambles and Scrapes,** has produced a most lively book for young children. Each brief story is illustrated with a full-page picture, either of an exciting, amusing, or a pathetic nature. It is just the kind of book that children will want to put under their pillows and dream about.

Bo Peep—annual volume for 1889—is called 'a Treasury for the Little Ones,' and a veritable treasury it is, full from beginning to end of interesting and amusing tales. One piece of poetry, called 'Kittens at Play,' is delightful, and the picture of the little soft fluffy balls peeping through the banisters requires to be seen to be appreciated. Any child would long to be 'pitter-pattering' after them. Both from a literary and an artistic point of view this is a most attractive book. Every year this magazine seems to improve, and there is a wonderful freshness as well as beauty about the contents of the present volume.

The Rivers of Great Britain—Descriptive, Historical, Pictorial. This magnificently illustrated quarto volume describes the Dee, the Tay, the Forth, the Tweed, the Tyne, the Wear, the Tees, the Humber, and other less important rivers of the East Coast. The different chapters have, in every case, been written by those who are in a position, from personal knowledge, to speak with authority on the subject allotted to them, and the result is a valuable and comprehensive, as well as most artistic and beautiful book. Nothing, apparently, has been overlooked, and the historical allusions to the part which the rivers of England have played in the growth and vicissitudes of the nation is clearly traced. The illustrations are remarkably good, and the artists have caught, with rare success, the most pleasing and picturesque aspects of the scenery. The frontispiece to the volume is a delicate etching of Bolton Abbey on the Wharfe—the romantic stream which Turner loved.



Messrs. W. & R. Chambers.

Heroes of Romantic Adventure. This extremely interesting volume consists of sketches of the lives of Lord Clive, Captain John Smith, Good Knight Bayard, and Garibaldi. Readers, on laying down the volume, will be inclined to say facts are stranger than fiction. The story of Lord Clive's life may lack some of the brilliancy of Macaulay's essay, but it in no way falls below it in interest. The sketch of Captain John Smith, the founder of the colony of Virginia, with the romantic account of Pocahontas, the daughter of an Indian chief, overflows with marvellous and startling adventures. The story of the 'Good Knight Bayard' carries us back to the 15th century and gives us a glimpse of old world doings in the days of chivalry. Bayard is a 'good knight without fear and without reproach—a greyhound in attack, a wild boar in defence, and a wolf in retreat.' The fourth and last essay is a welcome account of the life of Garibaldi, terse, graphic, interesting, and throbbing with vigour in every line. A capital book of golden deeds.

Malcolm and Doris, by Davino Waterson. A short story for children which will afford profitable reading to many little ones, who may learn from it lessons of unselfishness and thoughtfulness for others.

A Farthingful, by L. T. Meade, the author of 'Scamp and I,' understands children and knows how to describe the hopes and fears they cherish. This little book, one of the cheap series of stories for the young, issued this season by the well-known Edinburgh publishers, gives a touching description of a poor little waif of the city, and what she passed through in its bleak and crowded streets.

Willie Nicholls, or False Shame and True Shame, with frontispiece. This may be called a 'Morality,' in which snobbery and deceit are personified in one character, while courage and industry are monopolised by another, whose career is described in a manner that should interest and benefit the very young readers for whom the tale is designed.

The Golden Lady, by L. T. Meade. A pretty fairy tale in which the fairies Present Delight and Future Joy contend for the possession of little Alethea, a poor, half-starved, but beautiful match-girl.

Poor Miss Carolina, by L. T. Meade. A charming study of child life, written with tenderness, insight, and skill.

Fireside Amusements, a great variety of indoor games are given together with a number of riddles, charades, and conundrums, and conjuring tricks of a sort which is sure to evoke peals of merry laughter from the young folks at home.

Messrs. J. Clarke & Co.

The Rosebud Annual is, as usual, full of pretty pictures of children and animals, some of them so charming that the letterpress is almost needless and yet quite within the comprehension of the ordinary nursery full of youngsters, any of whom would gladly welcome it as their Christmas gift.

Messrs. Collins, Sons, & Co.

Specimens of Messrs. Collins' **Tablet Diary, Handy Diary,** and **Pocket Diary** for the New Year have just reached us. The first is intended to hang on wall or desk, and a page is devoted to every week. The second is a leather-bound pocket volume, $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$, and one page is given to each day. The Pocket Diary likewise gives a page to each day, and is also bound in limp leather; the dimensions are $3\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$. We need not draw attention to the other diaries of this well-known firm, or the writing-pads for 1890: both have long ago won recognition by their utility and elegance. All the diaries, indeed, of Messrs. Collins are models of clear arrangement and useful information.

Messrs. Dean & Son.

Visit to the Farm, Nursery Rhymes, and **Military A.B.C.** These specimens of the 'Gold Medal Series' of Picture Books in showy covers, and containing striking designs executed in gorgeous colouring, show a decided improvement on similar books of former years.

Those were the Days, designed by Tom Kelly. This handsome and artistic volume contains facsimile designs of Mr. Kelly's lead-pencil original drawings. These pictures are cleverly reproduced, and heighten the charm of an unconventional and attractive book. The binding of the volume is novel and effective. The verses by Mrs. Kelly are modest and graceful reminiscences of former years.

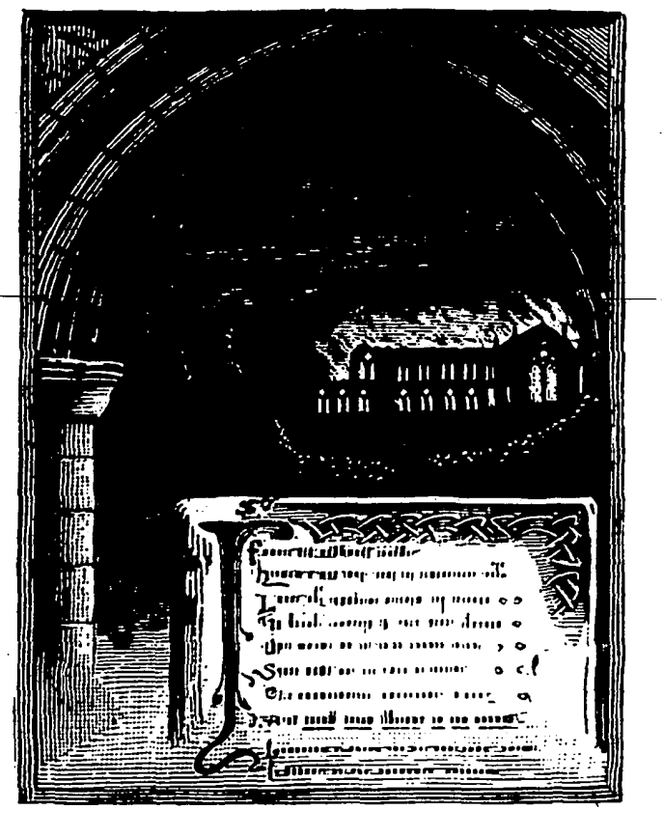
Childhood's Golden Tales. For children this is certainly a splendid book; it contains such well-known stories as 'Mother Goose,' 'The White Cat,' 'Cinderella,' &c., illustrated by

twelve large plates in chromo-lithography. These plates are some of the best we have seen this season. The accompanying block is but an outline reproduction from a very handsome plate.

Dashing Deeds Afloat and Ashore, by Lieutenant-Colonel Knollys, Major W. J. Elliott, and other authors. This is a companion book to 'Gallant Deeds of the Victoria Cross,' containing numerous striking illustrations and very handsomely bound.

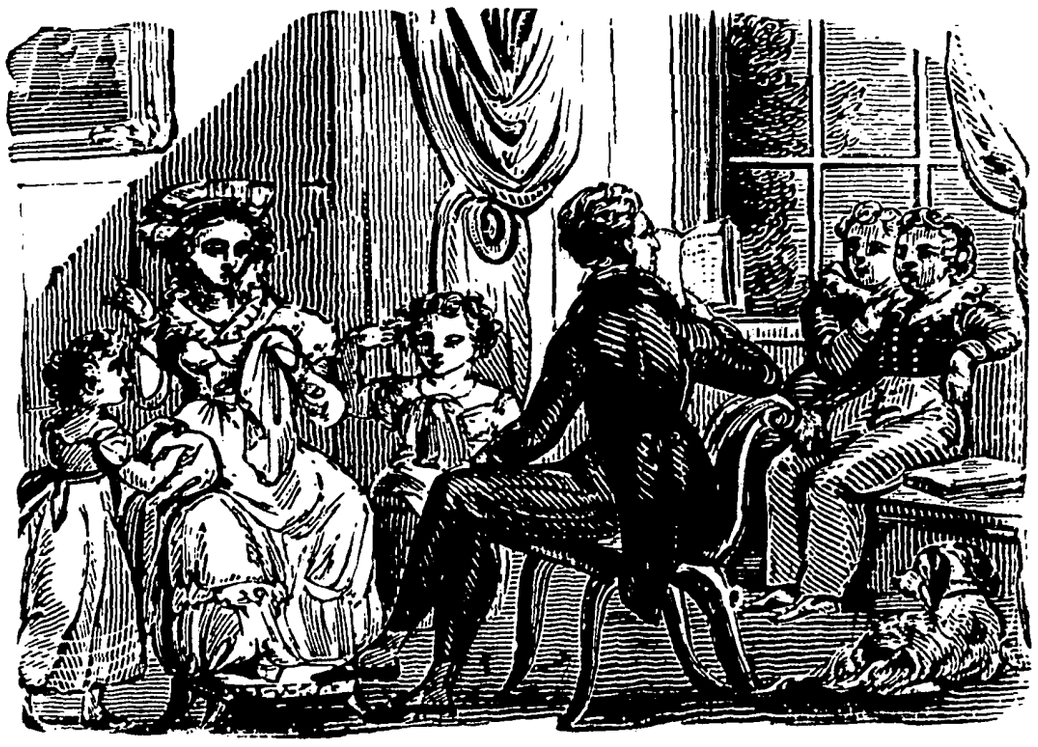
Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode.

Two beautiful artistic gift-books, suitable for the drawing-room table or for presentation, are **The Jackdaw of Rheims** and **Netley Abbey,** both, we need scarcely say, written by the inimitable pen of 'Thomas Ingoldsby,' and both illustrated with abounding humour and great technical skill by Ernest Jessop. If these volumes do not take their place with the most attractive gift-books of the season, we shall be both disappointed and surprised. The accompanying illustrations give but a faint idea of the strength and beauty of Mr. Jessop's full-page designs. It is, of course, impossible for us to reproduce the charm of coloured pictures, which abound in both of these exceptionally handsome volumes.



Messrs. Field & Tuer.

It was decidedly a happy thought on the part of Messrs. Field & Tuer to print a facsimile of the first book issued by the Religious Tract Society, **The Christmas Box, or New Year's Gift,** which appeared originally in 1825. The Rev. Dr. Green has written an interesting introduction to this quaint reprint, in the course of which he traces the wonderful strides in popular art and literature which have been made during the last sixty or seventy years. The little book contains some Christmas carols, and a number of other simple verses. The illustrations are often very rough, but many of them possess more realistic vigour than is often the case with the more ambitious books of the day.



The Age of Marie Antoinette, by Charles Newton Scott. This is an attempt to depict the last phase of the *ancien régime*—a period which had amongst its foremost representatives such men as Prudhomme, Goethe, Gainsborough, Mozart, Burns, Burke, Mirabeau, to mention at haphazard only a few great names. A suggestive glimpse, enriched by scholarly notes, of a critical phase in the history of Europe.

The Bairns' Annual, edited by Alice Corkran, is filled with old-fashioned fairy tales, and adorned with a number of original woodcuts, like those which used to charm the children of last century. We have borrowed one of them for the article on 'Christmas Books a Century Ago.' There is a coloured frontispiece in this dainty volume of Old Mother Hubbard and her gifted dog.

Mr. Henry Frowde.

The 'Finger' Prayer Book is a tiny volume which weighs, in limp binding, about three quarters of an ounce, yet it contains no less than 670 pages, and the type, though small, is clear and perfectly readable. The book is only an inch in breadth and 3½ inches long, but it contains the whole of the English Prayer Book in a form which enables it to be carried with ease in a purse or a waistcoat pocket. Another edition has also been published, without the Calendar and the Occasional Services, and by this means the thickness—if such a word is at all applicable to these slender and graceful volumes—has been reduced by one-third, whilst the weight is little more than half an ounce. At the Paris Exhibition, the Oxford University Press obtained the only grand prize as well as two out of the five gold medals that were awarded to British printers and publishers. These exquisite miniature prayer books are printed on the well-known Oxford India paper and are bound in limp Turkey morocco, in velvet, and in russia leather. Some of the volumes are finished with circuit edges, and others with round corners or overlapping levant. There is also an elegant edition in velvet with registered design for the chatelaine. Few more acceptable presents than these beautiful prayer books have appeared this season.

Messrs. Gall & Inglis.

The Hartley Brothers, by A. L. O. E., is an interesting story of two young men, brothers, who resolved to go to India as missionaries. During the voyage out the ship was swept by contrary currents near the Arabian shore in the Red Sea, and to pass the time some of the English passengers, among whom were the two brothers, went ashore to know a little of Arabia. They were suddenly attacked by a horde of Bedouin Arabs and captured. A Persian, Amir Ali, comes upon the scene and greatly helps in rescuing the party. The influence of the brothers over this man leads him to see the beauty of Christianity. Harold Hartley, the elder brother, is a noble character, and Robin, while impulsive, has much real worth. The story shows the strength of character of men who have really grasped and adopted Christian principles. The authoress sends forth the book, 'as a child of her old age,' to help missions in India.

Ernest Bracebridge, by W. H. G. Kingston, with illustrations. A new edition of one of Mr. Kingston's capital books for schoolboys. It is the story of the school experiences of one Ernest Bracebridge, who goes to a high-class boarding-school where some seventy lads are educated under a good master. Ernest is a fine type of schoolboy; with moral courage and manly honour, he wins his way in the school to a deserved success. The best passages in the tale are the splendid description of games in which the whole nature of every British schoolboy takes so keen a delight. We have presented a year's round of play, with brilliant accounts of a hare hunt, base-ball, hockey, cricket, football, and all healthy exercises of a play-ground.

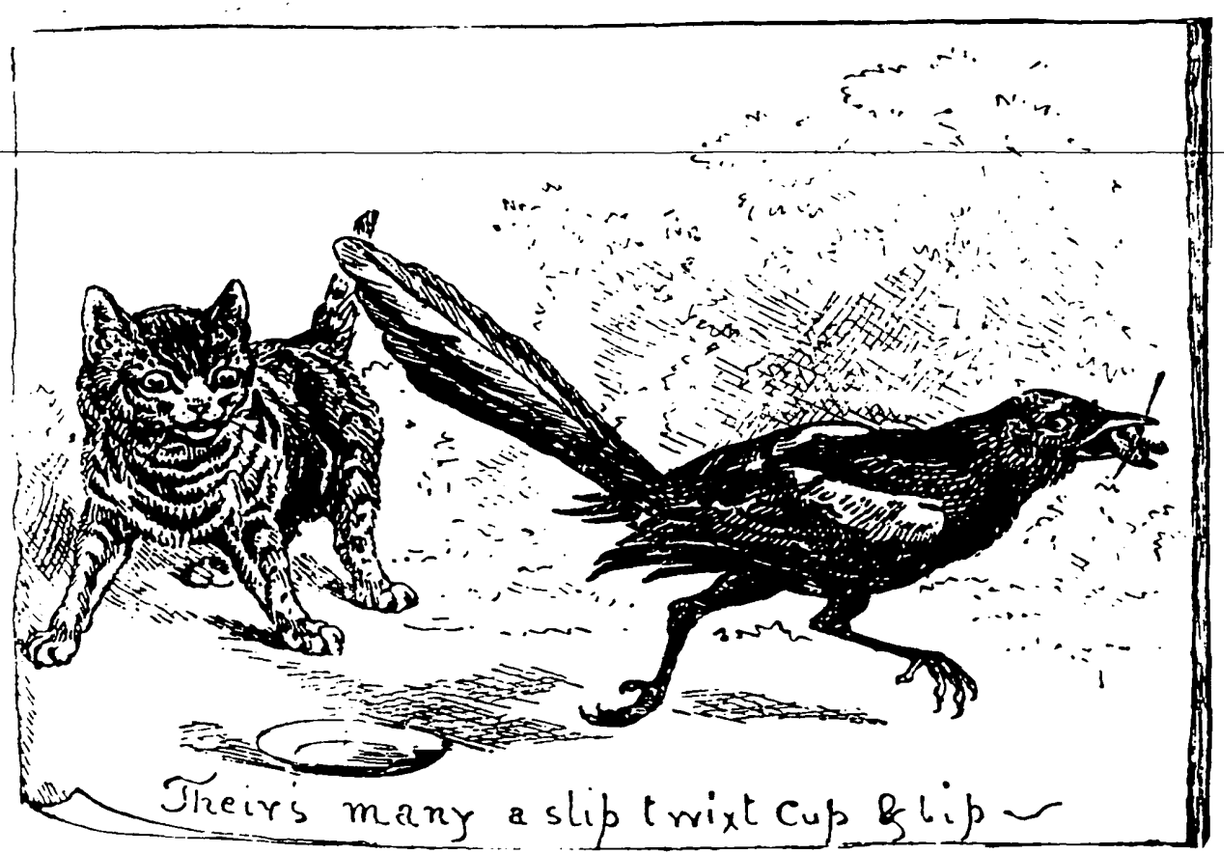
Messrs. Wells Gardner, Darton & Co.

One of the best stories of the season is **A Flock of Four,** by Ismay Thorn. 'Geoff' is the hero of it. He is the young son of an officer, and has a brother Jim, and two younger sisters. Captain Harrington, whose wife is dead, is called away to India, and this flock of four is left in charge of Uncle Jasper, who at length becomes the husband of Miss Roberta, called 'Bobbie,' daughter of Sir Robert Charlton. Uncle Jasper and Bobbie are fine characters. After a while the father returns from India, having been wounded in the Afghan war, and takes charge again of his flock of four. The story is brightened up with childish fun and adventure, and is not lacking in pathetic interest. Its pleasant by-play at times reminds one of passages in 'Helen's Babies.' It is a book in which boys will delight, the atmosphere of it being bright, crisp, and healthy; and while boys will read it with pleasure, their seniors will not care to be disturbed while they run through its pages. Ismay Thorn has certainly achieved a success by 'A Flock of Four.'

"Geoff perfectly happy."

Japanese Jingles, written and illustrated by Kathleen Lucas. The pictures in this elegant oblong volume are drawn with grace and humour, and the scenes depicted are quaint and mirth-provoking. The 'jingles' are good examples of nonsense verses, and the pretty book is droll and unconventional enough to charm the old as well as the young.

Decidedly one of the most charming books of the season, for children, is the annual entitled **Sunday Reading for the Young,** with upwards of two hundred and fifty original illustrations, by G. Montbard, A. Forestier, &c. It is impossible, in our limited space, to give any idea of the multitudinous variety of its contents. Over and above the short bits in which children delight, there are several continuous stories, one a version of the 'Pilgrim's Progress' for children, entitled 'Christiana,' and another by Ismay Thorn, entitled 'Geoff and Jim.' This latter is a continuation of the story 'A Flock of Four,' of which we give a notice in our present issue. The volume is beautifully bound, and will command, as it deserves, a hearty welcome from our young folk. The illustrations are excellent.



The Prize for 1889 is, as usual, worthy of its name, and is certainly a marvel of cheapness, enriched as it is with numerous coloured plates, in addition to other illustrations.

Benedicite, and other Poems, by Richard Wilton, M.A., Rector of Londesborough, and Chaplain to the Earl of Londesborough. 'Benedicite' is a poetic rendering of the Psalm which goes under that name. The 'other Poems' consist of a number of sweet and pretty sonnets, ballades, rondeaux, rondels, and hymns. There are also translations from Crashaw, George Herbert, Spenser, and others. The book is beautiful and neat in get-up, its tone is devout and religious; and it is dedicated to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Right Side Up, by Janie Brockman. A chatty, droll story of absorbing interest to juvenile readers. Dolls, dogs, cats, and good-natured children are the principal characters; but the leading spirit is golden-haired, blue-eyed Lilian, who wins the affections of everybody, and who is a veritable heroine in socks and pinafore. Lil meets with many adventures, the most serious of which is a narrow escape from drowning when attempting to rescue her doll's pink bonnet from a treacherous pool. Choice pictures brighten the pages, and lessons of kindness, thoughtfulness, and love render the book of solid worth.

Chatterbox Volume for 1889. Bright without and bright within fairly describes this deservedly-popular annual. The pictures, coloured and uncoloured, are plentiful and striking, and the articles are brief, entertaining, and instructive.

Quite Unexpected, by Ismay Thorn, is a touching story for children. An officer in India sends his wife and four children home to England to his sister and two brothers, who live together. The wife dies, but before leaving Bombay the children proceed, and reach the English home, 'quite unexpected.' The boys, Jim and Geoff, have great animal spirits, and get into all kinds of mischief. One of the uncles is patient and gentle, the other is kind but crusty. The story of Geoff running away to join a circus company, of the bitter hardships and brutal flogging he undergoes, of his escape from his persecutor and wonderful meeting with his own father, and of his happy restoration to his home and to forgiveness, is told in a style which will greatly interest children, and will be a warning to boys who are well off but discontented.

Messrs. Gilbert & Rivington, Limited.

Night and Morning is the title which Mr. John W. Mollett, B.A., has given to a choice selection of short extracts from the poetry of various ages and nations on the majesty of the midnight sky and the beauty of the dawn. The book reveals a remarkably wide range of reading, and many of the quotations which it contains from poets who are scarcely known at all in this country, except, perhaps, to a few scholars, are striking and suggestive. The little volume is elegantly bound.

Messrs. Griffith, Farran, Okeden & Welsh.

Messrs. Griffith, Farran, Okeden & Welsh have issued a really attractive story in **Annabel,** by Mrs. W. S. Burton. Annabel, the orphan child of an English officer, is at an orphan asylum for the daughters of professional men, when she is summoned to go and live with a great-uncle who is known to be wealthy. All sorts of dreams of joy rise before the girl's mind; but when she reaches her destination she finds her uncle hunchback in body, and very peculiar in temper. He has considerable means, but this he lavishes with prodigality upon a nephew, who has little respect for him. The reason for all this devotion is a conviction that he (the uncle) suffered from the sins of some previous generation, and he would make his nephew enjoy what he could not possibly do. Poor Annabel has difficult times. Frederick Ryle, her uncle, is a wicked, passionate man, and nearly kills her in one of his fits of rage. But eventually the story shows with much skill and attractiveness how the old man changed and left all his money to Annabel. The interest of the tale is sustained to the last word. The evil of passion is faithfully taught, while from Annabel and Colonel and Mrs. Parry many a bright and useful lesson will be learnt.

One of the prettiest books of the season is **Granny's Story-Book,** a collection of unique stories, cleverly and freely illustrated. The publishers have evidently spared nothing in its reproduction. There are full-page plates in colour, to delight the eyes of the youngsters, in addition to the quaint little pictures scattered through the text, some of which are gems in their way.

Few better tales have been published this season than **For Auld Lang Syne,** a Nineteenth Century Story, by Alice Weber, illustrated by E. M. Taylor. The plot is good, and wrought out with skill and care through all its intricacies, up to the marriage of the hero and heroine, Will Molloy and Molly Talbot. A large variety of characters is put upon the stage, all of which are depicted with graphic power, and handled with great wisdom. Our space does not permit us to further indicate them. We have read this really good story with genuine pleasure; and we feel sure that when its worth is known it will secure a large circulation.

Peter Piper is a series of alliterative rhymes on the principle of the familiar 'Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pepper.' Each letter of the alphabet has its appropriate verse, accompanied by a humorous woodcut—the whole being 'Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation.' Peter Piper writes an original preface.

Ruby's Choice, or The Brackenhurst Girls, by Mary E. Gellie, is a brightly-written, well-illustrated tale, in which the simplest incidents and scenes of everyday life are invested with beauty. Here and there the reader will find some pretty descriptions of natural scenery, and the plot gives the story the element of continuous interest.

Our Sunday Book of Reading and Pictures, edited and arranged by Thomas Archer. This is a beautiful book of selections in prose and verse from the best writers, suitable for Sunday reading of boys and girls in their teens. Indeed, older people will find much in its pages that is stimulating and attractive. There are a number of illustrations of varying merit.

The Children's Daily Remembrancer is a choice little book with texts and verses for every day throughout the year. Here and there the poetry seems a little beyond the compre-

hension of a child, but for the most part it is sweet, simple, and full of tender religious feeling. The binding is neat, and the design on the cover, a fern in autumn, strikes us as exceptionally graceful.

Amongst the most beautiful books issued this Christmas from Newbery House are **Some other People,** by Alice Weber, a delightful study of child-life, illustrated with great skill and beauty; **Sing me a Song,** words by Edward Oxenford, and music by H. Scott Gatty, a pretty volume with a number of exquisite full-page coloured plates and many illustrations in black and white; a companion volume to the book just mentioned is **Holy Gladness,** illustrated with eight delicately-coloured full-page plates, and thirty-two illustrations in black and white. In their way these volumes are as attractive as any we have seen this season. Another book which will delight the little ones is 'The Baby's Museum,' a choice collection of nursery ballads and rhymes, illustrated with comic coloured pictures.

Adventures amongst the Zulus, and hunting experiences in Natal and Zululand, form the contents of **The Diamond Hunters of South Africa,** by Major-General A. W. Drayson. The heroes when on a hunting excursion are captured by a native tribe, and narrowly escape with their lives. A valuable mine is afterwards discovered which yields a large amount of treasure. Many hazardous encounters with wild beasts are recorded, and other perils of various kinds complete the story. The volume is embellished with numerous skilfully executed illustrations.

Two admirable specimens of the Newbery Toy-books are **The Book of Bow-Wows** and **The Book of Playmates.** The first is by Mr. Archer, the author of 'The Book of Pussy Cats,' and contains a number of pleasing anecdotes about dogs big and little, and all, we are glad to notice, of a kind likely to teach children kindness to animals. The volume has a coloured frontispiece and pictures on every page of 'bow-wows' of one sort or another. The companion volume is adorned with a coloured plate representing a group of 'Playmates' figuring as soldiers, and it too is full of capital pictures of child-life illustrative of a graceful story of two little girls by Miss M. E. Gellie. Amongst other books of the same series we must mention 'The Book of Christmas and Winter,' 'The Book of Dicky Birds,' and 'The Book of Dollies,' pretty books published at a cheap price. Volumes of the 'Old Corner Series'—another set of cheap nursery books—which we specially like are 'Cinderella,' 'The Fairy Tale Alphabet,' 'Apple Pie,' and 'Puss-in-Boots.'

The Book of Bosh. This is a really clever and most amusing volume for the nursery, and

children also of a larger growth. The coloured pictures are, for the most part, both unconventional and full of humour, whilst the rhymes which accompany them are vigorous and spirited, and convey in most instances a sound moral. The picture entitled 'The Dentist's Chair,' with an unfortunate youth strapped into it, ineffectually striving to defend himself from the determined onslaught of an old gentleman with forceps, who evidently means business, is uncommonly funny. So is the aspect of the sufferer's comrade in affliction, who is on all-four under the table, watching with ill-disguised apprehension the progress of a campaign in which he evidently yet expects to take part.

The Opal Mountain, a Tale of Adventure, by Henry Frith, illustrated by J. Schonberg. This is a story somewhat after the style of Mr. Rider Haggard. A party, consisting of two brothers, with their sons and two 'hands,' having failed while out west, make tracks northwards, when they reach a deserted oil town, to which they lay claim. In this place they find an old man at the point of death. Before he dies, however, he reveals the secret of treasures which are concealed in a mountain in the Arctic regions. Just then a party of American ruffians appear, and dispute the right to the treasure of which they had heard. Throughout the voyage north these men constantly attempt to kill those who hold the directions for finding the spot. After many adventures, the place is reached, and the jewels found. An earthquake kills the desperadoes just as they are decamping with the spoil, so that the rightful owners are left in sole possession. Readers will learn from this outline what an interesting story awaits their perusal.

Great praise is due both to the author and artist of a beautiful story entitled, **The Child of the Caravan,** or The Boy Musician, by E. M. Green. Little 'Curley,' an 'Infant Prodigy,' without home or family, but the 'star' of a travelling musical company, was possessed of a spiritual nature that all the cuffs and blows of his master failed to eradicate, and that presented too fine and delicate a texture for a long encounter with the harsh and hostile elements of the world. Roscoe, the tenor singer in the company, a prodigal who had left his home for many years, learns to love Curley with all his heart. His great love prompts him to grant the lad's dying request, to amend his ways, and return to his sorrowing parents. The story is pathetic, and it is powerfully told, whilst the exquisite drawings of Miss Edith Scannell add greatly to the charm of the book.

Two Highland laddies and a London youth are theleading characters in **Three Boys,** by G. Manville Fenn. The scenes and incidents all take place in Scotland, and the daring deeds of Kenneth, the warm devotion of his gillie Scoodrach, and the diffidence of the Londoner to relish or join in the hare-brained pursuits of his companions, are related with the vigour and freshness which have already won for the author's previous books the warm appreciation of boys. Humorous passages and Scotch drolleries abound, and reach their climax in the defence of the laird's castle against the bailiffs, when pails of water and potatoes are used to repel the assailants, in the place of shot and shell.

Rose Mervyn, by Anne Beale, is a well-constructed story, fitted to sustain the interest of the reader from the first page to the last. It is a tale of the Rebecca riots, but it is in the main a study of the domestic affections. In several of the chapters the writing is powerful, notably in the one on delirium, which is extremely well described. The incidents of the book are varied, the dialogue is clever, and the tone of the work is all that could be desired.

The Captain of Cadets, by Henry Frith, is a thorough-going story of the sea, and of the navy, which will greatly delight the young people. The adventures in remote corners of the earth are described in a spirited way, particularly the encounter with a band of monkeys.

Her Own Way, or Kitty's Promise, by Frances Armstrong. This is a story for schoolgirls, written in a didactic vein. Kitty Bertram, having been spoiled by her relations, naturally turns out wilful and disagreeable. Her character is vastly improved by her school-training, and at length she learns the secret of a happy life, and endeavours to shape her conduct accordingly.

The Two Brothers, a fairy tale by Mrs. Hall. Man-eating giants who live in wayside caverns for the benefit of passing travellers, witches whose special delight is in transforming human beings into all sorts of creatures and things, good fairies, bad fairies, elves, and sprites, all have formed the theme of endless stories for children, and doubtless will for generations to come. The little tale before us is no exception to the general rule, while it is written in such simplicity of style and language that the child must be dull who can fail to follow it with interest. The moral lies, of course, in the conduct and fate of the two brothers whose adventures form the subject of the story, for while the elder is brought to an untimely end by his transgressions, the virtues of the younger bring him wealth and prosperity.

Le Dragon Rouge is a brief story, by Francis Vacher, powerfully working out an ingeniously constructed love plot. The tale is unconventional, and is marked not only by a chaste style, but also by philosophic musing and earnest thought.

Messrs. Hatchards.

Atalanta, for 1889. This high-class and most attractive magazine continues to keep

steadily in view the special requirements of the class of readers for whom it is intended. The-

new volume reflects the utmost credit on all concerned in its production. Amongst those who have contributed recently to its pages are Mrs. Molesworth, Miss Thackeray, Miss Jean Ingelow, Mrs. Macquoid, Miss Sarah Tytler, Professor Dowden, Dr. Garnett, Professor Church, Mr. W. E. Norris, Mr. H. D. Traill, and other authors of established reputation. The illustrations—both full-page and those which are interwoven with the text—reach a high degree of artistic merit, and it would be difficult to name a more acceptable present for a cultured girl than the daintily-bound annual volume of 'Atalanta.'

Messrs. Hildesheimer & Faulkner.

Conspicuous good taste and rare artistic excellence are combined in the new designs upon the **Christmas Cards** of Messrs. Hildesheimer and Faulkner. Some of the landscapes, and glimpses of life along the coast are worthy of a frame, for they are real works of art charged with poetry and noble and tender sentiment. Miss Bertha Maguire, Mr. Ernest Wilson, and Mr. Noakes, and Mr. Charles Robertson contribute some very effective designs of this sort, marked by artistic insight and unusual finish. The comic designs this year are exceptionally good, and this remark applies in particular to the extremely vigorous satirical pictures of political celebrities. Lord Randolph Churchill, sitting on the crescent moon, playing the guitar, is irresistibly droll, and so is the picture of Mr. Chamberlain, with the inevitable orchid, standing on the round globe itself, paying compliments to the sun, much to the amusement of that luminary. Cats, dogs, and monkeys figure largely in many of the new designs, and great humour and ingenuity have been displayed by the artists in the production of these droll and entertaining cards, for which Mr. Bryan, Mr. Weatherley, and others are responsible.

Another pretty booklet for the nursery is **Cradle Songs,** illustrated in monochrome by J. Clark and Mr. Bousfield. 'In the Harbour,' a breezy and vigorous poem by Mr. G. R. Sims, full of deep human feeling and simple pathos, is most appropriately illustrated in monochrome by Mr. W. Langley, who in these pictures of the fishing-folk has contrived to convey very cleverly both the lights and shadows of the sea. Mrs. Hemans' poem, 'Christ Stilling the Tempest,' is also illustrated in the same manner by Miss Alice Reeve, who has thrown into its interpretation the insight of a true artist.

Messrs. Hirschfeld Brothers.

Voices of the Wind, by Rosa Annesley. This is a volume of graceful, imaginative stories and allegories, marked by considerable literary deftness of touch as well as insight into the chequered moods of Nature. The book is dedicated by permission to Sir Edwin Arnold. Many of the illustrations are delicate transcripts from nature, whilst a few like the accompanying woodcut are of a humorous turn. The book is attractively printed and bound.

Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton.

Roger Willoughby, a Story of the Times of Benbow, by W. H. G. Kingston, with six illustrations. The preface to Mr. W. H. G. Kingston's story is very pathetic. He informs the lads, with whom he is such a favourite, that on the best medical authority he has not long to live, and that this is probably the last book he will ever write. This gives a sad interest to 'Roger Willoughby.' The tale deals with the times of Charles II., and is a bright, breezy record of the doings of two West of England boys. The various sketches of sea-life are graphic, specially where any adventure of pirates or description of sea-battles is involved. Few have ever written for the boys of England with greater attractiveness than Mr. Kingston, and, ill though he must have been whilst writing 'Roger Willoughby,' it cannot fail to widen his high and merited reputation. Benbow, one of the leading characters, was a typical British sailor, and to all readers who admire bravery afloat or ashore the book will prove very attractive.

A Snow Flower, by Hester Day, presents a good deal of solid truth and many practical lessons in a pleasing form that elder girls will read with profit and enjoyment. The characters are fairly well sketched, and the theme which the authoress endeavours to illustrate and set forth is comprised in the words, 'without fiery trials there are no white souls, as without frost there are no snow flowers.'

John G. Paton, Missionary to the New Hebrides, Part II., edited by his brother. It was in the early spring that the first instalment of Mr. Paton's autobiography appeared, and it quickly passed into several editions. It is not too much to say that it is the most thrilling and fascinating chapter in missionary history which has appeared during the last quarter of a century. Mr. Paton is a man of simple but heroic character, and he tells the record of his life's labours with a modest impressiveness and realistic vigour which lifts the book into the front rank of missionary classics. This volume is quite as interesting as its predecessor, and the adventures which it contains are of a character which it would be difficult to surpass, even in the realm of fiction. The charm of the book, however, lies in its reverent faith in God and enthusiastic love of man. Those who are inclined to give an affirmative answer to the question, 'Are missions a failure?' ought not to pass judgment before they have read this really wonderful and unique book.

Miss Meredith, by Amy Levy. This brief story was, we believe, almost the last production of Miss Levy's graceful and graphic pen. It is a thoroughly natural description of certain phases of modern society, and the reader's interest in the fortunes of the heroine is never allowed to flag. The passage at arms between Miss Meredith and the Marchesa Brogi, just before the exciting climax of the book is reached, is extremely well told.

Dorothy Belle, or This Side and That, by Mrs. G. S. Reaney. Dorothy Belle is a young person who is indiscreet enough to fall in love before she is twenty-one; she is one of the cheery sort, who 'would rather sing a gospel out to others than sob it.' In due course of time she marries Gerald Cunningham, and loses her health. The husband goes away for a voyage, and the wife remains behind; both, in this time of absence, begin to take stimulants. Then gradually, by the unconscious neglect of her husband, Dorothy, under the advice of her doctor, lets the evil influence of strong drink gain the mastery. Her husband returns one night to find her drunk; a bitter repentance follows, and all is made right; husband and wife are united as they never were before, and a happy home is safely kept free from alcohol.

Mr. J. Hogg.

Children will be highly pleased with **Dolly's Adventures**, by Yvonne. The 'adventures' take place both in London and the country, and to some extent are amusing and exciting. The style is quiet and natural, and the book as a whole reflects considerable credit on the author.

A hearty welcome will be given in many a home to the Rev. Philip Barnes' book, **Struggles for National History.** The idea of the book is praiseworthy—viz. to bring before all who are endeavouring to trace the working-out of freedom in history, a gallery of thirteen portraits, each representing a typical hero in this warfare. The subjects are judiciously selected from many nationalities, as, for instance, Wallace of Scotland, Sir Harry Vane of England, Admiral Coligny of France, Rhigas of Modern Greece, Toussaint L'Ouverture the negro patriot, and Abraham Lincoln of the United States. Parents and teachers who desire to bring up the boys of to-day on noble lines will put this book into their hands; and all lovers of true freedom will enjoy its perusal. The book has a copious and useful index.

We Four Children, by M. A. Hoyer, is a bright, happy book for young children. It tells of a family of eight children, and how they spent a holiday. The four elder children went to a Choral Society, and the four juniors were left pretty much to their own resources. They resolved to form a kind of juvenile literary society, in which each of them should have something to do. The plan answered admirably. What with tales, lectures, drawings, &c., the evenings passed very cheerily. The tale is novel, striking, and entertaining, and will serve to make many a winter holiday evening pass pleasantly among the little folk.

Romance of the Forests, by Ascott R. Hope. Both young people and their seniors will derive enjoyment as well as instruction from the series of stories comprised in this book. Most of the chapters are founded on historical facts or legendary lore, and include the romance of 'Robin Hood,' legends of German forests and of the backwoods of America. Twelve graphic illustrations add to the interest of the volume.

A story which the younger children will like is **Noël and Geoff,** by Frances Armstrong, and it has the advantage of belonging in a special sense to the literature of the season for it is concerned with three Christmas Days and the adventures of a boy and girl upon them.

Exiled, or When Great Grandmother was Young, by Catherine Mary MacSorley. In the time of Louis XVI. a nobleman and his grand-daughter, exiled from their country, take refuge in an English country town and give lessons in French as a means of earning a livelihood. The stately manners and general disposition of the young lady prevent her from becoming popular. A little incident, however, in which Jacqueline rescues and restores the stray dog of one of her old pupils, leads to the formation of amicable relations between herself and the young people. The story is pleasantly told and thoroughly readable.

The Ups and Downs of a Sixpence, by M. Seymour, will be greatly welcomed for the coming festive season by our boys and girls. The strange career of the sixpence is worked out with skill, and the volume is remarkable for its ingenuity. The adventures of the coin are cleverly described. The volume is illustrated.

Ada Norman's Trials and Difficulties, a Story for Girls, by M. Seymour, illustrated by O. L. Thomas. This story for girls is a remarkably good one. It is not without romantic incidents, but its chief aim is to set forth the struggles of a girl—with commonplace abilities and few advantages—to lead a helpful and useful life. In her efforts she frequently fails, but by perseverance she ultimately attains deserved success. We have rarely met with a more healthy and useful book than this to place in the hands of girls. It will be of especial service to those who think they have small abilities, and who are inclined to imagine that they will never succeed in doing anything useful or worthy. This story of Ada Norman will encourage girls to persevere in the attempt to do greater things than they ever dreamt was possible for them to attain to in their own sphere of life. We wish for this book as large a circulation as it deserves to have, and therefore give it our hearty commendation.

Songs and Poems for Children, edited by Carrie Davenport. This is not a book of mere nursery rhymes, but a choice sheaf of verses suitable for young folks who are outgrowing their passion for dolls and rocking-horses. The selection is a very representative one, and many copyright poems have been included, by permission of some well-known authors and publishers. Boys and girls who are fond of reciting poetry will find in this volume quite a storehouse of 'pieces' suitable for that purpose.

Messrs. Houlston & Sons.

The Sleepers Awakened, or the Artist's Little Model, by Alfred E. Knight. This is a religious story for children, describing the pathetic life and death of little Davey, a lad whom a rising artist befriended. There is rather too much theology in the book for the capacities of young people.

'Home Words' Office.

Two Conceited Puppies, their Painful Experiences and Virtuous Resolutions, by the Rev. Frederick Langbridge, M.A. The surprising adventures of two daring puppies are here related in a very amusing way for the edification of young people. The book is cleverly illustrated.

The Day of Days Annual, conducted by the Rev. Charles Bullock, D.D. This unpretending but bright and suggestive magazine for Sunday reading retains all its old freshness

and vigour. It is full of pictures, and amongst the contributors to its literary columns are the Bishop Derry, the Bishop of Exeter, Canon Fleming, Prebendary Calthrop, Rev. Alexander Maclaren, D.D., Rev. T. S. Millington, Mrs. Marshall, Miss Agnes Giberne, and other well-known writers. We have also received the annual volume of **Hand and Heart,** which is under the same literary control. The only way to put down pernicious literature, according to the Archbishop of York, is to provide something better, and that is precisely what this earnest, attractive, and well-illustrated monthly journal seeks to do.

The Fireside Pictorial Annual, 1889. Conducted by the Rev. Charles Bullock, B.D., Editor of *Home Words* and *the Day of Days.* Science, art, history, literature, the home are all well represented in this pleasant and vigorous magazine. We like the genial, practical, sympathetic tone of the *Fireside.* The illustrations are numerous and good.

Home Words for 1889. The new volume of this unpretending but genial serial contains some valuable papers on 'England's Church,' Stories by W. H. Davenport Adams and Agnes Giberne, and many pithy articles descriptive of travel, temperance work, and various other forms of philanthropy. The Rev. Charles Bullock, the editor, contrives to throw a cheery, manly, wholesome tone into a magazine which deserves to be more widely known.

Messrs. Hurst & Blackett.

George Vyvian, by E. Katherine Bates, two vols. This is a novel of very unqeual merit; indeed, the divergencies are so conspicuous that we are almost warranted in assuming that two writers have been engaged on the work. The opening of the story is full of promise, and throughout the first volume a vigorous and truthful portrayal of character, combined with powerful realistic descriptions, sustains the reader's unbroken attention. The story commences during the time of the Bread Riots, in the early part of the century, and introduces George Vyvian as a young man of wealth, the only son of a Devonshire squire, enjoying a fashionable life in London. He comes into contact with an earnest unconventional preacher, who half persuades him to aim at a higher standard of conduct than that in vogue amongst the courtly throng. But deficiency of mental and moral stamina and the tenacious hold of long-standing habits appear to render, in Vyvian's eyes, any reformation impossible. He is deeply in love with a nameless and penniless girl on his father's estate; but, when contemplating marriage, he loses a fortune on the St. Leger. An heiress comes to the rescue, pays Vyvian's debts of honour and is led by him to the altar. Disaster and treachery follow with regard to his relations with the Devonshire girl; and the volume closes with a powerful *dénoûment.* The thread of connection between the first and second volume is slight in the extreme. Certain descendants of Vyvian, whose lives are prosaic and colourless, are the leading characters in the second volume. The chief purpose, however, of the writer is the presentation of distinctive aspects of spiritualism. The planet Arēs is described as one of the abodes of the departed, containing, apparently, all that is most beautiful on the 'earth-plane,' whilst George Vyvian's child holds intercourse with her mother and is sent forth on a mission to earth. Other marvellous transactions are described, which will doubtless gratify believers in spiritualism and instruct the uninitiated.

Messrs. Hutchinson & Co.

Mr. W. H. Davenport Adams, in his new book **The Maid of Orleans,** has re-told with force and picturesque effect the marvellous history of the maiden warrior who was almost the first in France to preach the gospel of unselfish patriotism, and by whose martyrdom a new national spirit was created. Mr. Adams gives a long list of authorities, and has produced a reliable historical work which has all the charm of romance. The book contains nine excellent illustrations.

Two attractive gift-books are **Fifty-two Stories for Boys,** and **Fifty-two Stories for Girls.** They both contain upwards of 450 pages written by some of the best story-writers of the day. The character of these volumes will be seen at a glance when we mention that amongst the contributors are W. H. G. Kingston, R. M. Ballantyne, G. Manville Fenn, Gordon Stables, Rosa Mulholland, Sarah Doudney, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Alice Corkran. Sketches of home and school life, tales of heroism, battle, and adventure, abound in these handsome illustrated books. A welcome addition to healthy and entertaining literature for the young.

Messrs. Jarrold & Sons.

Elias Trust's Boys, by Margaret Surrey, teaches the lessons of kindness, filial reverence, and thrift. Two lads, Caleb and Joshua, dwelling on the shore of the west country, determine to relieve their widowed mother from the pinch of poverty, and by their perseverance, steadiness, and well-doing, they at length save sufficient money to buy a fishing-boat, which they present to her, much to the surprise and joy of the struggling woman. 'Mony a mickle mak's a muckle' is the proverb illustrated by the story.

The Wild Ruthvens, by Curtis Yorke. Miss Yorke is favourably known to many of our readers as the authoress of that singularly beautiful and touching story, 'Dudley.' Her new book will not merely sustain but widen the reputation which she has won, for it is full of movement and colour, and is written carefully and yet with a flowing and picturesque pen. As a present for girls and boys, we heartily recommend it; the book is strong and wholesome, and, at the same time, lively and natural.

Messrs. Isbister & Co., Limited.

The Sunday Magazine, 1889, edited by the Rev. B. Waugh. The serial stories in this volume are 'Life's Long Battle Won,' by Edward Garrett, and 'Woven of Love and Glory,'

by Amelia E. Barr. Archdeacon Farrar contributes a set of ten papers on 'Great Men of the Centuries.' There are many sketches of philanthropic work at home, and missionary enterprise abroad, and a number of critical and practical papers on various portions of Scripture. Poetry, natural history, character sketches, and discussions on the burning questions of the day will also be found in this standard magazine. We are glad to notice that Mr. Waugh continues his pleasant 'Sunday Evenings with the Children.' There are some extremely beautiful illustrations of natural scenery in this volume of rich and varied interest.

Good Words for 1889, edited by Donald Macleod, D.D. William Black, Edna Lyall, and George Manville Fenn contribute the chief stories of the year. Biographical and historical papers have always been a recognised feature in *Good Words*, and the best traditions of the magazine are worthily maintained in this respect by the Dean of Westminster, Andrew Lang, J. Allanson Picton, M.P., and other well-known writers. The Sunday Readings for the year have been furnished by Dr. Allon, Dr. Matheson, Dr. Clifford, the late Professor Elmslie, and others. Writers of repute contribute papers on Biblical, social, and scientific topics, and the illustrations are up to the average of former years.

We Three, by Yvonne. This is a chatty story for children, chronicling the incidents of school life, and the recreations of holiday-time. 'We Three' consist of 'Aunt Anne,' 'Cousin Jack,' and 'Bee,' the latter of whom is supposed to be the writer of the entertaining chronicle. The book is elegantly bound and admirably illustrated.

Glimpses of Europe, edited by W. C. Procter, is a useful and entertaining book. The author says, in the introduction, 'We are offering to those who desire it an opportunity of skimming on the wing from north to south of Europe, and from south to north again.' This purpose is admirably fulfilled in twenty-one chapters, each telling of a different part of Europe, and each written by a different author. Among the scenes portrayed are places as different as Pompeii and Finland, Etna and the Engadine, Urbino and St. Petersburg, Norway and the Campagna; while among the writers occur the names of Donald Macleod, D.D., S. G. Barnett, John Stoughton, D.D., and the Author of 'John Halifax.' The book is well written, and is evidently the work of accomplished travellers. It will serve the double purpose of an excellent guide to those who travel, and a welcome instructor to those who stay at home. The illustrations are profuse, and successfully brighten many a page. Even those who can never witness the scenes so vividly portrayed will yet be greatly interested by this volume.

Messrs. Marion & Co.

Messrs. Marion & Co. have introduced this season a magic lantern, specially intended for photographic slides, while equally suitable for use in the ordinary way. It is supplied in a box with a screen, complete. The front is so arranged as to receive any size or thickness of slide or chromotrope.

Messrs. Marion's new photographic albums are the 'Highland Life Album,' in which the illustrations are close reproductions from original oil-paintings of Highland scenery and animated nature; and the *Mes amis et mes fleurs* album, which has a series of illuminations composed of groups of flowers, each group conveying a sentiment in the language of flowers. On the opposite pages are the apertures for receiving portraits of friends.

Among Messrs. Marion & Co.'s novelties is a Christmas card, which takes the form of a tambourine, the dimensions varying from 3 inches to a foot in diameter. The area within the circle is either hand-painted or left blank for the purchaser to paint upon. The surface is gauze or parchment. By a very ingenious contrivance, these tambourines are accompanied by a little fitting which enables them instantaneously to be used as a lamp screen or shade.

Messrs. W. Kent & Co.

The yearly volume of Mr. Heath's well-known magazine **Illustrations** contains many articles and pictures of interest and merit. All tastes are catered for by this lively journal,

and, as a rule, we should imagine, with success. Brief essays on subjects literary, artistic, dramatic, musical, and scientific alternate in these pages with fictions and papers on topics of practical interest.

Messrs. Charles Letts & Co.

We have received specimens of Messrs. Charles Letts & Co.'s **Modernised Diaries** adapted for commercial, domestic, agricultural, and other requirements. The information they contain will be found extremely useful, whilst the general arrangement of the contents shows an improvement on diaries of former years. Special attention should be drawn to the new series of Pocket Diaries, with thin and flexible covers, and offered at a remarkably low price.

Messrs. Masters & Co.

Under Cliff, a sequel to 'Nora's Friends,' by the author of the 'Chorister Brothers,' is a bright little story. Arthur Heathcote, a young squire, falls in love with the Rector's daughter when they are both too young to become engaged. Arthur enters the army, and sees active service in Egypt, and, upon returning, claims the engagement, which is allowed. He has brought from Egypt a splendid Arab horse, which leads him in to horse-racing and much of the disreputable doings of such a course. This causes the Rector to break the engagement. Nora Glynn, the Rector's daughter, is a beautiful character, and so lives as to impress Arthur with the charm of a true Christian life. The story of Herbert Lippincott, who becomes degraded through horse-racing, and who, after becoming engaged to Arthur's sister, meets a tragic death, together with the accident which caused his lover's death, is well told. Arthur becomes a changed character, and finally marries Nora. There is healthy teaching in the book, which will serve to enforce the lesson that fidelity to principle is a better policy than yielding to wrong inclination. A capital present for young people.

Messrs. Longmans & Co.

The old favourite fairy tales, retold by Mr. Andrew Lang and others under the title of The Blue Fairy Book, form unquestionably one of the most attractive and artistic gift-books of the season. The tales of Perrault which are given in the volume are printed from an old English version. Mrs. Alfred Hunt has translated some delightful Norse legends, and Miss May Sellas has done a like service with the stories from Grimm. The version of Dick Whittington is from the chap-book edited by Mr. Gomme and Mr. Wheatley for the Villon Society; whilst to Mr. Lang himself we are indebted for some graceful adaptations from Apollodorus, Simonides, and Pindar. This is a book of nearly four hundred pages, and it contains a host of beautiful pictures which are full of imagination and humour.

The Book of Wedding Days, compiled and arranged by K. E. C. Reid, May Ross, and Mabel Bamfield. This handsome quarto volume for the drawing-room table contains poetical quotations for every day in the year, and each page is ornamented with artistic devices and decorations by Walter Crane. The compilers acknowledge their indebtedness for quotations to the Earl of Rosslyn, Lewis Morris, Coventry Patmore, and others, as well as to the following owners of copyright books: Messrs. Bentley; Macmillan; Smith, Elder & Co.; Routledge; Thacker; and Kegan Paul, Trench & Co. Considerable taste has been shown in the selections, and the volume evinces not only judgment but wide reading. Mr. Crane's illustrations are very effective, and follow in idea the procession of the seasons. The work is dedicated by special permission to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales.

Florida Days, by Margaret Deland, illustrated by Louis K. Harlow. The author of 'John Ward, Preacher,' gives us, in this volume, her impressions of places and people during a prolonged sojourn in Florida, whither she recently went in search of sunshine. There is nothing in this volume of the wooden formality and decorous dulness of the guide-book. Mrs. Deland writes about town and country in a fresh and unconventional manner, and her pages are full of poetic insight and dreamy charm; the sunshine, indeed, seems to linger in this record of a leisured 'Sentimental Journey,' which is here described with genuine skill. The illustrations are altogether admirable.

Fencing, Boxing, and Wrestling, by Walter H. Pollock, E. B. Michell, Walter Armstrong, and others ('The Badminton Library'). There is no modern encyclopædia which gives explicit information of British sports and pastimes, and this is the lack which 'The Badminton Library' seeks to supply. The most approved methods of fencing and sword-play are fully explained; the history and art of boxing are then described, and the different styles of wrestling are next passed in review. One of the most useful features of this well-written book is the extremely valuable and complete bibliography. The book contains a number of illustrations, chiefly reproductions from instantaneous photographs.

Another volume of the Badminton Library, for which we have nothing but praise, is **Driving,** by the Duke of Beaufort. The volume contains many practical hints on the management of horses, and on the most approved methods of steering the coach. The Duke is old enough to remember the genuine coaching days before the advent of the 'iron horse.' There are some racy recollections in the volume, and in its preparation His Grace has had the assistance of Lord Arthur Somerset, the Earl of Onslow, Sir Christopher Teesdale, Major Dixon, and other experts, and no aspect of the fascinating subject appears to have been overlooked. The book is illustrated with spirit and humour by J. Sturgiss and G. D. Giles, and also from instantaneous photographs. It is one of the most important contributions which have yet been made to this popular series.

Cleopatra, by H. Rider Haggard. In certain respects this book reminds us of 'She,' and this new romance is as powerful and remarkable as anything that Mr. Haggard has as yet written. The story of the fascinating and imperious Egyptian queen whose loveliness 'beggared' all description is told with an imaginative art which makes the picture and the character of its surroundings both impressive and real. There are, we admit, faults and blemishes in the story, and here and there a touch of exaggeration, and more than a touch of gaudy rhetoric mars the narrative, whilst a certain stagey element occasionally creeps in to spoil—like a self-conscious actor—an otherwise glorious scene. At the same time the substantial merits of the book are undeniable, and far outweigh any occasional weakness in the plot or style. It is only fair to remember that the

story is supposed to be told not from a modern point of view, but by Harmachis, a priest of Egypt, who himself played no small part in the tragic drama which he describes. The realism of the book is at times almost oppressive, and the portrait of Cleopatra, 'that thing of flame,' the witchery of whose beauty shaped the destiny of empires as well as sealed the fate of men, is drawn with a bold and skilful hand. The man who can vivify the shadowy past in this fashion is capable of still greater work, and we therefore shall look forward with keen interest for the appearance of Mr. Rider Haggard's next historical romance.

Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington, Limited.

Sir Ludar, by Talbot Baines Reed. This stirring record of life and adventure in the days of good Queen Bess is supposed to be told by one who took an active part in the gallant and exciting deeds which he relates. The book opens with a graphic description of a fight in the streets of London between two bands of 'prentices, and ends with the overthrow of the Spanish Armada. Throughout a story which is evidently based on careful historical research Mr. Reed contrives not only to give a vivid picture of the stormy restlessness of the times, but to sketch in a fascinating manner the fortunes of a group of friends who acquit themselves with valour and distinction in the battle of life. The book is full of movement and colour, and will widen the reputation which its author has already won as one of the best of the younger school of writers for boys.

All who are interested in the islands of the Pacific will find great pleasure in reading **Through Atolls and Islands in the Great South Sea,** by Mr. Frederick J. Moss, Member of the House of Representatives, New Zealand. Mr. Moss went to Fiji from New Zealand, in the first place, more than thirty years ago, to grow cotton. Afterwards he spent much time in cruising among the islands of the Western Pacific. This book is the result of his long and interesting experiences. The style of writing is natural and attractive. It is evident that the author speaks, not because he desires to be heard, but because he has something to say. The various conditions and history of this charming part of the world are set forth with great intelligence, and nothing seems to have escaped Mr. Moss's eye. The natural formation of the islands, the habits and customs of the people, the history and development of trading, the course of Christian missions, the influence of foreign governments, and many other subjects are ably treated. Mr. Moss does not hesitate to impeach certain policy of British government, nor to criticise certain influence of native missionaries; but he deserves most careful attention because of his fair, impartial judgment. Some of his information is startling, especially when he refers to the presence of devastating disease among the natives of the islands which results from vice. The book is illustrated amply by copies of photographs, and enriched with a good map. We heartily commend it as an important contribution to our knowledge of the world and the race.

The Tragedie of Macbeth, by William Shakspeare. Illustrated by J. Moyr Smith. Mr. Moyr Smith has not only illustrated this magnificent volume, but has also written an introduction and notes. He has taken infinite pains to make himself acquainted with the costumes and armour of ancient Scotland and Scandinavia, and he imports his learning on this and kindred subjects into his pictures. Many of the full-page etchings in this book are very effective, and are marked by poetic imagination as well as technical skill. On the whole, however, we like best the exquisite vignettes which are given with the text of the drama. Mr. Moyr Smith's conception of the chief actors in the play of 'Macbeth' is striking and unconventional, and students and lovers of Shakspeare will find much to charm and interest them in this handsome and artistic book.

Wee Folk, Good Folk, a Fantasy, by Ethel M. Wilmot-Buxton. A slight but graceful collection of fairy tales distinguished by lightness of touch and considerable imagination of a dreamy poetic type. It is a pleasant idea to make a little lame boy the object of the friendship and goodwill of the 'Wee Folk, Good Folk,' who lead him to enchanted grounds. There is decided originality and freshness about Miss Florence Cooper's illustrations.

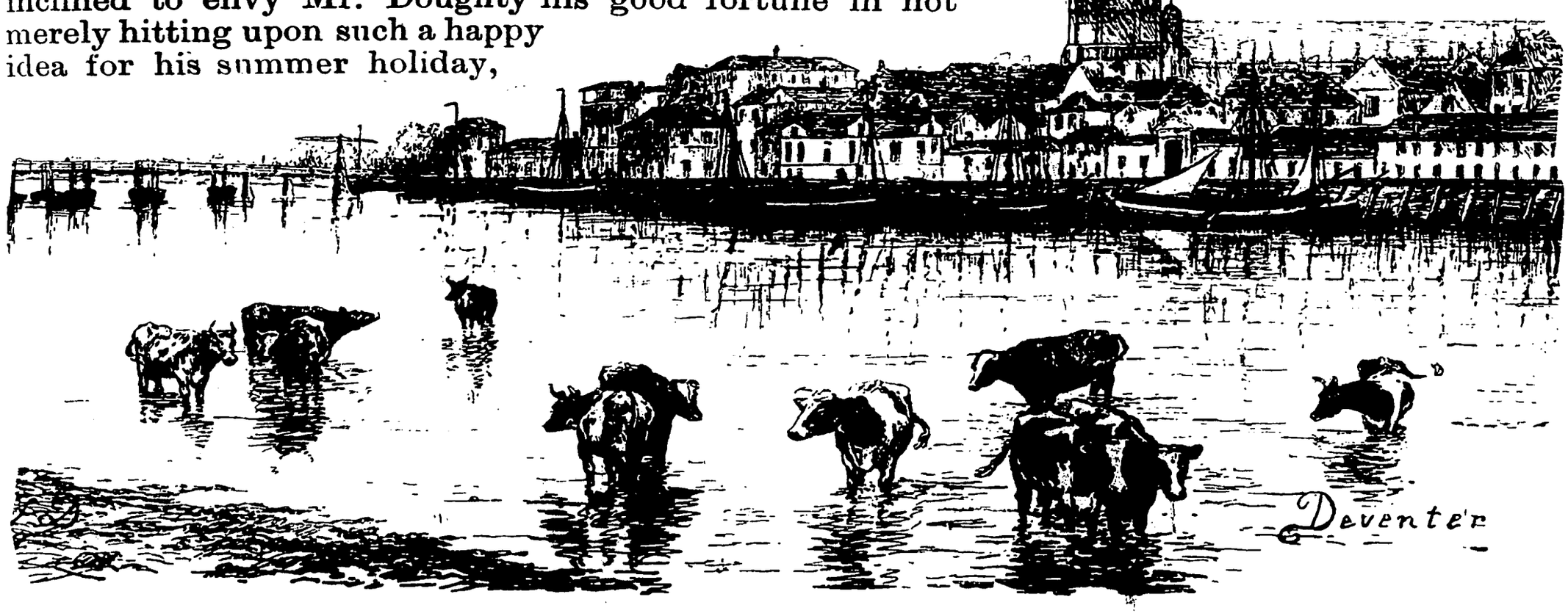
Boys must be hard to please who do not revel in the pages of Mr. F. H. Winder's exciting story **Lost in Africa.** The three heroes of the book start for the Dark Continent to search for a lost will, which is supposed to be in the pocket of an old coat hidden in an African cave. The plucky adventurers pass through incredible difficulties, and again and again are placed in circumstances of the utmost peril. There are some capital descriptions of African scenery in the book; the interest never flags, and the whole story is told with picturesque vigour and startling realism. If Mr. Winder can follow up the success which he has unquestionably won in this instance, he will speedily take rank with the best writers of story-books for boys.

Jules Verne is a past master in imaginative fiction, and in his new story, **Adrift in the Pacific,** there is evidence enough that his hand has not lost its cunning. A group of lads, in New Zealand, start on a pleasure excursion in a hundred-ton yacht, and are blown out to sea, and finally wrecked on a desert island. Here the lads endeavour to make themselves as happy and comfortable as possible. Hanover Island, the scene of their adventures, is vaguely described as 'somewhere off the coast of Chili.' Some of the company are almost as ingenious as Jules Verne himself, though in a different way, for they construct a huge kite, which is sent careering amongst the clouds with a small boy fastened to its tail. Lord Beaconsfield once said that it is the unexpected which happens, and that is certainly true in the clever and fascinating stories of Jules Verne. The illustrations are vigorous and spirited.

There is nothing very remarkable in **The Story of a Poodle,** by Lucy D. Thornton, though young folks will probably relish the description of 'Gaston's' pranks when he accompanied his mistress to the Pyrenees. The moral of the book may be said to be gathered up in the closing sentence: 'If a man love his Maker as faithfully as a dog loves his master, he will not fail in his duty.'

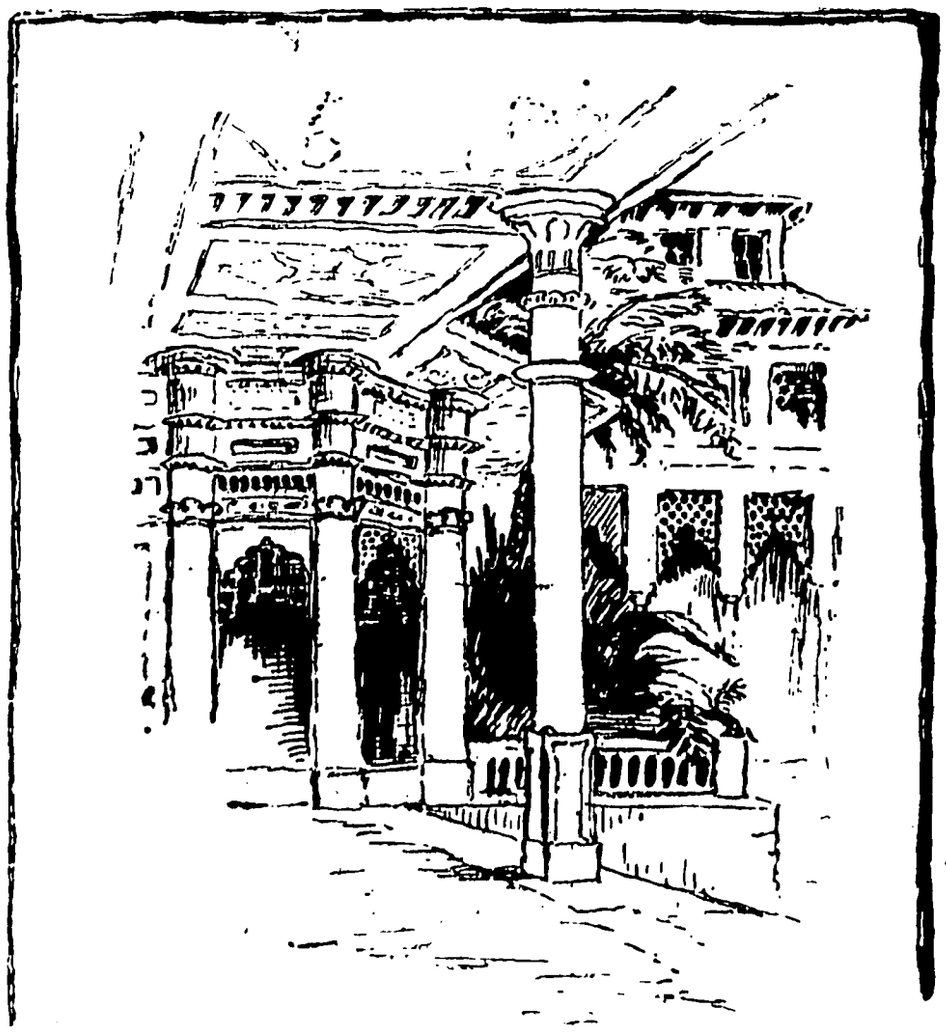
Harper's Young People, for 1889. There are twelve full-page coloured illustrations representing different regiments in the British army in this attractive volume, besides a multitude of other pictures, big and little, brave and gay. As usual there are plenty of exciting stories and many bright and amusing sketches, full of humour, and of a kind which boys and girls are sure to like.

Friesland Meres and Through the Netherlands in a Norfolk Wherry, by Henry Montagu Doughty. This is a bright and entertaining description of a voyage made by the author and his daughters through the canals of Southern Holland and the meres of Friesland. 'No kind of comfortably habitable craft except a Norfolk wherry could have gone,' states Mr. Doughty, 'where we went without steam; by narrow water-ways, through locks, under bridges, over shallow meres, against and with the current of great rivers, and upon the sea; and in scarce any other way could one penetrate districts so remote, known to few even of the city-dwelling Netherlanders themselves.' Most people who read this genial and pleasant account of the voyage of the 'Gipsy' will be inclined to envy Mr. Doughty his good fortune in not merely hitting upon such a happy idea for his summer holiday,



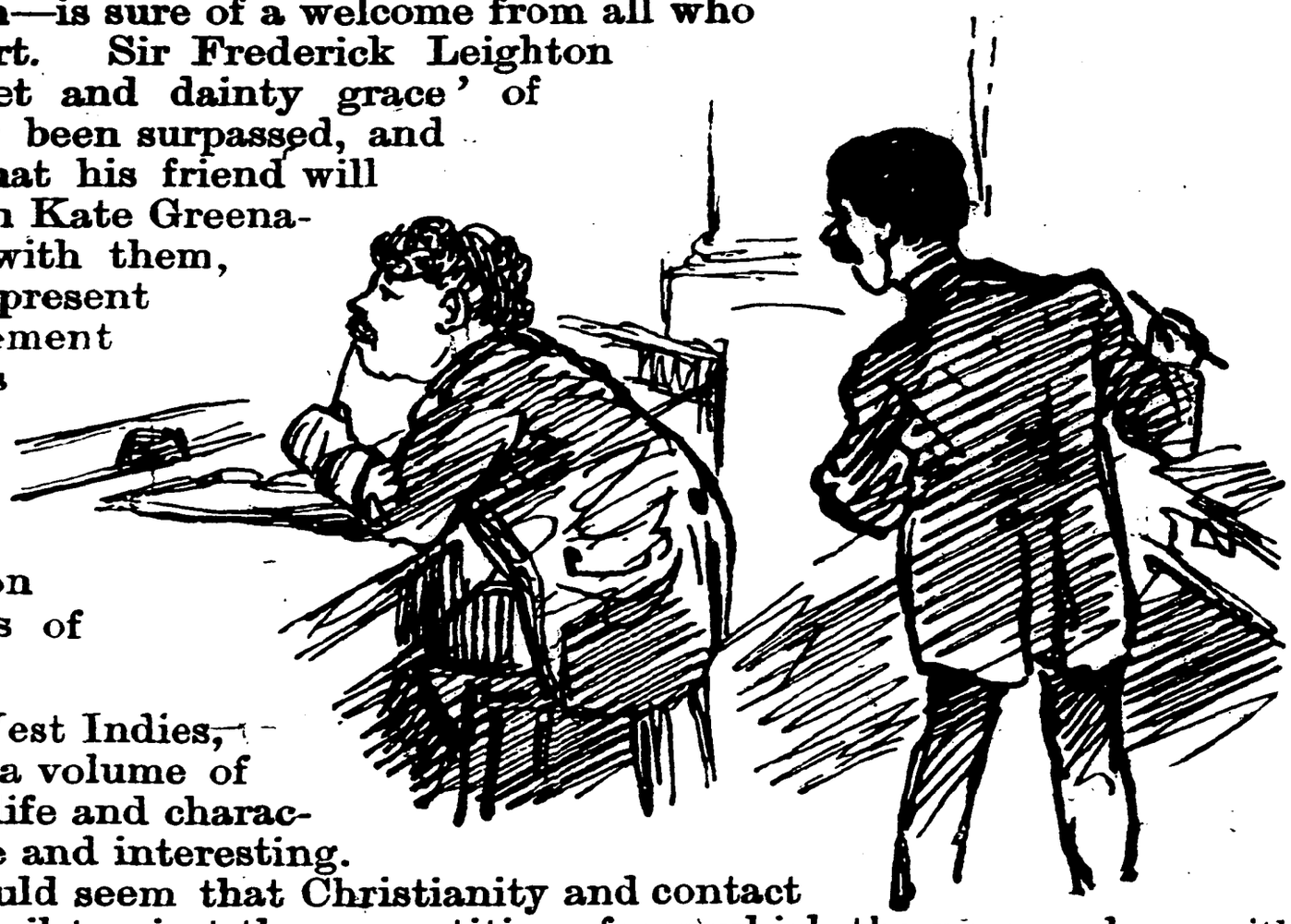
but in getting the chance to carry out the delightful programme which he had sketched for himself. A number of capital pen-and-ink drawings add to the charm of this unconventional and artistic book.

Through David's Realm, by Edward S. de Grote Tompkins, with two hundred illustrations by the author. This small but choice volume contains a description of the author's wanderings in the East. It gives vivid word-pictures of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, the Valley of the Jordan, the Dead Sea, Lebanon, Baalbec, and other places more or less closely associated with Biblical story. The tone of the book is in keeping with its subject, and the author has very successfully avoided dulness on the one hand and flippancy on the other. He makes no attempt at fine writing, but is content to record his own actual experiences and impressions in a simple but forcible manner. The extremely pretty vignettes—chiefly peeps of scenery or glimpses of famous buildings—heighten the charm of a pleasant and brightly-written book. The volume is most tastefully bound.



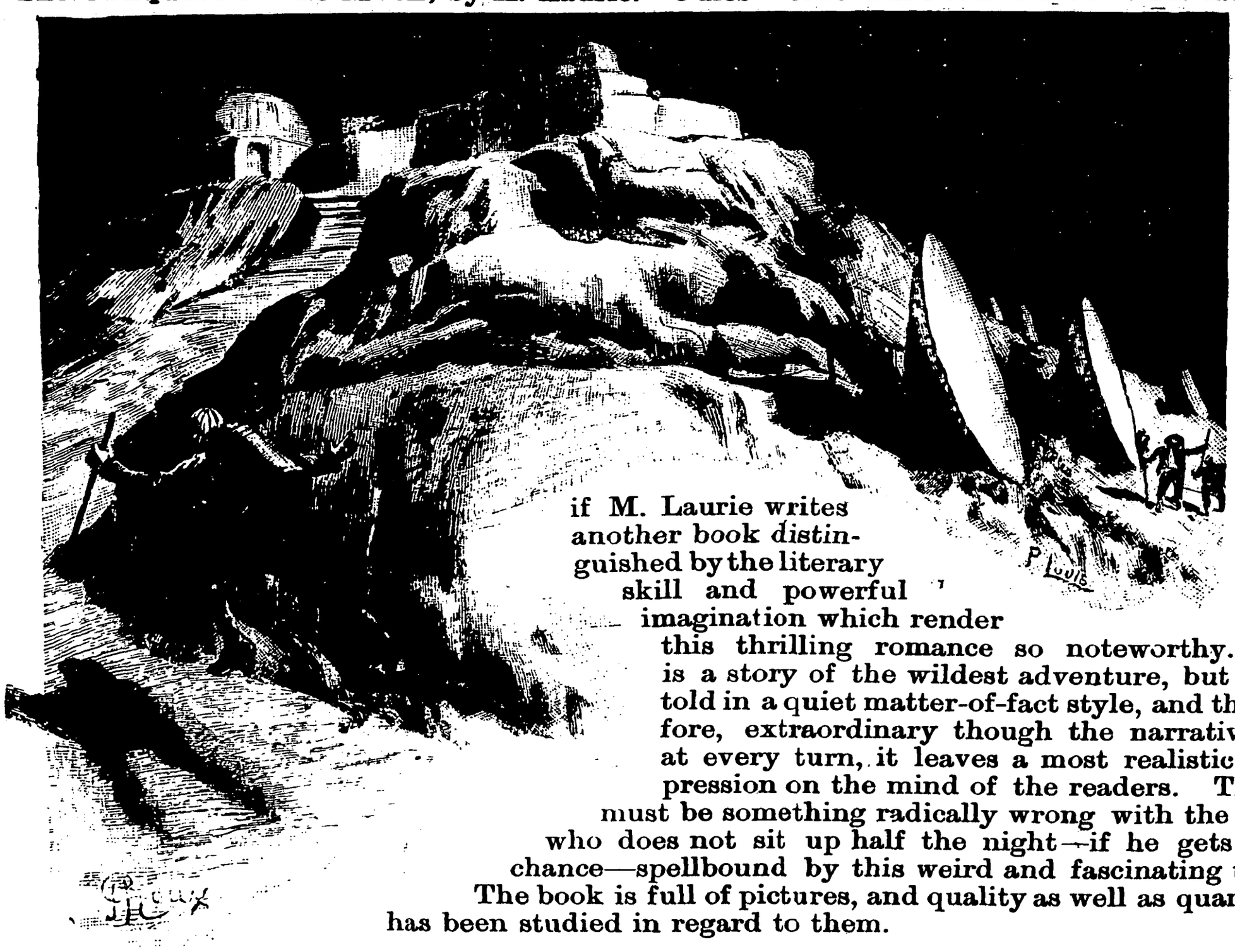
Blacks and Bushrangers, Adventures in Queensland, by E. B. Kennedy. 'Blacks and Bushrangers' is a bright and interesting narrative concerning an English gipsy lad, who got into trouble through a chivalrous deed, and ran away to Australia in the early settlers' days. The characters are all well drawn, and the incidents of bush life in Queensland are vividly portrayed. Dromoora, one of the Australian aborigines, is a fine specimen of his race, and shows much natural virtue, notwithstanding his dark surroundings. In a series of picturesque sketches the author makes very real the difficulties of a settler's life. The interest of the story never flags, and its tone is good. English boys will be charmed with the book, as it blends useful information with much of daring and success in its hero.

A new volume of **Randolph Caldecott's Sketches**—especially when it is published in a cheap as well as handsome form—is sure of a welcome from all who care for genuine humour in art. Sir Frederick Leighton once declared that the 'sweet and dainty grace' of Caldecott's pictures had never been surpassed, and Mr. Blackburn is of opinion that his friend will 'stand side by side always with Kate Greenaway and Walter Crane, and, with them, will stamp the close of the present century with a grace and refinement in its children's books that has never been surpassed.' This volume is full of characteristic examples of the artist's genius, and often these droll pictures throw a searching side-light on some of the freaks and follies of modern society.



Obeah, Witchcraft in the West Indies, by Hesketh J. Bell. This is a volume of sketches of West Indian negro life and character. It is exceedingly readable and interesting. From Mr. Bell's account it would seem that Christianity and contact with the whites are of little avail to eject the superstitious fears which the negroes have with respect to Obeah or witchcraft charms. The character sketches and incidents of negro life as here recorded are often amusing, and always interesting. This little volume is full of information, and ought to be read by all those who desire to know something of the inhabitants, the climate, the state, and the beautiful scenery of our colonies in the West Indies.

The Conquest of the Moon, by A. Laurie. Jules Verne will need to look to his laurels if M. Laurie writes another book distinguished by the literary skill and powerful imagination which render this thrilling romance so noteworthy. It is a story of the wildest adventure, but it is told in a quiet matter-of-fact style, and therefore, extraordinary though the narrative is at every turn, it leaves a most realistic impression on the mind of the readers. There must be something radically wrong with the boy who does not sit up half the night—if he gets the chance—spellbound by this weird and fascinating tale. The book is full of pictures, and quality as well as quantity has been studied in regard to them.



The Rivals, by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Illustrated by Frank H. Gregory. This is another fine-art gift-book of a most attractive kind. Mr. Gregory has caught with great cleverness the spirit of Sheridan's inimitable comedy. There are forty-three full-page illustrations in the volume—five 'aquarelles,' and the rest in black and white. The finish and brilliancy of the coloured aquarelles is quite noteworthy, and show what rapid strides the art of photogravure has made within the last year or two. Mr. Gregory groups his figures in a natural and yet dramatic fashion, and in some instances the realism is almost complete. He

is more successful in our opinion in drawing men than women; his Lydia Languish scarcely looks the part; indeed, though it may seem somewhat ungallant to say so, we can scarcely imagine two such men as Bob Acres and Captain Absolute engaged in a duel over Mr. Gregory's mature and not very prepossessing coquette. But the humour and vivacity of these pictures is irresistible, and swaggering Bob Acres in particular is capital.

The Witch of Atlas, by H. Park Bowden. This is a story of love and adventure, which follows, with considerable power and vivacity, unconventional lines. There are some thrilling ballooning exploits, and a voyage through the air during the Franco-German War over the Prussian outposts to the beleaguered city of Paris is dramatically described. Here and there the interest of the story somewhat flags, but it is written as a whole with freshness, and no small measure of picturesque force and skill.

Australia Twice Traversed, by Ernest Giles. The second title of this splendid book of travel is called 'The Romance of Exploration.' Romance indeed falls far short of the facts that are recorded. The narrative is compiled from the journals of five expeditions in Central Australia — the two first with horses only, the third with horses and camels, and the last two entirely with camels. It was only with the aid of the latter auxiliary that this determined explorer was able to penetrate and pierce the vast desert tract lying between South and Western Australia. It is a record of marvellous perseverance in the face of disaster upon disaster, dangers from thirst, starvation, fights with hostile natives, and many remarkable adventures. One of the most striking incidents is that described in the second expedition, when Mr. Giles, after penetrating more than 100 miles into the waterless wastes of Gibson's Desert, lost his companion, and only succeeded in reaching camp after nine days' wandering on foot, utterly exhausted, without food or water. The work contains six maps and is profusely illustrated. The illustration accompanying this notice describes the author as alone in the desert after having drunk his last drop of water.

Five Months' Fine Weather in Canada, Western U.S., and Mexico, by Mrs. E. H. Carbutt. This is a charming account of a trip to Canada, Niagara, Chicago, Yellowstone Park, Vancouver, San Francisco, the Yosemite Valley, Salt Lake, Colorado, and Mexico. Mrs. Carbutt quite fell in love with Mexico and the Mexicans, whose 'politeness is Castilian, and their kindness quite Yorkshire'; but the life and manners of Americans produced a less favourable impression. Mr. Bryce's book 'is simply a pretty picture of what things ought to be; but, in fact, there is but one judge and one law, the almighty dollar.' In California especially life is hard, for although wages are high, prices are higher. 'In England one goes out shopping with money in one's pocket, and brings home one's purchases in a cart, but in the States one goes out with one's money

in a cart, and returns with the purchases in one's pocket—thanks to the heavy coinage and the high prices of everything.' This volume has neither chapters, index, table of contents, nor even descriptive head-lines, and Mrs. Carbutt has doubtless already discovered with annoyance that by a slip of an evidently hasty pen our Lord's birthplace is said to be Nazareth; but the diary form has at least the advantage of keeping the reader in touch with the mood of the writer. Before the first impressions could fade, they were focussed and photographed on the pages of the daily journal, with the result that a spirited journey has made a spirited book, written with all the ease and vivacity of a familiar letter—happily there is no attempt at word-painting—and forming quite a treasure of pleasant entertainment and handy information.

The Quiet Life: Certain Verses by Various Hands; the Motive set forth in a Prologue and Epilogue by Austin Dobson. It would be difficult to name a more beautiful book than this delightful literary and artistic presentation of the simple pleasures and sober charms of lives that are spent in glad contentment and light-hearted ease far from the madding crowd. Mr. Austin Dobson gracefully introduces in a poetic prologue Marvell, Cowley, Pope, Praed, and other masters of the choicest kind of English verse, and when they have said their say, in the courtly fashion of a vanished age, he reappears and bows them off the scene. Mr. Abbey and Mr. Alfred Parsons illustrate the poems with consummate art and lively fancy. We gain glimpses of tranquil English landscape, and find ourselves in the midst of the quaint rural society of England in the Georgian era. Rustic maids and village magnates pass before us, and in these graphic pictures the lights and shadows of the life of the period are vividly reflected. The book is exquisitely printed on thick vellum paper, and daintily and yet substantially bound in crimson morocco leather, and even the most fastidious taste cannot fail to be gratified by the literary contents, artistic merits, and technical finish of this superb volume.

Trying to find Europe, by Jimmy Brown. Edited by W. L. Alden. Everybody with a spark of humour in his composition cannot fail to appreciate the rollicking fun in this lively and unconventional book. Jimmy Brown states at the commencement of it that he is quite aware it is a long time since he wrote anything, but he does not see that people have any right on that account to go and say unkind things about him. 'The other day Mr. Martin, father's old friend, came to the house and said, "They tell me you don't write any more stories, Jimmy. I suppose you have reformed." Now I wouldn't say that about my worst enemy, even if I knew it was true. I know very well what "reformed" means. It means that a man gets drunk every two months. What have I done that people should say I have reformed?' Jimmy quickly proves in these side-splitting pages that he is just as incorrigible as ever, and we commend the vivacious narrative of his latest exploits to all who believe that laughter is a good tonic.

The Prince of Nursery Playmates. This handsome volume contains between seventy and eighty nursery tales, rhymes, and songs, and it is illustrated with upwards of two hundred pictures in oil-colours of the sort which young children most appreciate. Cinderella, Puss in Boots, the Sleeping Beauty, and Dick Whittington may be taken as representative of the tales; Old Mother Hubbard, Cock Robin, the Butterfly's Ball, and Chevy Chase of the rhymes; and Wee Willie Winkie and Little Boy Blue of the songs.

Andromeda, or the Maid of the 'Golden Age,' by H. E. Maclean. This book describes the lively adventures of a young midshipman in the Royal Navy. Mr. Maclean evidently understands life afloat, and he writes about it with unflagging vivacity. Lads are sure to appreciate his account of the burning ship, the 'Golden Age,' and the rescue of her passengers by the officers and crew of the ironclad in which the youthful hero served is capitally described. The young middie's subsequent history and that of a certain 'maid' are pleasantly told.

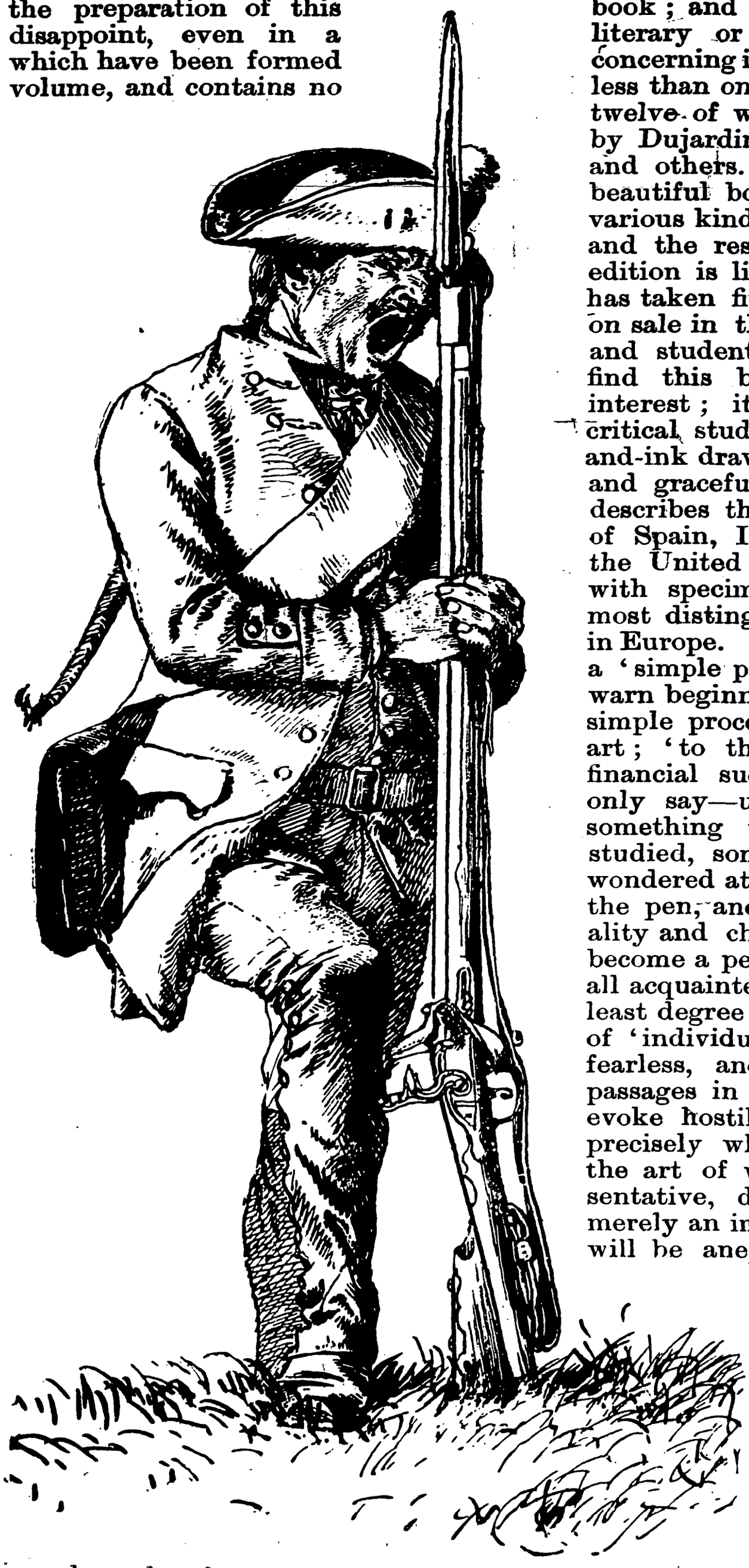
Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

Storm Warriors, by the Rev. John Gilmore, M.A. This is a stirring record of the growth of the lifeboat movement, and the rescues which have been made from time to time by the gallant fellows who keep watch and ward along our rock-bound coasts on the dark and stormy nights of winter. Each story is based on the statements of one or other of the boatmen concerned, and no one can read such a record as this without echoing the words of its author, 'God help the poor fellows at sea! God protect and bless the lifeboat men!'

Two charming volumes descriptive of one of the most interesting branches of natural history are Mr. Warde Fowler's **A Year with the Birds** and **Tales of the Birds.** We are glad to find that the first of these books has already reached a third edition; whilst the other, though only published last year, is in its second edition. Mr. Fowler states in regard to the former that he wishes to help those who love birds and know little about them to realise something of the enjoyment which he himself has gained, in work-time as well as in holiday, for many years past, from the habit of watching and listening to his favourites. Mr. Fowler is a University tutor, and he describes Oxford as almost a paradise of birds. 'All the conditions of the neighbourhood as it is now are favourable to them. The three chief requisites of the life of most birds are food, water, and some sort of cover,' and these they gain in abundance in the tranquil gardens and parks at the famous University town. The other places from which Mr. Fowler has watched the habits of birds are an English village and a well-known district of the Alps. He shows himself to be a close observer as well as an ardent lover of all sorts of birds. Some of the 'tales' in the other volume are altogether fresh and delightful; 'A Jubilee Sparrow,' for example, and the description of a 'Tragedy of Rook-Life' strike us as being of quite exceptional beauty and literary finish. Mr. Bryan Hook has enriched both volumes with some thoroughly artistic pictures.

Flowers of Paradise, music, verse, and designs by Reginald F. Hallward. We neither like the verses nor the pictures in this rather silly and very sentimental book. The first are weak and pointless, the latter far too æsthetic for our taste. We do not even consider these illustrations to be good of their kind.

Pen Drawing and Pen Draughtsmen, their Work and their Methods, by Joseph Pennell. In art circles it has long been a matter of gossip that Mr. Pennell was engaged in the preparation of this book; and now that it has appeared it will not disappoint, even in a literary or artistic sense, the high expectations which have been formed concerning it. It proves to be a superb royal quarto volume, and contains no less than one hundred and fifty-eight illustrations, twelve of which are photogravure plates executed by Dujardin, Amand-Durand, A. and C. Dawson, and others. Many of the other pictures in this beautiful book are printed from relief blocks of various kinds, a number of them occupy full pages, and the rest are interwoven with the text. The edition is limited to a thousand copies; America has taken five hundred of them, and the rest are on sale in this country. Lovers of art in general, and students and connoisseurs in particular, will find this book to be of great and permanent interest; it is neither more nor less than a critical study of the theory and practice of pen-and-ink drawing by one of the most accomplished and graceful exponents of the art. Mr. Pennell describes the characteristics of pen draughtsmen of Spain, Italy, Germany, France, England, and the United States, and he illustrates his criticisms with specimens of the work of a number of the most distinguished masters of this branch of art in Europe. Mr. Hamerton has termed pen drawing a 'simple process,' and this leads Mr. Pennell to warn beginners not to cherish the delusion that a simple process means an easy and trifling form of art; 'to the incipient artist encouraged by the financial success of pen-drawing hacks I would only say—unless you feel that pen drawing is something to be reverenced, something to be studied, something to be loved, something to be wondered at, that you are the motive power behind the pen, and that you must put all your individuality and character in your work—you will never become a pen-draughtsman.' Everybody who is at all acquainted with Mr. Pennell will not be in the least degree surprised to learn that there is plenty of 'individuality and character' in this elaborate, fearless, and independent treatise. There are passages in the book which are almost certain to evoke hostile criticism, but this we imagine is precisely what Mr. Pennell, in the interests of the art of which he is so distinguished a representative, desires to bring about. This is not merely an important book; we venture to think it will be anepoch-making one in the branch of art with which it is concerned.



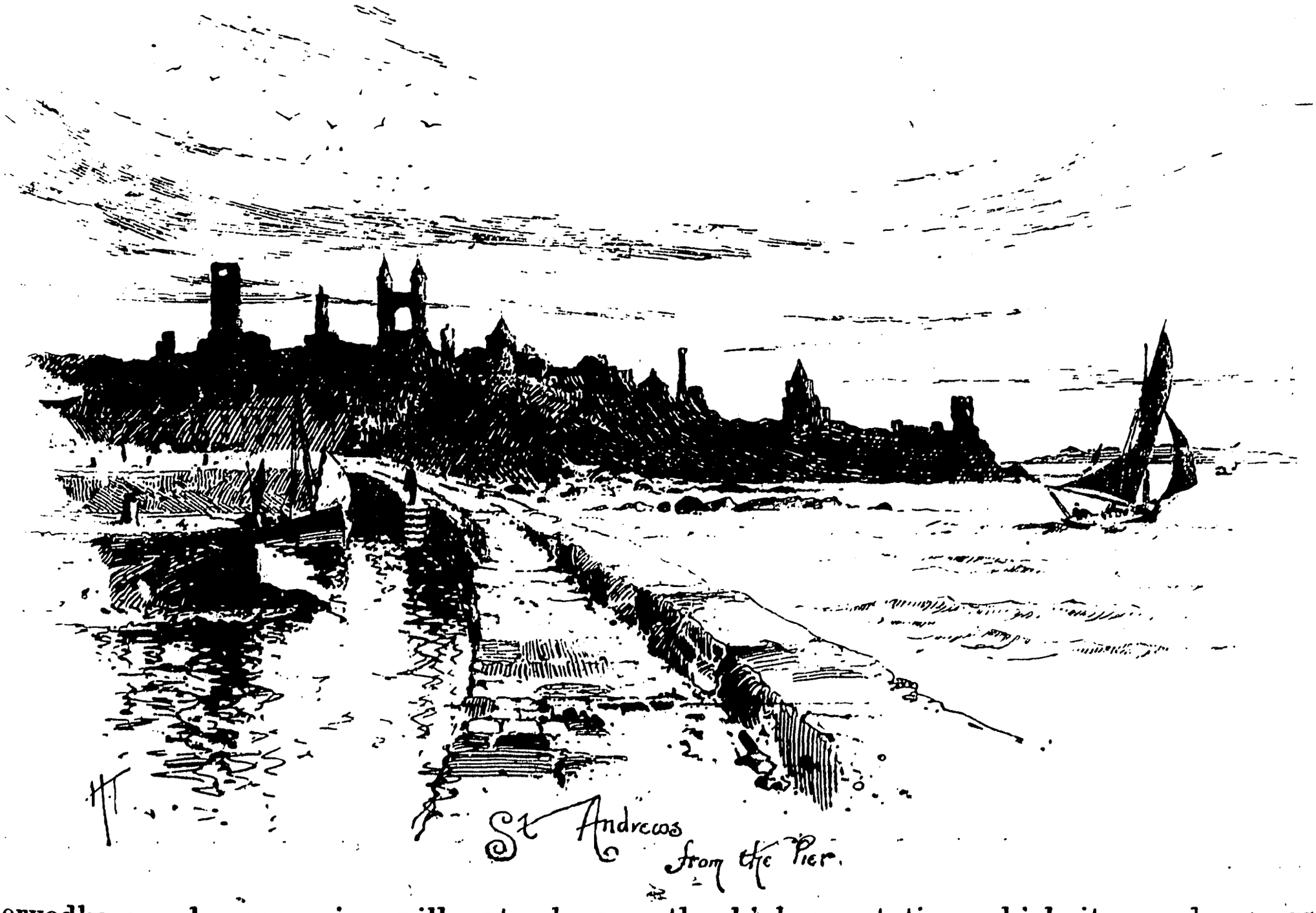
For tender and realistic studies of child-life, Mrs. Molesworth is perhaps unrivalled; her youngsters are not pert or simpering little men or women, but genuine children, artless, confiding, and full of wonder and mischief. Mrs. Molesworth's new book, **The Rectory Children,** is a natural and attractive delineation, marked by keen and sympathetic insight into the changeful moods and artless manners of child-life. The heroine, Bridget Vane, is an impulsive little girl, who makes for herself a reputation for waywardness, and gets into a good many childish scrapes, which are described with a humour and skill worthy of the hand which gave us pen-and-ink portraits of 'Carrots,' 'Herr Baby,' and 'Little Peggy.' Walter Crane's illustrations heighten the charm of the book.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, in **Some Eminent Women of Our Times,** has written between twenty and thirty brief biographical sketches of lives which were marked by great achievements or golden deeds. The idea of the book was suggested to Mrs. Fawcett by the fact that

nearly all the best contributions of women to literature have been made during the last hundred years, and side by side with this remarkable intellectual development there has been a corresponding activity in spheres of work which are held to be peculiarly feminine. It is urged, therefore, that greater freedom and better education have not, speaking broadly, led women to wander from their own domain, but rather to equip themselves for it with greater skill and success. If this century can boast, on the intellectual side, of women like Jane Austen, Mary Somerville, Charlotte Brontë, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, it must not be forgotten, on the other hand, that it has also been adorned by the presence of workers like Elizabeth Fry, Florence Nightingale, Agnes Jones, and Sister Dora. These pen-and-ink portraits are simple and unpretending, but they contrive, nevertheless, to place the salient characteristics of the great and noble lives which they describe in a clear and attractive light.

There is good news for the autocrats of the nursery. Lewis Carroll has a new book in the press called **Sylvie and Bruno,** which is to be fully illustrated by Harry Furniss. If it proves to be as clever and imaginative as 'Alice in Wonderland'—a book of which more than eighty thousand copies have been sold—the children of the day will have reason to congratulate themselves that the hand of the master who charmed their grown-up brothers and sisters has not lost its cunning. We have borrowed one of the plates from Messrs. Macmillan. It represents an enterprising hippopotamus, which in two senses of the word figures prominently in the book, calmly climbing on to the top of an omnibus, much to the consternation of the conductor.

The **English Illustrated Magazine,** for 1888–89. The new volume of this

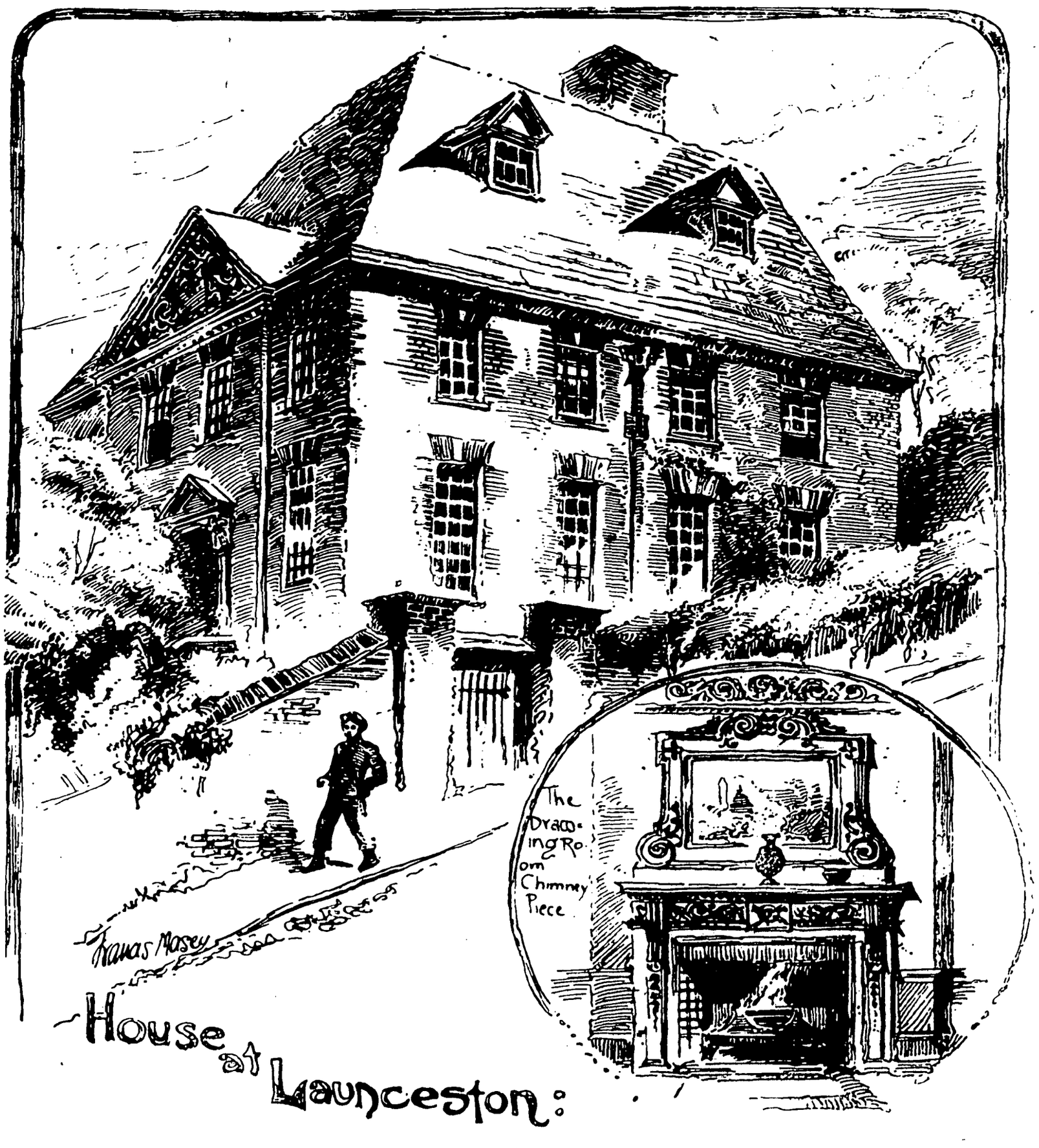


deservedly popular magazine will extend even the high reputation which its predecessors have won. Fiction is represented, amongst others, by Marion Crawford, whose latest story

of modern Italian society, 'Sant' Ilario,' runs through the volume; Mr. Swinburne contributes more than one poem, and Archibald Forbes, Oscar Wilde, Clark Russell, Grant Allen, Theodore Child, and Ashby Sterry are also in the list of writers who have helped to make the recent numbers of the *English Illustrated Magazine* not merely readable, but entertaining. The descriptive articles on 'Moated House,' 'Glimpses of Old English Homes,' 'Dickens in Southwark,' 'Outdoor Paris,' 'A Ramble through Normandy,' and 'Surrey Farm-houses' are uncommonly good.

Mr. Methuen.

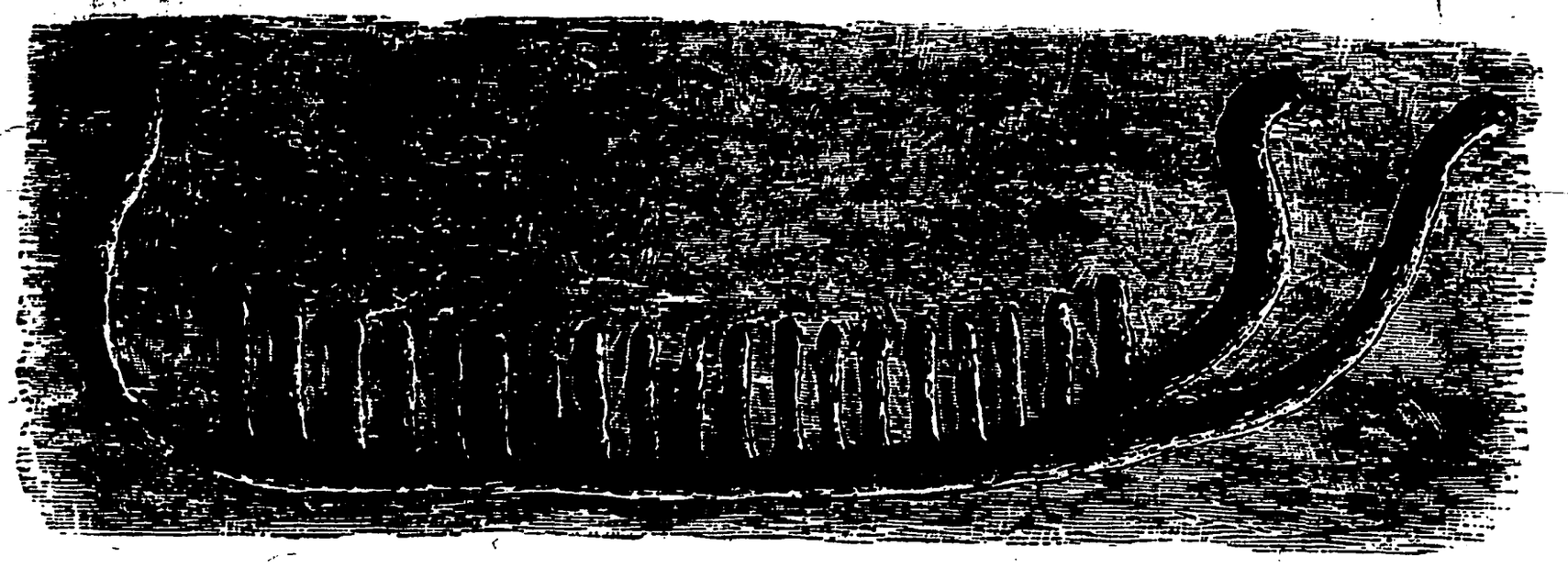
Mr. Baring-Gould, the well-known author of 'John Herring' and 'Mehalah,' has written many books of late, but none more fresh or charming than **Old Country Life.** The book is concerned with social life in the West of England in former times, and it gives a very lively and picturesque description of the historic houses and country seats of the 'quality' in vanished years. The old squires and country parsons of the past seem to live again in these pages, and many amusing stories are told by Mr. Baring-Gould which vividly illustrate the manners and customs of a leisured and tranquil if somewhat soporific age. The book is brightened with reminiscences of the oldest inhabitant of this or that village, and there is a pleasant literary as well as old-world flavour about this attractive and handsome book. It is splendidly illustrated with views of old country houses, quaint gardens, and interesting churches. In many cases the nooks and corners of these English interiors are given, and in some instances pictures of village celebrities are added which are not unworthy of the humorous pencil of Randolph Caldecott himself. The book is most tastefully bound, and lovers of a country life ought not to overlook it.



Mr. John Murray.

The Viking Age, by Paul B. Du Chaillu, two vols., author of 'Exploration in Equatorial Africa,' 'Land of the Midnight Sun,' &c. In these important volumes M. Du Chaillu describes at great length and in an interesting as well as learned fashion the early history, manners, and institutions of the ancient inhabitants of Scandinavia. The book traverses the entire field

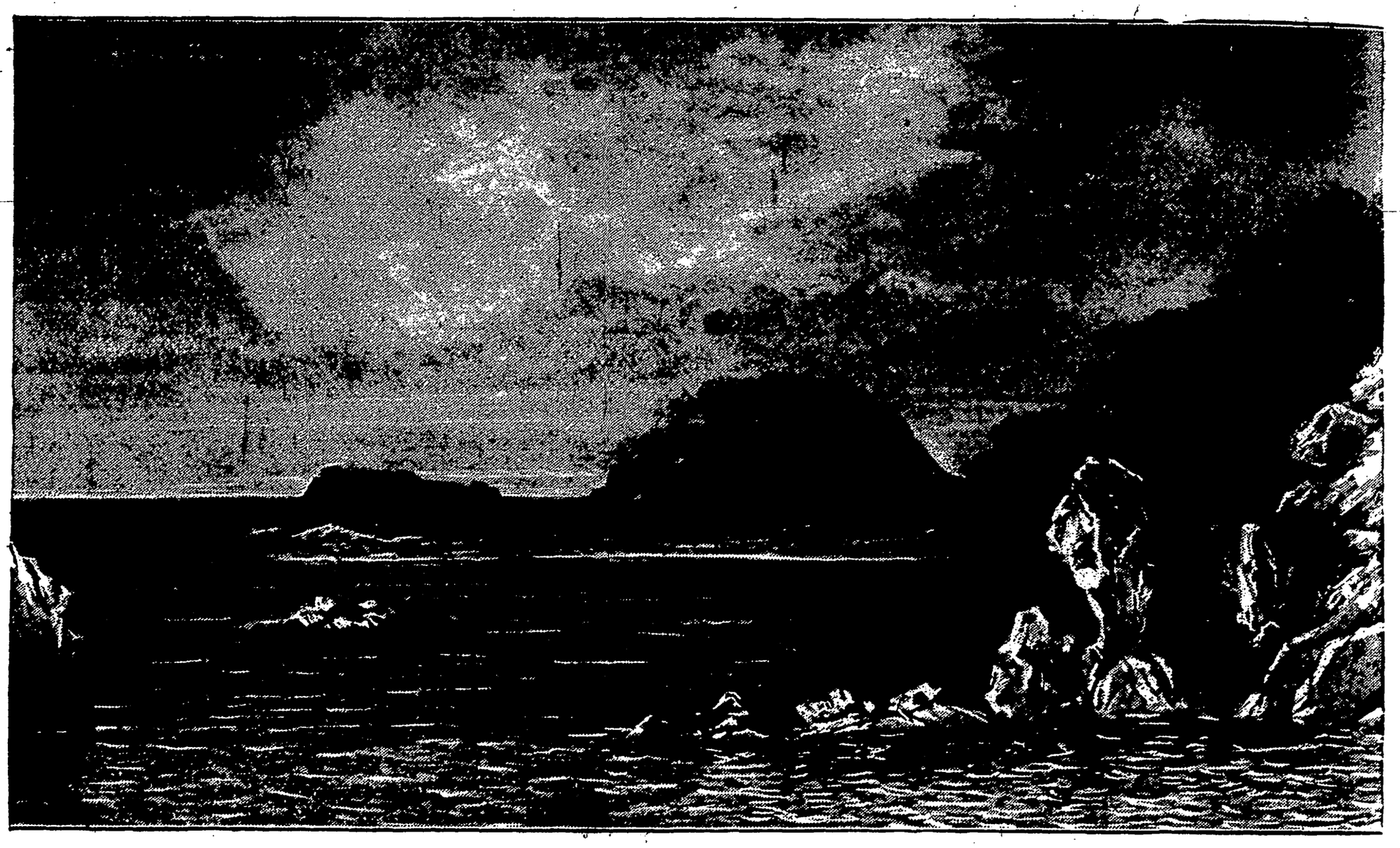
of Scandinavian archæology, and M. Du Chaillu shows himself to be singularly well versed in the Sagas of Iceland. The argumentative portion of the book is perhaps of least value, and we are afraid that the Scotch verdict of 'not proven' must be pronounced on the laboured attempt to trace the pedigree of the English people to a Scandinavian source. At the same time this book is one which demands an answer from historians and ethnologists, for it raises with great ability and a singular affluence of learning questions which concern the origin and migration of the ancient races of Europe. M. Du Chaillu has spent eight years in the investigation of the subject, and in these volumes he illustrates in a very striking way his conclusions from the antiquities discovered in mounds, caves, and bogs, as well as from the ancient Sagas and Eddas. The book contains between thirteen and fourteen hundred woodcuts.



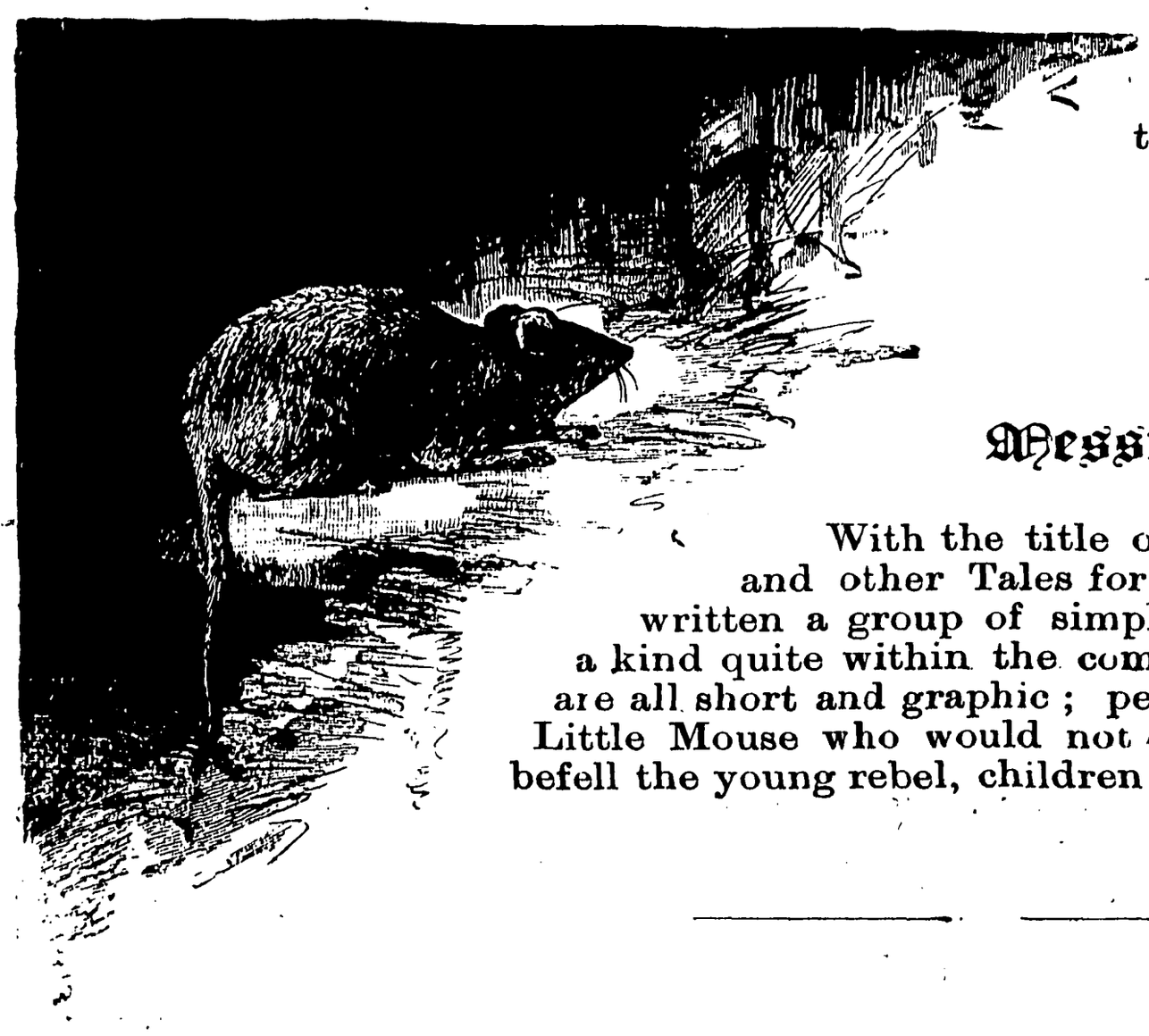
Among Cannibals, an Account of Four Years' Travels in Australia, and of Camp Life with the Aborigines of Queensland, by Carl Lumholtz, M.A. In the year 1880 Mr. Lumholtz, a distinguished Norwegian naturalist, was commissioned to proceed to Australia for scientific purposes, by the College of Christiania. One object of his expedition was to explore Queensland, and another was to collect specimens for the museums of the university, as well as

to institute researches into the customs and anthropology of the wild tribes who inhabit the interior of the continent. Mr. Lumholtz travelled widely in Australia, and he knows how to recount the story of his experiences amongst the Aborigines—most of whom have not yet emerged from the stone age in the history of their development—with graphic skill. The book is a valuable contribution to ethnology, and at the same time it is full of adventures which appeal to the general reader. The volume contains maps, coloured plates, and upwards of a hundred other illustrations.

A Naturalist in North Celebes, by Sydney J. Hickson, M.A., D.Sc., F.Z.S. Dr. Hickson visited the Malay Archipelago in the year 1885 in order to investigate the coral



formations, and he took the opportunity of his visit to this remote part of the world to acquaint himself with the general fauna, flora, and ethnology of several of the smaller and less known islands in the tropical seas. In this volume he gives the results of his researches, and the book combines scientific thoroughness and accuracy with pleasant descriptions of native life and of the Dutch colonists who rule the islands. North Celebes is rather longer than Great Britain; it has an area of 30,000 square miles, and a coast line of nearly 2,000. The central portion of the island—a territory nearly as large as England and Wales—possesses, in addition to a magnificent climate, primæval forests, fertile soil, and friendly inhabitants. Dr. Hickson gives a graphic description of the manner and customs of the people, their legends, song, and traditions; and the book also contains a classification of the different species of animal life found in that region, together with a very extensive bibliography of public papers and treatises on the subject. An extremely readable and instructive book.



Messrs. Marshall Brothers.

With the title of **The Ants and the Grasshopper,** and other Tales for the Little Ones, M. E. S. W. has written a group of simple, lively, and imaginative stories of a kind quite within the comprehension of young children. They are all short and graphic; perhaps the best is the story of 'The Little Mouse who would not obey his Mother.' In the fate which befell the young rebel, children may learn a useful lesson.

National Society.

There is good and simple teaching for young people in **A Pair of Cousins**, by M. Bramston. Flower Calloway is the daughter of kind-hearted parents, but is much spoiled by petting. Unexpectedly, her cousin, Avis Goldenlea, is brought to reside in her home, and shows the contrast of thoughtful unselfishness. The story reveals, in quiet and readable form, how children who are allowed to have their own way are apt to become peevish and jealous, but that trouble and disappointment may bring them to a better state of mind. The example of John and Helen Mascarine is likely to make attractive to boys and girls such principles as self-reliance and self-denial.

A fresh story from the accomplished pen of the author of the 'Atelier du Lys' is sure to find many readers, and **Banning and Blessing** will not disappoint the expectations of those who are in search of a quiet, refined, yet attractive book, written with a real knowledge of human nature and considerable literary skill. The scene of the story is laid in the neighbourhood of Dartmoor, and a witch who does the 'banning' is the evil genius of it. However, in the end, the 'blessing' outlives the curse, and the story ends brightly.

The heroine of Esmè Stuart's new story, **Cast Ashore**, a little girl called Mona, was discovered on the Lancashire coast after the total wreck of the ship in which she was a passenger. At first it was proposed to send the child to the workhouse, but better counsels prevailed and she was placed in charge of the Thorps at Sandview Farm. Little Mona, a high-spirited but lovable child, passes in these pages through many adventures before she is restored to her sorrowing father. The story is told in a pleasing manner, and the plot is constructed with a good deal of skill. There are four full-page illustrations in the volume.

The Blue Dragon, by Frances Mary Peard. This is a good story, with five full-page illustrations. The reader is taken back to Chester in the reign of Henry VII., and the miracle play performed in 1494, when the king visited the old city. The interest of the book gathers round a tavern, the sign of which was the 'Blue Dragon,' kept by one Goody Hamond, whose granddaughter Meg is the heroine, who befriends a poor Flemish boy and helps him to escape. She passes through many adventures before he returns to reward her kindness. The incidents are well told. The part Meg takes in the play, singing the angel's song of the first Christmas, is admirably done. Her message of 'peace on earth' is illustrated in her ministry at the time of the plague. All the local and historic colouring is carefully worked in, and heightens the charm of the tale.

In Charge, a Story of Rough Times, by Mary E. Palgrave. A tale of seventy years ago, not overcrowded with characters, yet full of incident and movement. The authoress has not forgotten, as the negro preacher expressed it, to 'put in the rousements,' which here take the shape of smuggling adventures at a lonely coastguard station on the Dorsetshire coast. A retired navy captain, demoralised through drink, is in charge of this station, his sole companion being his motherless daughter, suggestively named Felicity. How Felicity tries to get the old man away from scenes of temptation, how she takes his place in the signal-hut when he is incapacitated by drink, and how resolutely she acts when exposed to personal danger from the king's enemies, is well depicted. So also is the testing of the characters of her two suitors. One of these, the smuggler-captain, has to choose between fidelity to Felicity or to the band of wild fellows with whom he is involved. The other suitor, a City clerk, who almost becomes a martyr for the right, illustrates Felicity's own saying that 'the cause in which it is done makes a deed truly brave.' 'In Charge' will make a stirring book for boys, without in the least inciting in them a desire for the forbidden fruits of a lawless life.

Fairmeadows Farm, by Mary H. Debenham. The scene is laid in the neighbourhood of Winchester two hundred years ago, when the vicissitudes of farming were as familiar as they unfortunately are to-day. One snowy Christmas Eve in the far past—so ran the legend—a little girl, scantily clad, but with an angel face, asked and obtained shelter at Fairmeadows. In the morning the guest vanished, leaving on her pillow a purse of gold pieces. It was like entertaining an angel unawares, for from that hour the luck turned from ill to good, and it became a tradition of the house that at Fairmeadows 'open doors and good fortune go together.' First, Gabrielle Fan finds a home in the household, and brings a blessing to it. Later, a wounded fugitive from Sedgemoor is harboured and nursed back to life, for which hospitable act the loyal farmer's family—when Judge Jeffreys comes to Winchester—is in imminent peril. The old tradition holds good, however, and the tide of adverse fortune turns. The story is gracefully told, and the contrast between the vivacious sensitive half-French child Gabrielle and the host's more matter-of-fact daughter Barbara is particularly well drawn.

The Cunning Woman's Grandson, by Charlotte M. Yonge, is in the authoress's best style. The scene of the story is the lovely district of the Mendips and Cheddar. Many old-world customs are referred to, prominent among them being the charms and incantations of Granny Luke, the witch of Cheddar Caves. The work of William Wilberforce and the Misses More (one of whom was Hannah, the poetess) in establishing Sunday schools a hundred years ago is attractively sketched, and their success in elevating the moral tone of the neglected children of Cheddar Valley is well told. George Greystone is presented as a type of heartless villainy, while Rob Luke, the gipsy's grandson, is a bright and inspiring character. The story contains some useful and attractive teaching.

Chris Derrick, a Stormy Passage in a Boy's Life, by the author of 'Starwood Hall,' with two full-page illustrations. Chris and Will Derrick are the sons of honest John Derrick, captain of the 'Mouse,' a schooner which sailed between Teignmouth and France. The story opens with a well-wrought description of the daring and danger of the smuggler's life. Terah Float, one of the principal characters, was an ardent smuggler; the manner in which he evaded the customs' officers, first by hiding a night and a day in a well, and then by secreting himself as a stowaway in the hold of the 'Mouse' for some weeks, is well told. The mutiny of the crew aboard the schooner, the desperate fight for mastery, the conquest of the captain's party with the aid of the stowaway, will greatly delight those who are fond of sea adventures.

Maud Florence Nellie, or Don't Care, by C. R. Coleridge. This is one of the best books of the season for young people. In several of the characters of the story, Alwyn Cunningham, the squire's son, Harry Whittaker, and his sister Florence, it is shown that 'don't care' is a dangerous maxim to act upon. When prompted by a spirit of bravado, or thoughtlessness, or pride, it lands even worthy persons in positions of suspicion, of difficulty, and hardship. But the same spirit exercised in a good cause becomes moral courage, and does much to bring about the happy unravelling of difficulties which foolish 'don't-careism' has created. The book is bright and breezy throughout. We feel sure that it will be read by grown-up boys and girls with more than ordinary interest, and will tend to restrain reckless daring and incite to a true and fearless courage in right-doing.

Messrs. Nelson & Sons.

Beyond the Black Waters, by A. L. O. E. The title of this story probably has very little meaning to the minds of most English people, but it is altogether otherwise with natives of India. The 'Black Waters' mean to them the dreary stretch of sea which cuts off from all contact with friends and home the criminals of Hindostan. 'Beyond the Black Waters' lie the Andaman Islands, where at the present moment there are in banishment thirteen thousand convicts of both sexes. Long residence in the East has rendered the author of this

story familiar with native life and customs, and in the pages of 'Beyond the Black Waters' she draws with practised literary skill from her own experience in missionary labour in the East. The book is beautifully written, and the stories which it gives of Karens are vivid and realistic, and they moreover reveal the wonderful success which has followed the efforts of those who have sought to better and brighten their lives. This is emphatically a book which deserves to be widely read.

There is a ring of true manliness in **Follow the Right,** by G. E. Wyatt, that will rouse ambitious impulse of the nobler kind in the minds of boys. An Eton lad, at the peril of his life, saves the pet dog of a stranger at Windsor Station. This daring act is an indication of the lad's character which is further developed in the course of the story. Geoffry Treherne 'sees his duty a dead-sure thing,' and he carries it out 'straight,' without selfish calculation, or dreaming of the risk of failure.

The Chronicles of the Schönberg-Cotta Family is a classic book of its kind, and it is, therefore, quite unnecessary for us, at this time of day, to sound its praises. It is an historical romance of singular fascination and ability, and no other book gives so beautiful and vivid a picture of the life and times of Luther and Melanchthon. It will be good news to countless admirers of the book to learn that the new illustrated edition contains a great many pictures which are in strict keeping with the work, and which, therefore, heighten the realistic impression of an elevating as well as captivating story. In these days, when it is the fashion in some quarters to speak with scarcely veiled disparagement of Luther and the Reformation, we should like to see a sixpenny edition of this book, and to know that it was scattered broadcast over the land.

The evils of opium-smoking and the serious responsibility incurred by England with regard to the extensive sale of the mischievous drug in China are ably illustrated in **Smitten and Slain,** by A. V. V. The book professes to be 'a nineteenth-century romance of life in China.' A young Chinaman, honourable and brave, marries a maiden possessing charms of beauty and of character. The wedded life proceeds smoothly and happily until the opium demon 'smites' the head of the household and demoralises his manhood. The infant child, playing with his father's pipe, extracts some of the opium and swallows it, and quickly dies. The book closes with a powerful denunciation, uttered by the mother of the suicide, against the English doctor as the representative of a country enriched by a hateful and infamous traffic.

Going on Pilgrimage, a Companion to the 'Pilgrim's Progress' for Young Pilgrims, by Lucy Taylor. This book, giving a brief sketch of Bunyan's life, and a continuous exposition of the world-famous allegory, is very well done. Our only fear is that no child will ever read it. It may, however, help parents and friends to explain to children the spiritual application of the wonderful allegory. The book is well printed and illustrated.

Jack and His Ostrich, an African Story, by Eleanor Stredder. A capital tale for children. The scene is laid in South Africa, and the adventures of Jack with his ostrich, and the various scenes of Boer and Kaffir life, are full of interest. Some very good pictures will greatly add to the charm of the book in the eyes of juvenile owners.

The Favourite Book of Fables is one of the most attractive books of its kind which we have seen. It contains of course the familiar fables, but the arrangement, the pictures, and the type, all of which are excellent, give to the volume the charm of a fresh work.

Margie at the Harbour Light, by Rev. E. A. Rand, is a finely-constructed and vigorously-written story, full of light and shade, sunshine and storm. The reader will follow Margie's career with unabated interest. There are several very striking chapters in the book; the one which describes the storm being admirably done. The illustrations add to the value of the work.

The Children's Treasury of Pictures and Stories. This annual, in a tasteful cover and with many admirable illustrations, is sure to please the juveniles.

Sir Aylmer's Heir, a Story for the Young, by Evelyn Everett-Green. A charming story, full of artistic touches and a high purpose. 'I must be brave—I will be brave!' is Eyton Desborough's motto, whilst his great ambition is to become a man like Bayard, 'without fear and without reproach.' No boy can read a book of this description without gaining a noble enthusiasm for the highest kind of manhood.

The Fairy Cobbler's Gold, by Ethel Penrose. Juveniles will revel in this amusing story. Harum-scarum children, with an early development of original ideas, play harmless pranks, and form a 'syndicate' in miniature to search for a crock of gold at the foot of a rainbow. Useful lessons are woven into the story, the most important of which is brotherly love.

Aunt Bell, the Good Fairy of the Family, by Henley J. Arden. A brightly-written narrative of the doings of 'Aunt Bell' amongst her nephews and nieces, the poor of the village, and four-footed creatures. The writer presents the principle of unselfishness in a most attractive fashion.

Dora's Doll's House, by the Hon. Mrs. Greene, author of 'On Angel's Wings' &c. A fairly well-written story of a little girl, Dora, who, by her selfishness, brings a great deal of trouble upon herself and others, and finally, by playing with her doll's house in a forbidden way, sets her father's house on fire. She is taught by sharp experience that self-will is the source of suffering, and ultimately is brought to a better mind.

Mr. John C. Nimmo.

Fred Leicester, and other stories, by Richard Rowe. Three short stories of fair merit dealing chiefly with incidents of life in the Australian Bush.

A pleasant story for boys will be found in **A Goat-Boy Baronet,** by Jennie Chappell. Cyril Vane, an orphan, and the grandson of a baronet, but very poor, drives a goat-chaise at a seaside place as a means of earning a living. He is ambitious to become a medical man, and finally realises his wish after discovering a hoard of gold in a certain 'haunted' chamber. Many practical lessons are brought out as the story proceeds.

Our Sailmaker's Yarn, and other stories of the sea by various authors. This small volume contains four stories of a description that will be sure to find favour among boys. The first, 'Our Sailmaker's Yarn,' describes the misfortunes and sufferings of a boy who is sold as a slave in the West Indies by his villainous uncle; the second, 'Dick Webster,' is a 'yarn about pirates'; the third, 'The "Ariadne" and "le Harpagon,"' a tale of sea warfare, when

Napoleon troubled Europe; while the last is called 'The Wreck of the "Prospero,"' altogether forming a collection of nautical stories well worth reading, being written, as they are, by authors of acknowledged capacity in describing marine life and adventures.

Messrs. W. P. Nimmo, Hay & Mitchell.

John Lawrence, Saviour of India, the Story of his Life, by Charles Bruce, Lord Lawrence, was one of the noblest soldiers and administrators that England ever sent to rule the vast and glorious Indian Empire. He came of a race of heroes, and he lived to shed fresh lustre on an honoured name. He was brought up under influences which the modern school-boy would view with dismay, but which nevertheless did much to insure a hardy race of men. 'Was there much flogging at school when you were a boy?' he was once asked late in life. 'I was flogged every day of my life,' was the prompt reply, 'except once, and then I was flogged twice.' Nevertheless he grew up to be a tender-hearted man, the soul of chivalry, and, if a stern disciplinarian, a leader who inspired his soldiers with almost boundless enthusiasm. This is an impressive record of a lofty, brave, and God-fearing life.

Three School Friends, a Tale for Girls, by Edith Awsby, author of 'Ruth Layton' &c. This little book narrates the adventures and experiences of three school-girls during their Christmas holidays. It is brightly written, and in the course of the story manages to teach some very helpful lessons.

The Maltese Cross, and other Tales for Girls, illustrative of 'Golden Texts,' by Jennie Chappell, author of 'Crowned with Silver.' These Golden Texts are not those usually selected for tales, and the stories in this volume are so well done that they can hardly fail to help any girls into whose hands the book may fall. 'Little Harebell's Faith,' illustrating the words: 'He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them,' is a really beautiful and touching story. The book will make a capital Christmas present for young girls.

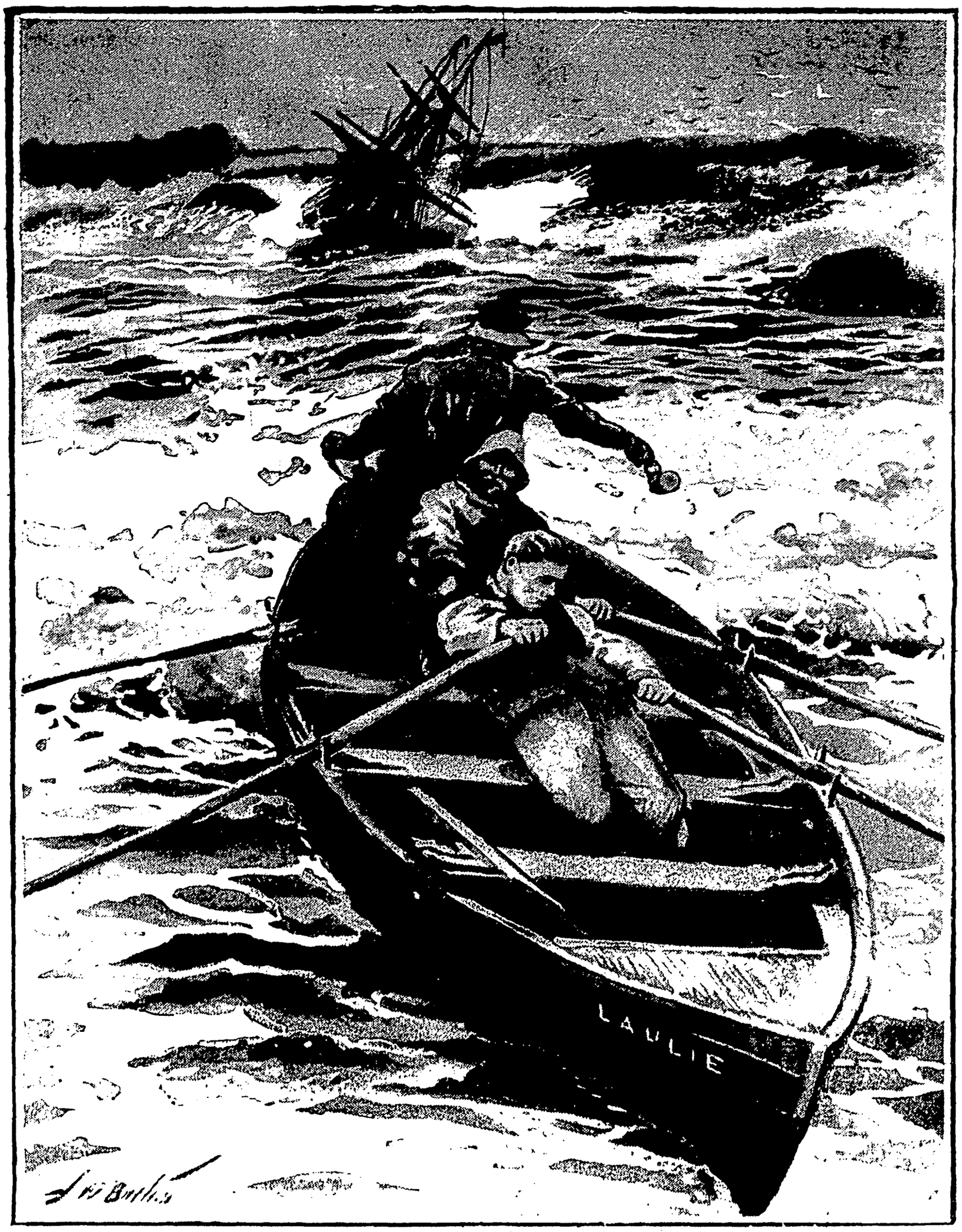
Messrs. J. Nisbet & Co.

A gracefully written collection of brief but suggestive essays on **Friends and Friendship** is sure to prove welcome to many readers. The tone of the book is lofty, and the anonymous author writes with considerable freshness and felicity of expression.

Under the pretty title of **Where the Dew Falls in London,** Miss Sarah Doudney describes the fortunes of a clever, ambitious lad who works his way forward in life, and in doing so neglects a noble-hearted girl to whom he had become engaged before he left his native village. In the end he heartlessly jilts her in order to better himself by a 'prudential' marriage. The battle of life, meanwhile, runs hard with the slighted girl, who in search of a livelihood comes to London. In her loneliness and disillusionment she found a sanctuary of peace at the Savoy Chapel Royal, and in attending the services there gathered fresh courage and hope. The brave, sweet-tempered, trustful heroine, Olive Winfield, emerged from her difficulties before her youth was passed, and before the story ends her happiness is assured. The title of the book was suggested to Miss Doudney, by some words of Charles Dickens in reference to the old graveyard of the Savoy: 'I think that on summer nights the dew falls here; the only dew that is shed in all London, save the tears of the homeless.' A beautiful story, charged with deep feeling and ennobled by a high purpose.

Geoffrey Hallam, Clerk of the Parish (Knapsack Series), by J. Jackson Wray, with frontispiece. Mr. Jackson Wray has his foot upon his native heath here, and has made good use of the traditions of the early days of Methodism in North Yorkshire. The supineness of the farmer-vicar, the self-importance of the 'poetical' cobbler-clerk, the fervour of the Methodist evangelist, the stagnation of village life, and the shrewdness and tact of the two female characters stand out with lifelike distinctness on the canvas, while, without a halt, the panorama of the story moves briskly along.

The Yarl's Yacht, by Jessie M. E. Saxby. This book is admirably illustrated; the story is one of wind and waves. 'The Yarl' was a Mr. Halsen, a descendant of the old Vikings, who lived on the wind-swept coast of the Shetland Isles. 'The Tangie' was the name of the Yarl's yacht, which, being interpreted, means 'sea demon.' It is a capital story for boys, full of brave doings and breezy adventure, interspersed with bright talk, wholesome gleams of character, old legends, and good passages of description. The Yarl is tempted into smuggling some contraband spirits on board the 'Tangie,' but before the evil stuff can be landed, while the owner and crew are ashore, a sudden judgment falls upon the old craft; a match, carelessly dropped by the Yarl on leaving, is the cause of her being burnt to the water's edge. So this lively sea story has its moral—smuggle not at all.



Yours and Mine, by Miss Anna B. Warner. 'Golden Ladder Series.' A better book for young children could hardly be found than this new volume. It is an American story of several young children, but chiefly of a brother and sister and a young girl friend. It seeks, by the establishment of a 'My and My Society,' and a 'Yours and Mine,' to enable little folk to break down, by their own childish efforts, tendencies to selfishness and unkindness. The story is full of pleasant incidents and childish fun, and is well told. The book, containing several illustrations, is very suitable for a Christmas present, and will be both read and prized by the recipients of it.

None of Self and All of Thee, by S. S. Hewitt, is a story of missionary life and labour in India. It is the outcome of personal knowledge and experience, and under the guise of an attractive tale, a great deal of useful and often curious information about the social condition of the people is given. A number of admirable reproductions of photographs of places and people augment the living interest of the book. We commend these pages to those that are inclined to think that missions are a failure.

Mr. Orde's Grandchildren, by Cecilia Selby Lowndes. The illustrations are good, and the story is a healthy and interesting one for young people. Mr. Orde is a man who, because his daughter's husband went into trade, cut the family and would not allow his other grandchildren to have anything to do with this branch of his household, who had disgraced themselves by earning an honest living. Fortune brings the two families to the same village, where Julian, the heir on the aristocratic side, is determined to break down this estrangement. Many events and episodes occur. Just before the death of Julian the grandfather sends for his daughter, and a reconciliation is brought about. Moral: the folly of foolish class distinctions, and the wisdom of Christian affection.

The Crew of the Water Wagtail, a Story of Newfoundland, by R. M. Ballantyne, is a story of the adventures of a shipwrecked crew, who were cast ashore on the coast of Newfoundland. The incidents are supposed to have taken place a short time after the discovery of the island by Sebastian Cabot in 1497. Indeed, one of the party is represented as being a friend of William Tyndale, and as the possessor of a manuscript copy of Wycliffe's translation of the Gospel of John. This Paul Burns is a noble, Christian fellow, and his conversations give a high religious tone to the book; still it must not be regarded as a religious tale. It abounds with exciting incidents; besides the wreck there is a mutiny; deeds of noble unselfishness and heroism are set over against acts of brutality and cunning; we have hair-breadth escapes, brushes with Indian tribes, amusing situations, ingenious expedients to get food, which may be regarded as the beginnings of the cod-fishing and seal-hunting industries, which in these later times have developed into such lucrative employments. Given such materials as these, boys will know what to expect at the hand of Mr. Ballantyne, and we can assure them that they will in no way be disappointed.

Number Three Winifred Place, by Agnes Giberne, author of 'Sun, Moon, and Stars,' 'Miss Con,' &c., is a pretty story, charmingly told; bright, fresh, and vigorous. The characters are a widow and her winsome young daughter; three maiden aunts, not lovable at first, but becoming so later on; an uncle in the person of an angular Indian officer, but whose heart is kind and true; a good clergyman, bent on his Master's service; a couple of worthy doctors, and a lodging-house keeper, with a rasping and complaining temper, whose household has to bear much. The plot moves through mystery to a *dénouement* that arrests and holds the attention and delights the reader. It is a fascinating story, inwrought with healthy Christian teaching, and will be sure to increase the already high reputation of Miss Agnes Giberne as a writer of really good and useful books.

One Little Vein of Dross, by Ruth Lamb. 'Golden Ladder' Series. This volume of the 'Golden Ladder' series is prettily got up and contains several illustrations. But the interest of the story is independent of any such auxiliaries. Its purpose is to show that a lack of frankness, from moral cowardice, may involve the person himself and many besides in serious difficulties and troubles. Mr. Beaumont having this defect, this 'one little vein of dross' running through an otherwise sterling character, jeopardises for a time his own happiness and that of others. The main part of the story turns upon some diamond jewellery which cannot be found. He has not the courage to tell of this supposed loss to the one chiefly interested. Lawyers and detectives then appear, suspicion rests upon the innocent, and many are made unhappy. When, however, the matter is mentioned, the diamonds turn out not to be lost at all, and the mystery is quickly solved. The book is extremely interesting and bright—its tone healthy and good, and several fine characters are depicted in it. Miss Lamb has certainly placed a rung of true metal in the 'Golden Ladder.' Readers will find both pleasure and instruction in its pages.

Laurel Crowns, or Griselda's Aim, a Story of Brothers and Sisters, by Emma Marshall. The praiseworthy object of the authoress stated in the preface is to kindle sympathy in the hearts of young people for those 'who give their lives, their time, and their powers of mind and body to the Seamen's Mission.' The difficulty of combining a very practical purpose with a story of unflagging interest is successfully surmounted; and this history of a boy who ran off to sea rather than face the consequences of disobedience will be followed with eager attention.

Golden Silence, or Annals of the Birkett Family of Crawford-under-Wold, by Emma Marshall, is a really valuable little book. The story is told with much pathos and feeling, and the power of the author is such that she holds the attention from first to last. Much knowledge of human nature is revealed in the portraiture of Mrs. John Birkett, an incorrigible gossip; of Captain Meredith, a worthless scoundrel; and Mr. Fortescue, a devoted village clergyman. No one who reads this story will fail to have the heart moved, sometimes in pity for the erring, and again in indignation towards the wily deceiver. The whole tone of the book is such that it should be heartily welcomed wherever earnest workers are trying to make the dark places of the world bright.

Blown to Bits, or the Lonely Man of Rakata, a Tale of the Malay Archipelago, is another story from the vigorous pen of Mr. R. M. Ballantyne. This time we are introduced to the memorable volcanic eruption in the Eastern Seas in 1883. The writer has great tact in working actual history into his story. The report of the Krakatoa

Committee, appointed by the Royal Society to make a thorough investigation into the whole phenomenon, as well as other standard works by well-known men, have been laid under tribute. Mr. Ballantyne shows his usual skill in depicting striking scenes. Cyclones at sea, the fights of wild beasts on land, daring exploits of travellers, are all graphically set forth. Life in Sumatra and Java is pictured vividly. Valuable information is given upon volcanic action, and the whole story will at once captivate the reader, and sustain the author's high reputation.

Mr. Nister.

Fine art gift-books of an exquisite and yet inexpensive kind, pretty booklets in colour and monochrome, toy-books filled with graceful designs, elegant art calendars in novel shapes and forms, and Christmas cards of rare artistic merit have won for Mr. Nister a wide and enviable reputation. Amongst the most beautiful books which Mr. Nister has published this season are **Little Bright Eyes** and **I'll Tell You a Story**—two of the most attractive books for children which we ever came across. 'Little Bright Eyes' is a volume of verse, illustrated by Mrs. Mack and Miss Harriett Bennett; it contains twenty-four full-page plates, and it would be difficult to single out one of them as unworthy of a frame. 'I'll Tell You a Story' also contains eight full-page coloured illustrations, drawn with grace and skill by Mrs. Mack, and besides this there are a number of pretty vignettes by R. A. Bell. The letter-press is lively and amusing. **Round the Hearth** is another exceptionally fine gift-book, full of coloured and monotint pictures, which are marked by poetic treatment and artistic skill. The poems are charming, and vividly reflect the pleasures of childhood. There are twenty-four full-page colour illustrations in the book, and some of them are very quaint and amusing. Some other books which we greatly admire are **A String of Pearls, Evergreen, Bells a'Chime,** and **Little Maids.** Mr. Nister this year has also brought out a novelty, being a toy-book fashioned in the shape of the **Noah's Ark,** for the nursery. It is full of quaint pictures and funny rhymes.

Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.

Barbara Leybourne, a Story of Eighty Years Ago, by Sarah Selina Hamer, is an extremely good story, and will take, as it deserves to do, a foremost place amongst the many high-class books of the season. This story of eighty years ago is a Lancashire tale, it abounds with striking incidents felicitously told, and the plot is worked out with a skill that sustains the interest up to the last sentence. The tone of the book is healthily religious, and in it there are depicted several exceedingly fine characters which young persons will admire, and would do well to set before themselves as models for imitation. We cordially commend this really good book.

Kate and Jean, by Jessie M. E. Saxby, is a a story of 'two young and independent spinsters,' which is supposed to be told by their landlady. The lights and shadows of middle-class life are admirably reflected in this gracefully-written description of the fight with fortune by two poor, refined, but friendless girls. The charm of the book lies in the vivid and seemingly artless manner in which the contrast in character between Kate and Jean displays itself. Kate earns a precarious livelihood by her pen, and Jean goes out as a governess; the former is clever, cynical, but thoroughly good at heart, whilst the latter—a daughter of the manse—is the very embodiment of love and tenderness. In the end, one marries a philanthropist and the other a poet, both of whom play a prominent part in the story. The way in which the girls themselves are drawn is much more true to life than the kind of experiences through which they are supposed to have passed.

The scene of Miss Annie S. Swan's new story **Sheila** is laid in a romantic part of the Highlands. The heroine is a captivating girl, artless, sensible, and good, who inherits the estate of her step-father, a Scotch laird, to the exclusion of the next-of-kin, a chivalrous young fellow called Fergus MacLeod. He refuses to take any part against the winsome girl, to whom his uncle has left the family estates, but in the end everything is righted by his marriage to Sheila. The lights and shadows of Scottish life are admirably reflected in the story, and the character of Sheila is powerfully drawn, and she acts throughout in a manner which heightens the realistic as well as the pleasant impression of the book.

Kilgarvie, by Robina F. Hardy, is a tale of Scotch folk, written chiefly in the Scotch dialect. Malcolm Grierson, one of the principal characters, was the son of a poor widow, who belonged to the Covenanters. Very early the lad showed signs of extraordinary talent, and, having excelled at school, fought his way to St. Andrews University, where he carried all before him, and finally settled down as minister of a quiet kirk. He marries twice; the first time proving there may be error even in a minister's wooing. Other people who come to the fore are Gibbie Gow, a carrier, who is an interesting study of Scottish character, and Giovna Palmetti, an Italian girl, who, having been married to a wealthy Englishman, and afterwards deserted by him, comes to Scotland to find him out. The bitter result of a wrongful love is well told. The story is interesting throughout.

Office of 'Young England.'

The annual volume of **Young England** is tastefully bound in blue and gold, and is correctly described in its own words as an 'illustrated magazine for young people and the family circle.' The pictures are plentiful, but in our judgment they are not half so good as the literary contents of the magazine. The set of articles on 'Grotesque Natural History' merits a word of praise, and so does 'Joe Polwreath, the Hunchback,' a serial tale, the scene of which is laid on the Cornish coast. The papers on the 'International Golden Texts' are capital.

Messrs. S. W. Partridge & Co.

Bolingbroke's Folly, by Emma Leslie. Rosa Bolingbroke becomes heiress to a large estate, and, determined on making her life useful, spends her time and much of her wealth for the benefit of the poor tenants residing on her property, and finally marries a neighbouring squire, who is inspired with similar philanthropic motives to those which absorb his generous bride. The excellent tone and style are quite in keeping with the previous works of this talented authoress.

John Winter, a Story of Harvest, by Edward Garrett, author of 'The Occupations of a Retired Life.' This story is one of distinct merit; the conversations are suggestive, and deal with many important moral questions. Isabel's renunciation of her well-invested property, because her dividends were made out of unrighteous profits, is admirable. She is in every sense a good character. John Winter is a man of strong personality; he returns from Australia a repentant prodigal; but the harvest of sin follows him, and the story is the working out of the inevitable Nemesis with elements of redemption. The sermon in the Warden's chapel is excellent, with its beautiful reference to Father Damien. The author shows wide sympathy with all good work, and tones of truest piety echo through the book.

Yvonne St. Claire, or Won by Patience, by Eliza Pollard. This is a story which is certain to arouse the interest of girls and elder boys. Geoffrey Lee, on going abroad, is strictly enjoined by his father to set his face against falling in love with a Frenchwoman. The perversity of human nature, however, leads the young man to break his resolution and disobey the paternal injunction. He lays a plot in order to secure his father's favour, and sends his amiable French wife, in the guise of a nurse, to tend his little invalid sister in the old home. The young wife brings pretty Theo back to life and strength, and then reveals her true identity. A reconciliation follows between father and son, and all ends happily.

For Honour's Sake, by Jennie Chappell. This is a carefully-elaborated story, containing a strongly-marked religious element, for senior girls and girls thinking about marriage. Alleyne Ross, the hero, marries Selina, an heiress, 'for honour's sake,' because of a promise made to her father. His love, however, is given to Helen Deveron, whom he has rescued from a perilous position; but he never betrays himself. The wife thinks she has cause for jealousy, but acknowledges on her death-bed that her fears were groundless. The time comes for Alleyne Ross to declare his love to Helen Deveron, who meets the avowal in the way that Ross desired. The book is embellished with many illustrations, several of which, particularly the chapter-headings, are cleverly executed.

The Better Part, by Annie S. Swan, with illustrations. Third edition. A fresh and wholesome story which tells us about two sisters who worked in an Oldham mill. They were orphans. Lettice, the heroine, chose 'the better part' and becomes a very useful Christian woman, and finally marries the son of the owner of the mill. The other sister, Magdalene, goes away to London, is not heard of for some time, and becomes a famous singer. Lettice in the meantime is a hospital nurse, and, when Magdalene is ill and dying, she is the one appointed to go and nurse her. The book is written under the influence of a very evangelical spirit.

The Church Mouse, by Mrs. F. J. B. Smith, and 'The Young Potato-Roasters.' A chatty little book, with a religious tendency, for young children, enlivened with several excellent pictures.

Sallie's Boy, by Jessie M. E. Saxby, illustrated, is a prettily written tale of strong domestic interest. The reader will follow Sallie's career with the utmost eagerness.

Great taste has been shown this year in the preparation of the covers of the annual volumes of the **Children's Friend** and the **Infant's Magazine.** The latter, in particular, strikes us as being tasteful and effective. The pictures and stories contained in

these old favourites are certain to delight the clamorous little people for whom they have been prepared. They are capital specimens of good, and at the same time inexpensive, gift-books. These old favourites wisely do not attempt to live upon their reputation, but instead of that grow more attractive every year. We like these magazines because the pictures and stories are exactly of the kind which merry unspoilt children most appreciate. The bright counsels contained in these companion volumes will not go over the heads of youngsters, but right into their hearts.

Our Dumb Companions, by Thomas Jackson, M.A. (new edition). These 'conversations about dogs, horses, donkeys, and cats,' profusely illustrated with admirable drawings, ought to find a permanent place on the bookshelves of young people. The habits and instincts of the above creatures are exhibited by numerous stories, whilst the lesson of kindness to the dumb creation is eloquently enforced throughout.

Amaranth's Garden, by Margaret Scott Haycraft, contains features of originality not often found in stories for young people. Mr. Glyn, a devoted student of natural history, loses his reputation owing to the mysterious disappearance of a certain sum of money that had been entrusted to his care.

He leaves the country under a cloud of disgrace; but after some years returns to the old home, and in a fit of somnambulism discovers the missing money which he had unconsciously secreted whilst under similar influences. He recovers his lost position; and the story ends happily with a pretty love-scene between two of the characters. The book is adapted for girls in their 'teens.'

The annual volumes of the **British Workman** and the **Band of Hope** are as usual full of pithy anecdotes, short stories, biographical sketches, and kind words pleasantly expressed on temperance, thrift, and kindred themes. Many of the pictures in both of these widely-read and attractive magazines are fine examples of the best kind of popular art.

The Strait Gate, by Annie S. Swan. The reader is introduced to two brothers, one a commercial man, who loves money and gain, and has the misfortune to come into possession of great wealth, to which, by the accident of a lawyer's delay, he is legally entitled, but morally he has no right to the property. He is finally led to see the error of his ways, and finds the rightful owner. The other brother is a doctor, who is dutiful and successful. The story is entirely free from any excitement, and is thoroughly religious in its tone.

Mattie's Home, by the Author of 'Hungry Jack,' &c. Such a home as that described in Jacques Lane in this short story is, we are afraid, too often to be met with in the world of reality to afford much scope for originality in fiction. This, perhaps, is not so much the author's aim as to open the hearts of some little readers, to whom Christmas is such a joyous season, to the condition of poor children whose sufferings, alas! only too closely resemble those of Mattie.

Left with a Trust, by Nellie Hellis. This little tale may afford a practical lesson to many children, while it is written in an attractive style and sufficiently full of incident to command the reader's interest. The trust is left by a father, going abroad, to the family he leaves behind, who each and all strive, though not always successfully, to fulfil this trust, which is to take care of and help their mother.

The Friendly Visitor. New Series. Vol. XXIII. This volume of the *Friendly Visitor* for the year possesses the same features of interest as in former years. It contains articles and short sketches that will be read with delight in many a home. In it are extracts from the writings of such men as the Revs. C. H. Spurgeon, Horatius Bonar, D.D., A. Maclaren, D.D., and Mark Guy Pearse. Subjects for Bible Reading are given. The articles and extracts are bright, short, and pointed; whilst the type is clear and the illustrations are good and numerous. Altogether, it makes good its claim to be a 'friendly visitor' and one which will receive a hearty welcome in many a home.

Mark Desborough's Vow, by Annie S. Swan. One of the best stories we have read for some time. It reveals the character of a truly noble man in Mark Desborough. His brother Wilfred was of another kind, clever as an artist, but lazy, selfish, and living at his brother's expense. When Mark stands by his dying widowed mother, he vows to her that he will make Wilfred his first care after she has gone. And right bravely he fulfils his vow. He teaches how one may 'suffer and be strong,' and shows in his life so much of patience, industry, and unselfishness, that he may stand as a type of manly Christianity. Even when his brother obtains promise of marriage from the girl on whom Mark has passionately set his heart, he bears himself like a true Christian. It may be said that it is not often that two fortunes so easily fall to a virtuous life, but Mark Desborough deserved them both. Too much cannot be said in praise of the style and influence of this story.

The Mother's Companion is a useful and readable book, and will be hailed by young wives with delight. Its contents are varied and there runs through it a charming story, called 'Sallie's Boy.' The pages devoted to home dressmaking by Miss Davis will be found very helpful; there are also some sensible cookery receipts.

Merry Times for Tiny Folks, by J. D. This is a book that would be fully appreciated as a Christmas-box by many little ones, containing as it does numerous short stories in prose and poetry. It is printed throughout in a large clear type, and full of tasteful illustrations, some of which are full-page coloured plates.

Arthur Egerton's Ordeal, or God's Ways not our Ways, by Emma Leslie. The object of the authoress is to enforce and illustrate certain religious truths for the benefit of young people. The duty and efficacy of prayer, resignation to the Divine Will, and belief in the Fatherhood of God are the main features of the teaching. From their mode of talking, and the very early formation of their characters, the children in the book seem to have old heads on young shoulders.

The Family Friend, Vol. XX. This is a charming volume. It is in reality 'a family friend,' for it has something valuable for old and young alike. It contains bright stories which are both healthy and invigorating. The papers on natural history are most useful. Mothers will find practical hints on medicine and nursing; daughters will have help in many a problem of the needle; musicians will be inspired by its expressive harmonies; and even the weary reader will come upon something to arrest his attention. The illustrations are profuse and in the best style. A better book for the family circle it would be hard to find.

Eagle Cliff, a Tale of the Western Isles, by R. M. Ballantyne, relates the doings of three friends whose yacht was run down by an unknown steamer while cruising off the coast of Scotland. Landing on one of the Western Islands, they are hospitably entertained by the Laird, Allen Gordon. Barret, one of the party, on his way to the house, finds the niece of the Laird lying unconscious, having fallen from the rocks. Carrying her home, he secures

a warm welcome for himself and his friends. The visitors are provided with fishing, shooting, and other amusements; Jackman tells stories of elephant hunts and other adventures in India; while Barret goes in for scientific pursuits in company with the lady whom he eventually marries. The escapades of MacRummle, who generally falls into the water when out a-fishing, and the emphatic Scottish brogue of the natives, give variety to the story. 'The Eagle Cliff,' like all Mr. Ballantyne's books, is well worth reading, and is sure to please.

Marigold, by L. T. Meade, illustrated, is a simple yet a most fascinating Christmas story, possessing the special features of this writer. The young people will peruse the volume with gratification.

A 1 Annual, Vol. II. Amongst the writers of serial stories in this volume are Emily S.

Holt, Lady Hope, and R. M. Ballantyne. The miscellaneous articles cover a great variety of subjects, and include 'Electrical Engineering,' by Sergeant Sharpe, 'Glimpses at some other Worlds,' by Sir R. S. Ball, 'British Industries,' 'South Kensington Museum,' and numerous papers on 'Gardening,' 'Travels,' &c. The volume shows a decided improvement on its predecessor, and is well worthy to take its place by the side of some of the more widely known annuals.

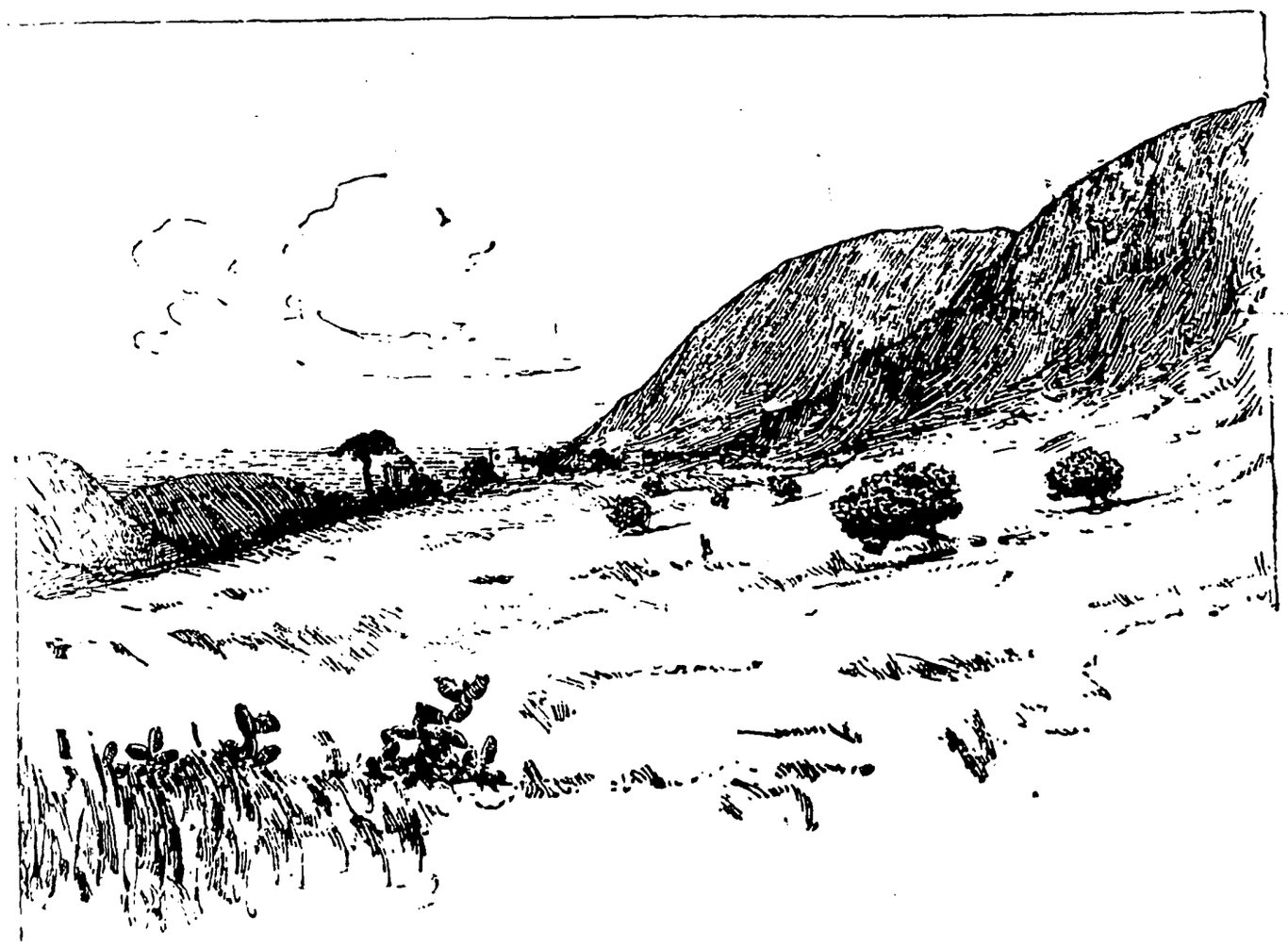
How the Village was Won, by Isabel Stuart Robson, is both interesting and helpful reading. There is a pretty little love story running throughout. But that is simply auxiliary to the chief purport of the book, which is to show how the influence of a single family, in fair circumstances, is able to rescue a neglected village and to bring about in it a state of religious earnestness and social improvement. Mr. Harland is a gentleman who retires from business to the village of Magdalen Laver, where he and his family throw themselves into the struggling work of a little meeting-house, with the results just stated. One cannot read the book without feeling that if many who retire to the country, after a successful business career, would seek to elevate and improve the people among whom they come to live, instead of being content to spend their days in disregard of those about them, the condition of our villages and suburban districts would be greatly benefited. We commend the book heartily to those who desire to end their days in a golden sunset.

Messrs. Peacock, Mansfield, & Britton.

The above firm have, among their novelties, the Book of Common Prayer and 'Hymns Ancient and Modern' bound in two volumes in a variety of colours, in a case called the Battenberg; in this the books are removable, and there are handles to the case. The same books are also offered in a drop-in case. They are also done mounted in silver, with locks similarly bound and fitted. The Common Prayer, Hymns, and Lessons are obtainable in one volume. Among Messrs. Peacock, Mansfield & Britton's bindings may be noted the Albion Poets in eight volumes, morocco padded, and in Persian arabesque. The same are also to be had with photographs. Another variety of binding is Sultan morocco, in which the Common Prayer, Common Prayer and 'Hymns,' the Church Lessons, and the Bible are to be had with or without a cross on the side. Crocodile and lizard bindings, the real skin, are, too, among the productions of the house. And there are doeskin covers for Bibles, Prayers, &c., which material is quite a novelty. Terra-cotta (a name for the colour) is likewise found among the morocco bindings. These will be found enumerated in detail in Messrs. Peacock's wholesale catalogue, while their illustrated trade catalogue describes the numberless forms in which leather goods, purses, note cases, tourists' cases, &c., are supplied.

Messrs. George Philip & Son.

Palestine, by Major C. R. Conder, D.C.L., R.E., Vol. II. of 'The World's Great Explorers and Explorations.' The second volume of this useful series summarises all that has been recently written respecting Palestine. The previous works of Major Conder on the subject have contributed to the facts and discoveries comprised in the book; whilst the personal adventures of those employed in exploring expeditions form one of its attractive features. Numerous maps, plans, and illustrations elucidate the text; and, whilst full justice is done to geographical results, the customs, beliefs, and superstitious practices of the Moslem peasantry and nomadic Arabs receive a fair degree of prominence.



Messrs. Isaac Pitman & Sons.

A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens (National Phonographic Library). By the production of this book the literature of shorthand receives a seasonable addition; and the young student of phonography may therefore blend the perusal of a Christmas classic with the practice of his art during the coming holidays.

The Religious Tract Society.

The Leisure Hour, 1889. Biography is well represented in this volume by sketches of M. Chevreul, Samuel Rogers, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Count Tolstoi, and Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall. There are some interesting illustrated papers on the handwriting of our kings and queens, and many descriptions of travel, the progress of science, and different aspects of modern social life. Fiction is strongly represented, and there is plenty of variety in the pages of this pleasant and lavishly illustrated volume.

The annual volume of **The Child's Companion,** in a most tasteful and enticing cover, and containing numerous striking pictures in which animals and birds are prominent, will win the approval and awaken the sympathies of youngsters of both sexes.

Forestalled, or The New Fabric of Stonefield Mills, by Edith C. Kenyon. Boys and girls will be pleased and edified by this pleasantly-written tale. The authoress shows distinct ability, both in the construction and style of the story.

Rights and Wrongs, a Story of Village Life, by S. S. Pugh. This volume gives a glimpse of the faults on both sides in a case of estrangement between a father who is too fond of insisting upon his rights, and a child who is too fond of dwelling upon his wrongs. Tom Brownlow, a spoiled boy, loses his mother, who has always shielded him, and soon becomes unmanageable. Tom's father sends him to a boarding-school, where a 'peculiarly persuasive system' is advertised as a specific for refractory boys. But the system—which seems to have been modelled on that by which Gideon 'taught the men of Succoth'—fails with Tom, who runs away to sea. Meantime Mr. Brownlow retires from business to a country village, where, being looked upon as a 'furriner,' he is grossly annoyed by the lowest class of his neighbours. Here, however, he gradually perceives 'a more excellent way,' and, while learning to conciliate the villagers, is also softened towards his wayward son. 'Rights and Wrongs' is not a brilliant story, but it contains a few passages marked by genuine insight and pathos, and the description of the unreasonable prejudice against 'strangers' in an isolated village is true to the life.

Mr. Wentworth's Daughters, by M. A. Dibdin. Agatha Wentworth, a country vicar's daughter, is to spend a few months in London at her barrister-uncle's, teaching his children, with the promise of a trip to Switzerland later on. Agatha, however, generously exchanges trips with her sister Mabel, who too readily supposes that Agatha actually preferred Worthing to the Bernese Alps. In the end, self-forgetfulness has its reward, and even thoughtless disregard of others is only temporarily punished. The plot is slight, but the incidents are vivid and natural; and the authoress is to be especially thanked for the lucid explanation of such elements of religion as repentance and faith given in a quiet talk between Agatha and one of her pupils. By the way, we would like to know the approximate age of that precocious pupil—'the rum little stuck-up chit' who, on her arrival at Worthing, walked straight to a quiet part of the beach, drew a note-book from her pocket, and began to compose an 'Ode to the Sea.'

In **Allan Dunstan,** or Wheat among the Tares, by Thomas Keyworth, we have a story much above the average. It grapples with some of the difficulties and dangers to which young men of intelligence are exposed to-day. The hero is an enthusiastic cyclist, who, during his holiday tour with a friend, Rupert Wilding, passes through a quiet part of Yorkshire. Both young men belong to an eclectic club in Mirkuster (which is a thin disguise for Manchester), in which the membership is limited to ten, while they call themselves 'the Moderns.' The influence of this club is towards criticism and doubt. In Yorkshire, Allan casually hears a noble man named Mowbray preach, under whose teaching the character of his whole life is changed. He becomes a genuine Christian, while Rupert Wilding becomes a wreck. There is much manly, moral teaching here. With more ministers like Mr. Mowbray, fewer young people would be content with the cold comfort of doubt.

Handsome is as Handsome Does, and other Readings for Working Men's Homes, with upwards of one hundred engravings. This little volume is exactly what it professes to be, 'Readings for Working Men's Homes.' It consists of historical, biographical, and Scriptural articles, interspersed by capital tales. The papers on the 'Invincible Armada,' 'John Bunyan,' 'Manners and Customs of Eastern Lands,' and 'The Story of the Gunpowder Plot,' are excellent. They are told in a graphic, dramatic style, which at once arrests attention. The illustrations also help to bring the scenes vividly before the reader. There is a selection for 'Readings and Recitations,' and the seven longer tales in the volume, by Mrs. Prosser, George E. Sargent, Miss Bradley, Miss Jessie Saxby, and Miss Agnes Giberne, are written with force and pathos.

Our Little Dots, in large type, with plenty of graphic pictures and short stories in prose and verse, is one of the best books of the season for the youngest class of readers.

Sweet Singers of Wales, by H. Elvet Lewis. Most of the papers in this volume have already appeared in the *Sunday at Home*, and although the account which Mr. Lewis gives of the singers and songs of the Welsh Church is far from exhaustive, there is a good deal of out-of-the-way information in the volume. The selection is made with marked judgment, and the brief biographical sketches are written in a pleasing and graphic style.

Mr. Mygale's Hobby, a Story about Spiders, by the author of 'The Glory of the Sea.' Under the form of a story the author has succeeded in producing a very instructive and quite fascinating book on Spiders. The habits, haunts, characteristics, and varieties of these creatures, whom Mr. Mygale would insist on being called 'animals,' are described in a diverting manner which is certain to arouse the interest of boys of intelligence.

The Girl's Own Annual. Amongst the contributors to this high-class and attractive magazine are the Queen of Roumania, the Countess of Meath, Sarah Doudney, Ruth Lamb, Jean Ingelow, Sarah Tytler, Isabella Fyvie Mayo, Sir Robert Ball, F.R.S., Gordon Stables, M.D., R.N., and Edward Walford; whilst those who illustrate its pages are James Sant, R.A., Frank Dixie, R.A., Marcus Stone, R.A., Harrison Weir, Birket Foster, Sydney Hall, and the like. The frontispiece is an exquisite coloured reproduction of 'The Soul's Awakening,' the picture by Sant which attracted universal attention at the Royal Academy in 1888. The literary contents are admirable, and no trouble is evidently spared to render the magazine not only interesting, but really helpful to the class for whom it is intended.

Winter's Folly, by Mrs. O. F. Walton. No one living in the village knows anything about the old man who is the mystery of this story, why he came, or where he came from. The only fact that is certain is that his name is Winter, and so they call the tumble-down little dwelling he built for himself on the hill overlooking the village, 'Winter's Folly.' At last, however, the mystery is solved by the return of the child whose loss was the one great sorrow that made him seek the hermit-like seclusion in which he lived. Although intended for children, this little story is written in a style that would prove interesting to many elder folk.

The Last House in London, by Crona Temple. This is a story of city life, written in an easy and graceful style, and dealing with a phase of life which will appeal with special force to elder school-girls. The book is full of every-day interest and human charm.

My Friend Smith, by Talbot Baines Reed, illustrated by Gordon Browne. This is a capital story of school and city life; it will be sure to interest boys of all ages. The experiences of Smith and his friend in the wretched school for 'backward and troublesome' lads are cleverly told; the boys' revenge when they lock up the ogress, Miss Henniker, is a memorable episode. Three boys, on leaving school, are brought together in London, and are employed in the same firm. Their adventures and misadventures are very varied and lively. The book is a little 'long drawn out,' but amusing and healthy, a valuable addition to every library for young people.

In a book for boys, called **Gentleman Jackson,** by H. F. Charles, the lights and shadows of London life are uncommonly well reflected in the history of a brave little lad, the son of a drunkard, who fights his way up by sheer merit to a partnership in a great warehouse in the City. It is a story of self-help, full of thrilling incidents of a kind which will enlist the sympathies of boys.

Audrey's Jewels, by Emma Leslie, is an historical romance which is concerned with the Revolution of 1688. The disabilities under which the Nonconformists laboured are interwoven with the story of the heroine, a noble-hearted girl of firm religious principle and gentle spirit. John Bunyan is made to play a part in the book, and his influence over Audrey is extremely well described. A wholesome book for girls, written with imaginative insight.

One of the last works written by that genial naturalist the Rev. J. G. Wood is entitled **The Brook and its Banks.** It is marked by that happy union of accuracy of observation and vivacity of style which long ago made its lamented author a favourite with old and young. The reader is taken along the banks of an English stream, and his attention is called,

in a pleasant and informal way, to those wonders of nature which careless or preoccupied passers-by continually miss. This is exactly the kind of book to instil a love of natural history in the hearts of thoughtful boys and girls.

A series of papers, which have appeared from time to time in the *Leisure Hour* has just been published under the title of **Ways and Means,** by Isabella Fyvie Mayo. They are an attempt, in narrative form, to discuss some of the pressing social questions of the present day, such as a 'house beautiful' on a limited income, indifference to 'Mrs. Grundy,' living at too quick a pace, domestic rule, amusements, hospitality, &c. The book is bright, practical, and suggestive, and adorned with many pretty illustrations of country life.

The object of **Dick Delver,** by the author of 'Count Renneberg's Treason,' is to furnish a realistic picture of the stormy restlessness which prevailed in England during the last years of Edward III.'s reign and the whole of Richard II.'s—a period of fierce discontent and religious upheaval. The military triumphs of Edward III. and the Black Prince brought in their train poverty and suffering to the rank and file of the English people; whilst the Black Death, by its repeated visitations, swept away half the population and led to the downfall of Feudalism. Meanwhile, the preaching of Wycliffe brought about a widespread revolt against the arrogance of the nobles and the assumptions of the priests. The book is written with great vigour, and gives a lively picture of the times, whilst the author contrives with considerable success to hold the balance even between the romance of fiction and the realism of fact.

The Tract Magazine for 1889 contains much profitable reading for young and old, consisting of short stories, Scriptural, historical, and otherwise, interspersed with Bible readings and select pieces of poetry.

Friendly Greetings consists of illustrated readings of a bright and popular kind. The volume for 1889 lies before us, and is full of pithy sensible papers and spirited pictures. Just the sort of book which cottagers will prize.

The new volume of the **Sunday at Home** retains all the characteristics which have made the magazine so deservedly popular in thousands of households. Besides the two chief serial stories, there are a number of short tales and character sketches; whilst biography, art,

literature, poetry, and missions are singularly well represented. The 'Sermons in the Family' still form one of the most valuable features of the magazine, and there are also a number of genial essays of a thoughtful and suggestive kind. The illustrations, especially some of the large coloured ones, are of great artistic merit.

The Boy's Own Annual. The list of contributors to this general favourite includes some of the best-known writers for boys, such as R. M. Ballantyne, Cuthbert Bede, Ascott R. Hope, Talbot Baines Reed, Gordon Stables, and Jules Verne. The serial by the last-named writer, with its exciting adventures and hairbreadth escapes, is one of the leading features of the volume; whilst the graphic illustrations and large coloured plates increase the attraction of the volume for youthful tastes.

Original Fables, by Mrs. Prosser. Not a little ingenuity and a great deal of sound common sense distinguish Mrs. Prosser's fables. Children are sure to like them, for they are bright and lively stories, and the moral is never forced to the front, but is rather allowed to suggest itself.

Afterwards, by the Author of 'Winning her Way.' A slip pasted in this volume states that when it had passed through the press it was discovered that another story already existed bearing the same title, and that arrangements had been made that in any future editions the title of this work would be altered. 'Afterwards' is the story of the family of a Nonconformist minister in London. It tells of the temptations they met with from scientific doubts concerning religion; the protests made against drinking habits and gambling with cards; but the chief purpose of the tale seems to be to give point to the truth that sacrifices made for the comfort, the happiness, and the well-being of others have an 'Afterwards' of compensation that will be a full repayment for whatever may be given up to secure them. The story is full of interest from beginning to end. Few more helpful books than this could be found to place in the hands of young men and women.

Shayning Castle, by Miss E. L. Davis, gives an unusually fresh and entertaining story, or rather mystery, of a young man who engages himself as valet to a testy old invalid nobleman. The mystery is not explained until near the close, and it would be both needless and unkind to anticipate the solution here. But in his position as valet this mysterious young man is subjected, and in turn subjects others, to influences of a moral and spiritual nature, the account of which is deftly and not disagreeably interwoven with the fabric of the tale. Perhaps the least satisfactory part of the book is the love-making. There is, however, a capital clerical character—a healthy evangelical rector, not at all one of your conventional clergymen, sickly, intense, and *doctrinaire*, but a modest yet fearless man, whom one is sorry to part from before the fall of the curtain. 'Shayning Castle,' if a serious, is at the same time a readable—it might almost be said romantic—volume.

Mr. Stepaway's Two Feet, and other Sketches, by the Rev. P. B. Power, M.A. The style of the author of 'The Oiled Feather' shows no sign of decadence; indeed, the Rev. P. B. Power's last book is one of his best. The foibles of unreasoning and domineering husbands, the confidence gained by a discreet use of the tongue, with an added word against cowardly silence, the kind of ignorance that is *not* bliss, and a Christmas story on Christ as the best Christmas gift, are here the subjects of six brief and sprightly chapters written in the colloquial vein of the modern 'Old Humphrey.' The volume has a couple of illustrations, and its unsparing, but good-tempered, exposure of human weaknesses should render it, in many a disordered home, a pungent but palatable medicine.

Those who are fond of tracing the influence of Christianity upon the Oriental mind will have much pleasure in reading **The Appeal to the Serpent,** by the Rev. Samuel Langdon. Mr. Langdon has been a Christian missionary for 14 years in Ceylon, and has evidently drunk deeply of the religious systems of the East. This book is a kind of religious romance, recorded as 'a dream of the past.' It deals with many of the mysteries of the Buddhist faith from the early history of the Christian era. As an Eastern missionary, Mr. Langdon has caught the glowing and imaginative style of his surroundings. His language is coloured with rich imagery, and yet sobered with much truth. The story of the settlement of Syrian Christians in Ceylon, of their relation with Abhayo Thero, the intellectual Buddhist priest, of his conversion to the Christian faith, of his magnificent confession of Christ, and of the heathen test of putting his hand to the Sacred Serpent to prove him, is told with conspicuous ability. The writer has evidently studied the subject of comparative religion to high purpose, and the reader will find his book a great treat.

From this society also comes a volume containing two stories by Leslie Keith, called respectively **Ralph Ellison's Opportunity** and **East and West.** The title of the book was to have been the latter, but finding this already used by another author, it is called by the former. Ralph Ellison is a Dissenting minister, who preaches eloquently, but is generally hard in character. He becomes engaged, and having confided the intelligence to a friend, he is betrayed by the friend's elopement with the lady of his choice. This further hardens him. By-and-by he strangely finds the child of his faithless friend, and when he knows all, he is made more gentle and patient. Harry Vane is a warning as a wicked, dissolute man. In 'East and West,' Alicia Frankland is a boaster, who believes little in sympathy. The story of David Jardine, the young Scotchman in whom poetic fires burn, and of his difficulty in obtaining a publisher, is well told. Eventually, experience and deeper knowledge tone down Alicia's selfishness. Mary Jardine is an admirable character. The book is well got up, and will be helpful to many.

Marcus Stratford's Charge, or Roy's Temptation, by Evelyn Everett-Green, illustrated. The charge laid upon Marcus Stratford is the guardianship of Roy, supposed to be his step-mother's son, but in reality her nephew. Roy's legal guardian, however, is a great-uncle, addicted to the vice of covetousness to such a degree that, on her death-bed, Mrs. Stratford, with, perhaps, exaggerated fear, begs Marcus—a wealthy man, of rare honesty, tact and generosity—to accept this charge, and keep Roy in ignorance of his true position, at least until he comes of age. The family relationships are so involved that the reader almost sighs for a genealogical tree to make them clear; but, in spite of this rather tantalising defect (most obvious in the introductory chapter), the schemes of Roy's relatives to draw him away from Marcus, with the mistaken idea that he has inherited a large fortune, give interest to the plot, while the way in which Roy meets his temptation, and learns the unselfish use of money, and eventually influences his sordid relatives to thoughts of peace and goodwill to men, is effectively and, in some parts, most pathetically described. Altogether 'Marcus Stratford's Charge' is a very happy effort to provide a story for the Christmas season.

Messrs. Remington & Co.

John Clifford, a novel, by W. Earl Hodgson. This book is dedicated, by permission, to Bishop Wordsworth, of St. Andrews, although there can be little affinity between the aims of the Prelate and the trend of the author. The principal characters are a Scotch clergyman, who had small fitness for his position, a wealthy land owner, who had few brains and fewer morals, and a bright Canadian girl, who, not of her own seeking, is brought to Europe to find a husband. Notwithstanding that here and there the author shows some ability in dealing with the questions of to-day—for instance, in Mrs. Miller's after-dinner harangue on politics—there is little in the book to praise. The pictures of a clergyman who can forget the elementary decencies of his office, a squire who cunningly plots for a woman's dishonour, and of general society engaged in idle selfishness, should have something more than a kind of up-to-date smartness to redeem them from revolt in the mind of most readers. The author has talent which can be better used than in perpetuating the memory of such cunning weaklings as Major Thomson, or in deriding the 'unwomanly women of Exeter Hall.'

Messrs. George Routledge & Sons.

The Last of the Mohicans, The Deerslayer, and **The Pathfinder,** by James Fenimore Cooper, arranged for youth. A new and revised issue of these world-renowned favourites should be heartily welcomed. With coloured frontispiece, numerous graphic illustrations, and handsome binding, they are well adapted for school prizes.

The Young Marooners on the Florida Coast, or Robert and Harold, by Rev. F. R. Goulding, with an introduction by Joel C. Harris (Uncle Remus). This volume is beautifully got up and well illustrated. The book is not a new one, but is a new edition of a very popular, instructive, and interesting story. 'Uncle Remus,' in his introduction, speaks of it as having entered into the permanent literature of the language. However that may be, we may at least fairly infer that when a story of adventure, first published in 1847, is still required by the reading public, that story is of very much more than ordinary merit. Such is the case with 'The Young Marooners,' and no better testimony to its worth and interest could be given than that it is still in demand. The story lives because it deserves to do so. **Marooners' Island**, or Dr. Gordon in Search of his Children, by Rev. F. R. Goulding, is a sequel to 'The Young Marooners,' and is in every sense a companion volume.

More Magic, by Professor Hoffmann. It will hardly be needful to say more of this entaining volume than that it is supplementary to a former one on 'Modern Magic,' and that it is equal to anything that has yet come from Professor Hoffmann's pen. It is just the book for presentation to boys at Christmas time, and will afford endless amusement during long evenings. Tricks with cards, coins, watches, handkerchiefs, balls, hats, eggs, and the like, are explained with clearness and fulness. This account, however, gives but a feeble indication of the variety of entertaining matter contained in the volume. The book is well got up in every respect, and contains 140 illustrations.

Madame de Nanteuil dedicates her beautiful story, **Captain,** to M. Ludovic Halévy, of the French Academy, in token of her gratitude for the literary guidance and encouragement which he gave her in her first attempts at authorship. The story, which has been capitally translated by Miss Laura Ensor, turns on the thrilling adventures which befall a Breton sailor and his dog. The huge Newfoundland dog, Captain, is the real hero of the book, and his exploits on board a French man-of-war are told with great spirit. The interest of the book, to English readers, is enhanced by the fact that it gives them a vivid glimpse of the lives of officers and men of the French navy—an almost entirely untrodden field in fiction. The tone of the book is bright, wholesome, and kindly, and there are upwards of seventy illustrations by Myrbach, some of which are unusually clever.

Earthquakes, translated from the French of Arnold Boscowitz, by C. B. Pitman. The book is well got up, and contains a great variety of powerful illustrations. But the most terrible description written or drawn cannot adequately portray the fearful facts—the most awesome of all natural causes of terror. 'No evil is without its remedy, but against the earthquake there is no protection.' The history of these phenomena is described, from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, of which the Dead Sea is still the memorial, down to the Java catastrophe of 1883. Besides accounts of all the great earthquakes, we are told about all the volcanic eruptions and seaquakes. The book contains a great deal of information classified into short and readable chapters, and briefly, in conclusion, presents the chief of the various theories which account for these disturbances, underground heat being generally acknowledged to be the main cause.

Kate Greenaway's Book of Games contains twenty-four full-page coloured plates, and brief but clear descriptions of a great many simple but merry pastimes for sunny days and dark nights. The pictures possess the delicate old-fashioned grace to which Miss Greenaway has accustomed us, and the book is one which will charm both old and young.

Nacoochee, or Boy-Life from Home, by Rev. F. R. Goulding. Red Indians figure prominently in this highly entertaining book, whilst the young people, who play various parts, derive considerable amusement and instruction from their acquaintance with the 'children of the forest.' The writer's aptitude for pleasing boy-readers both in matter and style is conspicuous throughout. The habits and characteristics of the Indians are vividly portrayed, and useful lessons are inculcated.

Jack, by Alphonse Daudet. This is a graceful translation of one of the most charming stories yet written by the distinguished French novelist. The hero, 'Jack,' is a lovable boy with a spark of genius in his composition, and his childish fancies and ambitions are vividly portrayed. There is a tender pathos about the book which heightens its charm.

Sal-O-Quah, or Boy-Life among the Cherokees, by Rev. F. R. Goulding. A volume of stirring adventures with startling double-page illustrations. Unlike many books of this character, there is nothing in diction or incident that can possibly exert a baneful influence or leave an evil impression on the youthful mind.

Foggerty's Fairy, and other Tales, by W. S. Gilbert. Most of these tales form the bases of successful plays written by the author. Besides 'Foggerty's Fairy' the following may be mentioned as the original forms of subsequent dramas: 'An Elixir of Love,' 'Creatures of Impulse,' 'The Wicked World,' and 'Comedy and Tragedy.' Of the other tales and sketches we must refer to 'Actors, Authors, and Audiences,' as being a facetious and suggestive *exposé* for the benefit of ambitious spirits contemplating a dramatic career. An author whose play is damned by a first-night audience is put upon his trial before a judge and jury, and, after a patient hearing and an exhaustive defence, is at length found 'guilty.' Humour and pathos, comedy and tragedy, are cleverly interwoven throughout this diverting volume.

The History of Apple Pie, Seaside Alphabet, John Gilpin, Dick Whittington, Nursery Rhymes, Farmyard Alphabet, and **The Animal Alphabet.** These pretty picture-books for the nursery, with gay covers and diverting contents, are marked by a considerable amount of artistic finish. We may single out the first two in our list as presenting a larger degree of tasteful execution than the others.

The Lost Tickets will make a very suitable present for the children. It is a series of illustrated stories in prose and verse. There are twenty-four full-page pictures by A. W. Cooper, A. T. Elwes, Hal Ludlow, and Charlotte Weeks. 'The Boy's Book of British Battles' is another work that can be heartily commended. The battles are presented in striking colours, and there is a brief narrative attached to each.

Florence, a Story of Beginnings, by Alice Weber, with illustrations by **M. E. Edwards.** A well-written description of girl-life, full of incident and delicate character-drawing, and containing also some charming glimpses of country scenery.

Lady Lindsay writes very gracefully **About Robins,** birds with which she seems to have struck up quite a friendship during the enforced idleness of a tardy recovery from severe illness. The literature of the subject, as well as the manners and customs of the pretty little songster, are skilfully combined in this volume with the results of personal observation. Lady Lindsay says that she has personally always felt a special love for robins ever since the days when, playing on the floor with a Noah's ark, she 'placed two gigantic red-breasts together with a pair of leviathan canaries immediately after the proportionately much smaller elephants and giraffes of the company.' There is a pleasant literary flavour about this book, and it contains a number of choice and apt quotations from Chaucer, Herrick, Cowper, Wordsworth, Keble, Blake, Allingham, Whittier, Lowell, and Christina Rossetti. The full-page coloured illustrations are extremely effective, and one, a robin singing under a blue cloud-flecked sky on a branch of holly, is almost worth the price of the book.

Untrodden Peaks and Unfrequented Valleys, by Amelia B. Edwards. This well-known book has long been out of print, and therefore we are glad to find that a new edition has just been published in an attractive form. Sixteen years have elapsed since this lively and picturesque account of a mid-summer ramble in the Dolomites first appeared, and Miss Edwards has now added such information as may render the work more useful to travellers in what is still a very sequestered and little traversed region. Some of the rough bridle-paths have been superseded by good roads, and in other respects travel has been facilitated, but the people remain as unsophisticated and kindly as ever, and a sojourn in their midst is full of interest and old-world charm. The Dolomite district is most easily approached from Botzin, Brunecken, or Venice; and the artist, the geologist, and the Alpine climber can all find much that is attractive within its area. The traveller needs, however, some knowledge of Italian and German, for French is not spoken. This book, as the accompanying illustration will show, is full of charming pictures, which help fireside travellers to realise the majesty of the scenery.

A book of wild adventure, such as boys delight in, will be found in **The Cruise of the Wasp,** by Henry Frith. It is in the form of a history of startling times at sea, as narrated by one of the heroes to a group of eagerly listening children. The story is well told, and sustains its interest throughout. Timothy Wrigger, the gunner, is a good type of the British man-o'-war's-man a hundred years ago, humorous, full of resource, and brave to the last. The 'Wasp' had a most exciting and eventful history during the sea-fights between England and America, and the writer tells of many things ashore and afloat, such as of chasing a slaver, of roaming over the dangerous tracks in Cuba, of fights with sharks, of storms at sea, of being tracked by bloodhounds, in addition to all the incidents of active naval life a century ago, with much freshness and unfailing grip. This is a tale boys will read and keep.

Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co.

Falling in Love, with other Essays on More Exact Branches of Science, by Grant Allen. These essays made their first appearance in the pages of various magazines and reviews, and many readers will thank the author for their reproduction in a more permanent form. Mr. Grant Allen is endowed with a facile pen, and in this book wisdom and wit are cleverly blended.

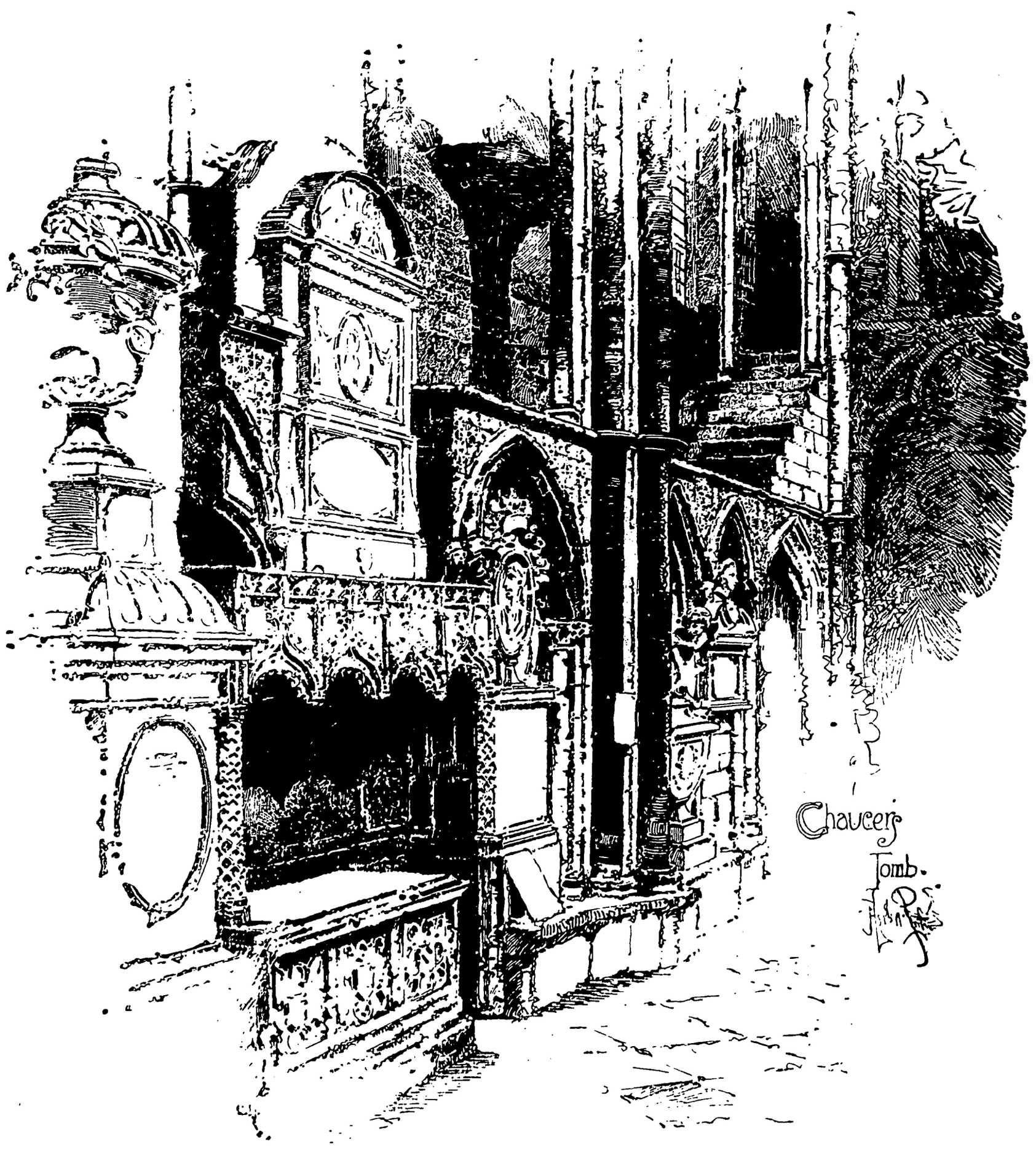
Woodland, Moor, and Stream, being the Notes of a Naturalist. Boys with a taste for natural history will be highly entertained as well as instructed by these truly fascinating 'notes.' It is a pity that, amongst the mass of new gift-books for the rising generation, the facts of nature and science are represented in such a very disproportionate degree. The anonymous author of the book before us, after giving a brief sketch of his boyhood and his adventures in marsh and creek and moor and forest, proceeds to relate the results of his mature experience in similar places 'amongst the most beautiful parts of Surrey and along the line of Kentish coast where Turner loved to paint.' The author has made the study of wild creatures in their native haunts 'the passion of his life,' and he tells in a simple and graphic manner just 'what he has seen and known.'

Messrs. Seeley & Co.

The Ocean of Air, by Agnes Giberne. Ten years ago the proof-sheets of a little work entitled 'Sun, Moon, and Stars,' by Miss Giberne, were placed in the hands of Dr. Pritchard, Professor of Astronomy in the University of Oxford, by a friend of the authoress, who asked him to glance over the book. In a generously-worded preface to the present volume, Dr. Pritchard states that he then thought that the volume to which he was thus introduced was so excellent that he volunteered to write a preface for it if it was thought that that would help to bring the work under the notice of educated readers, whether old or young. Since then, thirteen editions of 'Sun, Moon, and Stars' have appeared since its first publication in 1879, and Dr. Pritchard evidently anticipates for this companion volume an equal amount of public favour. In a pleasant literary style, and yet with scientific accuracy of statement, Miss Giberne describes the gases, vapours, movement, disturbances, forces, and life of the 'Ocean of Air'; and in the course of this graceful exposition, heat and cold, thunder and lightning, vapour and cloud, rain

and dew, light and sound, in their turn receive appropriate illustration. The text of the work is rendered still more clear by a series of beautiful engravings reproduced from instantaneous photographs. This is a book which is likely to kindle both awe and wonder in the minds of the young, and at the same time to give them a real grasp of the science of meteorology.

Westminster Abbey, by W. J. Loftie, F.S.A., with many illustrations, chiefly by Ernest Railton. An extremely handsome quarto volume, printed and bound with quiet but elegant taste. It contains some excellent full-page etchings both of the interior and exterior of the Abbey from various points of view, as well as a number of charming and highly-finished



vignettes, which are interwoven with the text in a most artistic and attractive fashion. Mr. Loftie's comments are concise but careful, and he proves himself a most competent guide in all that relates to the past history, literary associations, and architectural characteristics of the most wonderful church in England.

The Earlier English Water-Colour Painters, by Cosmo Monkhouse. This is an extremely valuable and critical account of the English school of water-colour painters. The early exponents in England of this branch of art produced works which were marked by rare fidelity to nature, and their landscapes in particular were, as Mr. Monkhouse shows, 'new in sentiment, new in colour, and new in method.' In this interesting volume, which is enriched with fourteen exquisite engravings on copper, besides many other illustrations, the rise and progress of water-colour painting in England is traced from Sandby, Cozens, Turner, and Stothard to Copley Fielding, Pugin, Hunt, and David Cox. Not only artists, but cultivated people in general, will find much that is both attractive and suggestive in this beautiful book.

We are glad to welcome cheap editions of Mr. Andrew Lang's historical and picturesque notes on **Oxford**, and Mr. J. W. Clark's companion volume on **Cambridge.** Both books are written not only with practised literary skill, but from adequate knowledge. They abound in anecdotes and genial reminiscences, and they sketch, in a slight but not superficial way, the progress of the great national centres of 'sweetness and light' during the centuries which have elapsed since students first sought the banks of the Isis and the Cam. The illustrations have been happily chosen, and add greatly to the interest of these choice books.

Lion-Hearted, the Story of Bishop Hannington's Life told for Boys and Girls, by the Rev. E. C. Dawson, M.A. It is seldom that the story of missionary enterprise contains so much genial humour as this book presents. The career of the brave bishop from his childhood to his martyrdom offers many of the features of striking interest which writers for the young are usually eager to introduce. The simple, straightforward, and fearless character of the bishop is depicted in the volume before us in a manner which, whilst it reflects the discrimination and skill of the author, will secure the rapt attention of many a youthful reader. This bright and fascinating biography is a welcome variation from the piles of story-books and narrations of imaginary adventures provided at this season to meet the tastes of youth.

Messrs. John F. Shaw & Co.

Somebody's Darling, by Catherine Shaw. A pretty story of child-life, illustrated by charming coloured drawings and numerous woodcuts artistically introduced into the midst of the letterpress. This is a book which will thoroughly delight the little people. It is not merely pretty but cheap.

Benevolence amongst boys is vividly and naturally illustrated in **Never and Forever,** by Grace Stebbing. Two school-boys of the middle class render praiseworthy service to ragged urchins of the slums, and are well repaid by the subsequent conduct of their *protégés.* The book is true to life and must carry with it a beneficial influence.

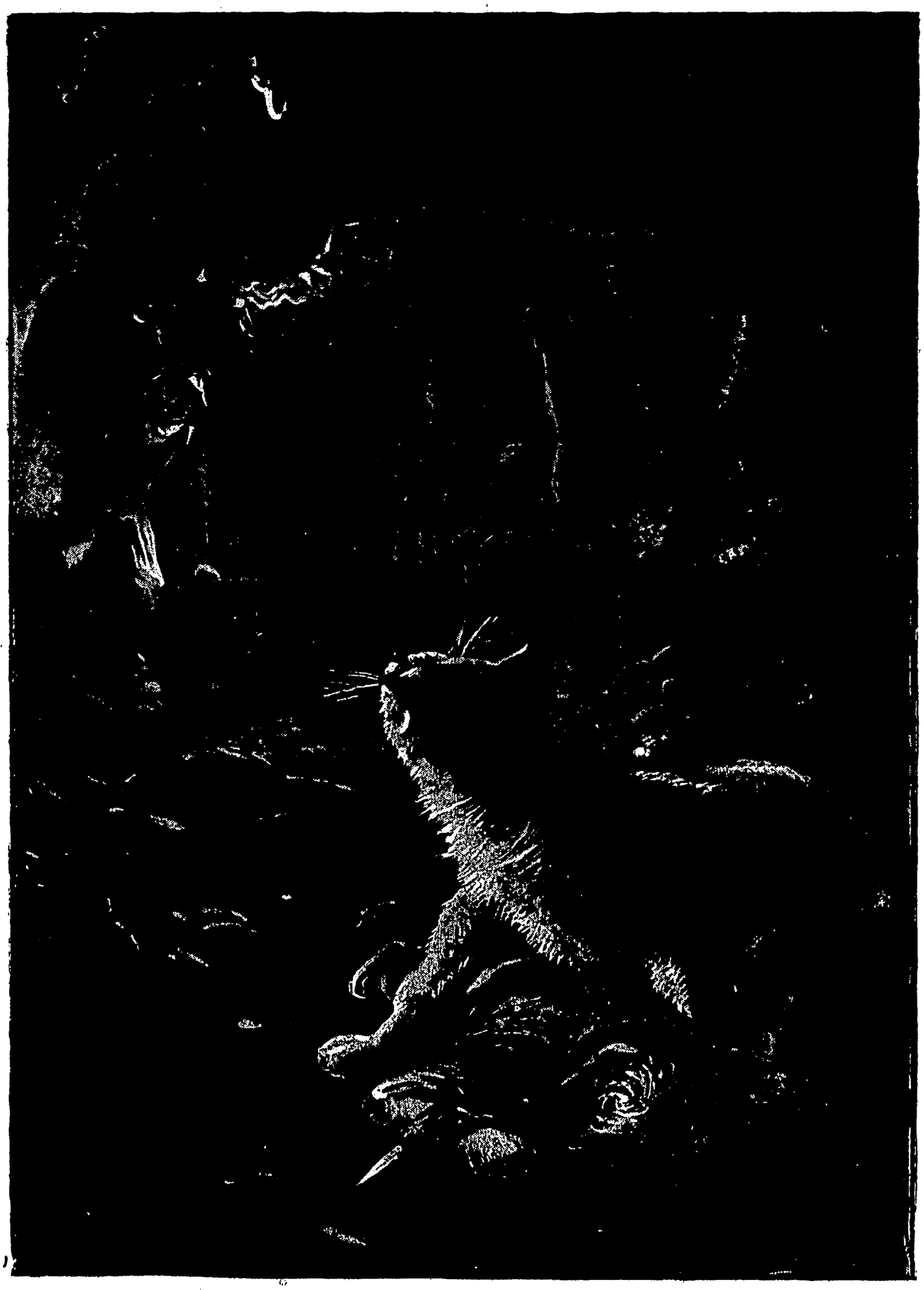
The religious element is prominently kept in view in **Miss Mollie and her Boys,** or His Great Love, by L. Marston. The authoress tells of the earnest efforts of 'Miss Mollie,' a poor invalid woman, to implant Christian truth in the hearts of several young people. Striking traits of character are depicted with a fair amount of success; and the book, although a tone of sadness pervades it, will be read with interest by both elder boys and girls and adults.

Little Ruth's Lady, by Evelyn Everett-Green, shows how much may be accomplished by the tender heart and loving ways of a little child. It is suitable for children of both sexes, and is written in the pleasing, sympathetic style which distinguishes most of the books of the authoress.

The ministry of kindness is well illustrated in Miss Brodie's **Old Christie's Cabin.** The precocity of the children whose good deeds are recorded becomes at times unnatural and a little wearisome, but, for all that, the book will make a suitable addition for Sunday-school libraries.

Little Radiance, or A Year in a Child's Life, by Jennie Chappell. A pretty tale for little girls in which loving kindness and consideration for others are well illustrated. Radie, with brown eyes, smiling face, and tender ways, will make a deep impression on the young reader.

Lady Florence Dixie provides for her juvenile friends in **The Young Castaways** highly sensational but harmless reading. Harry and Margaret Vane do many impossible things, and are exposed to imminent danger and death with a somewhat monotonous frequency. Most of the scenes take place in Patagonia, which Lady Dixie has had the opportunity of exploring; whilst the descriptive passages relating to the Andes are stated to be strictly accurate. The volume is handsomely bound, and contains several graphic illustrations.



The End Crowns All, by Emma Marshall, is a wholesome and pleasing book for elder girls. The book relates the story of a constant and honourable woman, Stéphanie, who, though in poor circumstances, refuses offers of marriage from two attractive lovers from motives of principle which cannot be questioned. One of the lovers is a millionaire, and makes Stéphanie his sole heiress. On the rich man's death, Stéphanie, with her newly acquired wealth, founds a colony in a distant part of the world, and engages in various benevolent enterprises.

Amongst the new stories founded upon historical fact, **Behind the Veil,** by Emily S Holt, must take a high place of merit. Although perhaps scarcely equal in point of vigour and general interest to some of the other historical tales by the same writer, it evinces no slight amount of labour in the collection of facts, and dramatic skill in their elaboration. The story deals with Sir William de Percy, the founder of the House of Northumberland, and depicts the noble and chivalrous character of the proud Norman, who in the end assuaged the animosity between the Saxons and his followers by marrying Lady Emma, the daughter of his conquered foe. The story illustrates the maxim that the way of honour is the way of safety.

Robert's Race, by Emma Marshall. A chatty story for boys, in which two cousins of opposite dispositions are the leading characters. Robert Miles is an impulsive, go-ahead youth, whilst his cousin, Stephen, is sober and steady, and has the advantage of a well-balanced mind. 'More haste less speed,' or 'The race is not always to the swift,' is the lesson inculcated.

It Might Have Been, by Emily S. Holt. This is a fascinating and conscientious study,—based upon an examination of contemporary documents—of the rise and overthrow of the Gunpowder Plot. The book is enriched with an historical appendix, in which brief biographical sketches will be found of Robert Catesby, Sir Everard Digby, Guy Faux, Francis Tresham, and other actors in the great conspiracy. As a work of art this book will hold its own with the best historical tales of the season.

Our Darlings, edited by T. J. Barnardo, F.R.G.S. This annual volume, crowded with pictures, both plain and coloured, will make the eyes of the young folks sparkle with delight.

The great work in which Dr. Barnardo is engaged is prominently set forth in many touching stories, which, it is to be hoped, may awaken the practical sympathies of juvenile readers around the Christmas fireside.

Exiles of Fortune, a Tale of a Far North Land, by Gordon Stables, M.D., R.N. The author's reputation as a writer for boys will be further established by this story of incident and adventure. Perils on sea and land are ably described, whilst a healthy tone and good moral lessons pervade the book. The scenes in the Arctic regions are decidedly instructive as well as entertaining.

Messrs. Skeffington & Son.

Pepin, the Dancing Bear. Mrs. Macquoid gives us a pleasant study of peasant life in France and Germany. The experiences of the performing bear and his master and the adventures which befell them are related with a good deal of quiet power and gentle sympathy. The illustrations are clever, and brighten a pretty and tenderly-told story.

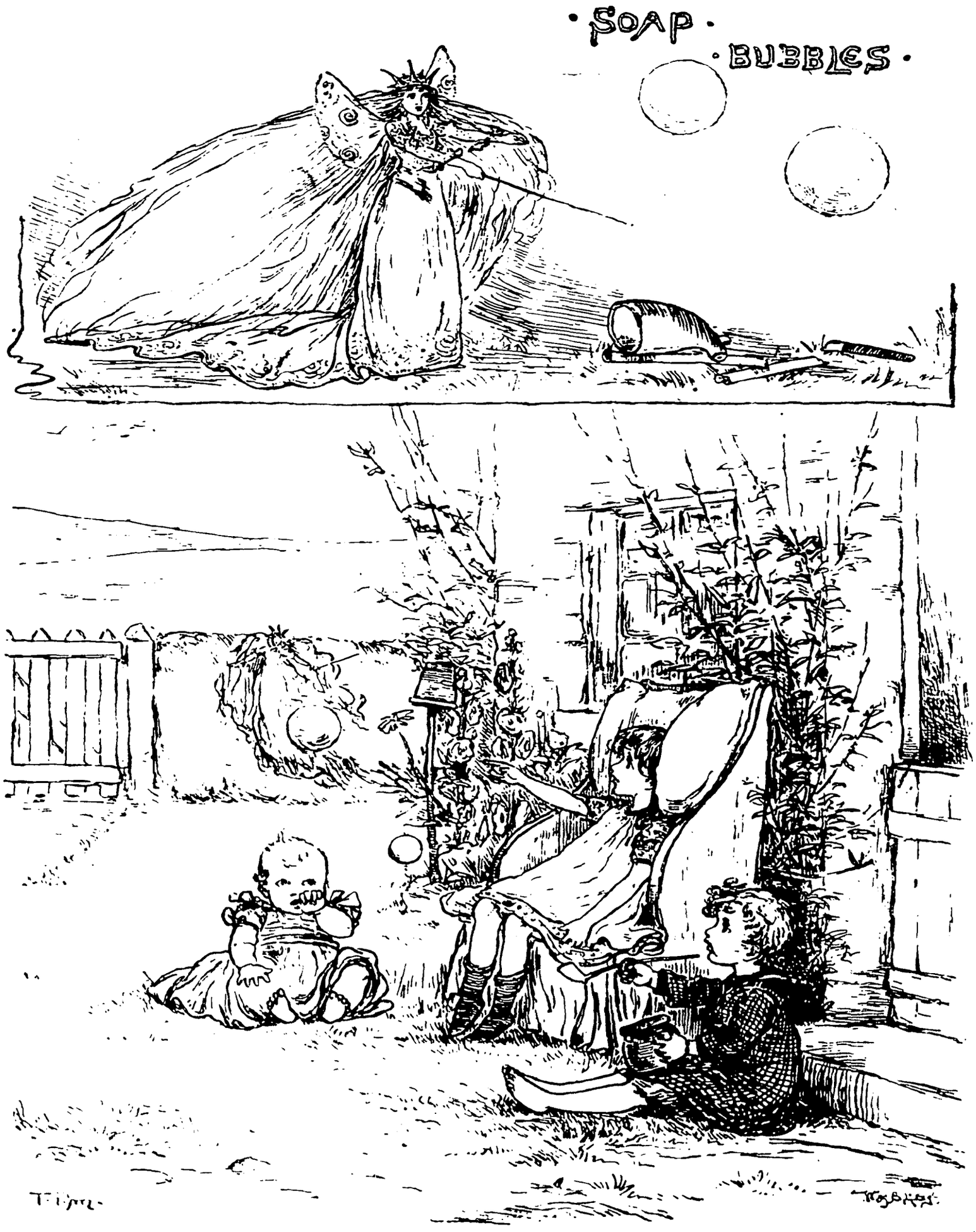
Seed, Flower, Fruit, by Maggie Symington. This is a volume of 'Sunday Chats with Little Folks,' and the faces of the children who first heard them must have sparkled with delight. They are pleasant as well as loving addresses, full of wise counsels and beautiful stories. Parents and Sunday-school teachers will find this book a real help to them in their Sunday afternoon talks with the children.

Under the quaint title of **Stories Jolly, Stories New, Stories Strange, and Stories True,** about a score of new and original tales for boys and girls of from six to fourteen years old have been written by such favourite authors with the young as Mrs. Molesworth, Mrs. Macquoid, Miss Agnes Giberne, Miss Charlotte M. Yonge, Mr. G. Manville Fenn, Mr. R. M. Ballantyne, Mr. G. A. Henty, and the Rev. S. Baring-Gould and others. There is plenty of variety about the book, and the interest from first to last is thoroughly well maintained.

Messrs. Walter Smith & Innes.

Jujube, a Story of Humanity in 1887, by Isabel Hornibrook, is a really good book and interesting, but the peculiarity of the writer's style detracts somewhat from the pleasure of reading it. It is a pity that so good a book should be even so far marred. 'Jujube' is the pet name of a baby, born in the Jubilee year 1887, at whose baptismal feast most of the chief characters of the story were brought together, and the issues of this meeting run in various directions through the rest of the book. Evan Litton is a fine fellow, who marries Angel Waugh; his brother Kit, under the bad influence of Ryde, leads a wild life, but is rescued through the efforts of Uncle Marrow and restored to the family a wiser and better man. The tone of the book is good, and the evident purpose of the writer is likely to be attained by those who read it.

Soap-Bubbles, a Collection of Fragile Fancies, by Isabella Weddle. This is a group of graceful fairy tales of which children will relish and older people appreciate. We are inclined to think that Miss Weddle keeps only too clearly in view the possibility of her little book finding a grown-up audience, and this tendency makes certain passages in it appear somewhat out of place in a volume intended for children. The moral of the book is thus amusingly gathered up by its authoress: 'Don't blow soap-bubbles when Mrs. Grundy is about, or she will be sure to say you are neglecting your duty, and not helping to keep the world clean, or that you are wasting soap, or letting your little brothers fight, or anything else she would rather attend to than do herself; for there are certain things Mrs. Grundy is quite too respectable ever to neglect, and amongst them are: other people's duties.'



Prince Vance, by Eleanor Putnam and Arlo Bates. This is a very amusing story of a young prince who had a powerful fairy for his godmother. This fairy, Copetta by name, had old-fashioned notions about children, and was not at all inclined to pander to the weaknesses even of a boy who was sole heir to a kingdom. She insisted, for example, that her godson should pay attention to his lessons, that he should respect his tutors, and, above all, that he should learn to obey. This wholesome advice was not at all relished by Prince Vance, who grew up to be a headstrong, disagreeable lad, so that the fairy at length lost all patience with him, and told him that, as he had quarrelled with his tutor because he wanted to teach him the boundaries of what would some day be his own kingdom, he should learn the despised lesson by travelling about the land on foot. Soon after this Prince Vance made the acquaintance of the Blue Wizard, and that worthy gave him a box of wonderful bon-bons. All that the Prince had to do to make those around him look ridiculous was to coax them to eat one of

these sweetmeats, when, lo and behold, they became 'as short as a pigmy and as plump as a mushroom.' He tried this knavish trick with mischievous alacrity and startling results, first to others, and then to himself. But we won't spoil a good story by describing how it came to pass that Prince Vance eventually went on pilgrimage to the palace of the Crushed-Strawberry Wizard, or what befell him there. The book contains a number of droll and fanciful illustrations by Frank Meyrick.

The Makers of Mulling, and other Tales, by C. R. Coleridge. These stories are of a thoroughly cheerful and healthy character and are written in an easy-flowing style without any attempt to introduce sensational matters. Every-day events in the old-fashioned village of Mulling-on-the-Maze, deeds of benevolence evoked at Christmas time, unpretentious works of self-sacrifice and generosity, together with tender love-passages, render the story one of uncommon attraction and charm. The book will meet with acceptance at the hands of adult readers, and forms an appropriate gift for the season.

A beautifully got-up and well-illustrated book, and interesting to read, is **Paul's Friend,** by Stella Austin. It contains sixteen illustrations, by S. B. Gates. It is 'a story for children and the childlike.' Paul and Paulina are twin children. Their father loses his fortune, and the family retires to France. Paul's friend is a pet dog called Socrates, who finds a mortal enemy in a Chinese cat called Chum. The pursuit of this cat lands the children and the dog in the house of its wealthy master, who had become rich by grinding down the poor. Upon this enforced interview the story turns. Paul comes to have a softening influence upon the hard monsieur, so that he is led to make public restitution to those he had wronged. This story of 'Paul's Friend, for children and the childlike,' will be heartily enjoyed by all who read it. It is suitable for a gift-book to both boys and girls.

Half-Hour Plays, Rumpelstilskin and other Plays from Old Fairy Tales, by Amabel Jenner. These plays are put forth as 'adapted for the village school or the drawing-room,' and they are welcome not only as meeting a growing demand, but also for their intrinsic merit. They are six in number, and they may be had separately. 'The Snow Queen' is a realistic presentation in an abridged form of Hans Andersen's fairy tale, and another, 'Tommy Trout and the Owl,' is dramatised from 'The Brownies,' by the late Mrs. Ewing. The plays are of course intended to be acted principally by children, and, doubtless to facilitate the labour of memorising, are all in rhyme, and on the whole very good rhyme too. 'Here,' however, should not be expected to rhyme with 'idea,' except with a cockney pronunciation. A few simple ballads are introduced, a piano suffices for orchestra, and the scenery and dresses, suggestions for which are given with the plays, can all be contrived without supreme difficulty at home. In many a village the dulness of country life, with its consequent moral evils, might be relieved by the school-children performing one or two of these plays during the winter.

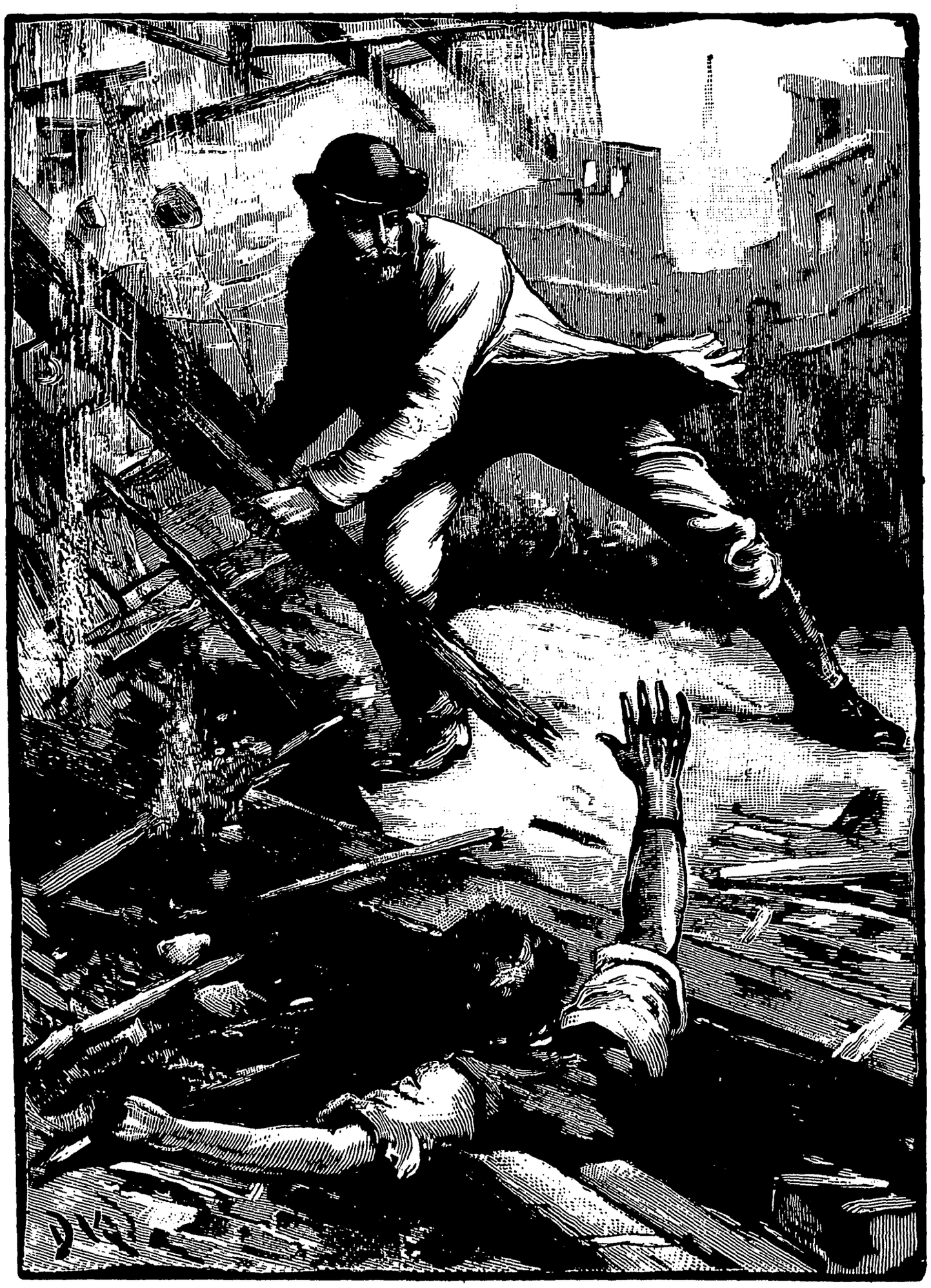
Lil, by the author of 'Tip-Cat.' This is not a child's book; but a charming story told with delicacy and freshness for children of older growth. The picture of the doctor's home, around which all the interest centres, is beautiful with exquisite shadows and lights. Lil, the only daughter among several brothers, one of whom, Ralph, when a small boy, 'was lost for two whole days, having followed a piano-organ beyond his geographical knowledge, and, as usual, fell on his feet at an out-of-the-way farm-house, where he made himself so agreeable to a queer old farmer that he quite resented the arrival of Ralph's anxious friends to take him home,' is the character of the little drama. Lil has a spinal complaint; and the best passage in the book is the description of the reception of the sad news by her father and brothers. Lil becomes the good angel and watches the romance of Ken and Silvia from 'the dear old shady road of friendship along which in old times Abraham was privileged to walk with God himself, and the disciples with our Lord.' But to realise the gentleness of the humour and the fineness of the pathos it is necessary to read the beautiful story.

Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

There is no lack of incident in **Stronger than Fate,** by Mary Bradford Whiting. It is the story of a boy who was wild and rebellious in his youth, but who, possessing a good head and strong ambition, became first a doctor, then private secretary to a peer, then a successful writer of fiction, and finally settled down as a benefactor to the poor among the slums of East London. At the critical period in David Hatton's life, when sceptical ideas were asserting their power over him, he happens to be thrown into the society of two real Christians—one a peer, the other a clergyman. The author shows with ability how a change was wrought in her hero's character from unbelief to faith, and how he eventually voluntarily gives up brilliant worldly chances for medical work in the slums. A capital gift for any youth.

Robin Goodfellow's Brother, by Cecilia Selby Lowndes, is a quietly-pretty little book for children, in which Effie, who tries to play the part of a 'brownie,' accidentally becomes the means of discovering the long-lost brother of elderly Miss Robins, playfully called 'Robin Goodfellow.' Oscar Leigh, the wealthy cripple lad, who is a pupil of Effie's widowed mother, and has always been allowed his own way, learns to control his outbreaks of irritation and self-will partly by the little 'brownie's' influence; and 'Robin Goodfellow's' brother, the good genius of the piece, appears on the scene just in time to be of signal service to all. The story is animated with a spirit of gentle considerateness, and is an unaffected record of 'the charities that soothe, and heal, and bless.'

The Way Home, by Helen Shipton. Illustrated by David Knowles. Miss Helen Shipton's story, 'The Way Home,' contains healthy and simple moral teaching, so presented as to maintain interest throughout. The writer shows considerable insight into human nature in tracing the career of Harry Easton from a wild and reckless youth to a sad and suffering manhood. Sorrow proves, however, to be 'the way home' to a good and happy life. The noble way in which an elder brother voluntarily bears the penalty which a younger brother deserves, even before his life is reformed, is a charming chapter. We specially commend the book to mission workers.



Harry Wilde, a Tale of the Brine and the Breeze, by Gordon Stables, C.M., M.D., R.N. A fine book for boys in Dr. Stables' best style. It is the story of a four years' cruise of Her Majesty's ship the 'Stormy Petrel,' off the coast of Africa, in order to put down the slave trade. The book contains the account of chases and captures of Arab dhows, with their cargoes of slaves. It is full of stirring incidents, of descriptions of Arab cruelty, and of deeds of British daring and courage. All the incidents woven in the story are based upon facts connected with the suppression of this nefarious trade. This being so, the book ought to bring home to the mind of English people the fact that, notwithstanding all the efforts made, the traffic in slaves is even yet a flourishing business, and that it is carried on with the same reckless brutality that has always characterised it. The S.P.C.K. has done well in publishing a volume on this subject.

Little Solomon and her Friends, by Mary Davison. 'Little Solomon' is a nickname given to a tiny fatherless child of six, at a cheap boarding-school, where she is placed by her penurious great-uncle, who insists upon her mother accepting a situation as governess to a family proceeding to Australia. No lover of children can read unmoved the touching account of this little girl's desolation on finding herself alone and a stranger at a female 'Dotheboys Hall.' Yet even in this dark spot some love is found, and Little Solomon, like Wordsworth's dewdrop, protected by the daisy's shadow, is befriended chiefly by those not much greater than herself. There are many children to whom this story will speak as with the voice of an understanding and sympathising friend.

Over There, a Story of Canal Life, by F. C. F., is a remarkably interesting little book, with an object. It is the story of a girl and her twin brother, painfully illustrating the depravity and hardship of life on canal boats. Few better and more touching pleas could be put forth to secure attention to this wretched and neglected class of people. The forlorn state of parents and their children, who constitute this floating population, is depicted with great vividness in this plainly told story, which is based upon facts taken from Mr. George Smith's books, 'Our Canal Population' and 'Canal Adventures by Moonlight.' The book can hardly fail to draw attention to the neglected class concerning whom 'F. C. F.' writes, as it certainly will not fail to interest any one who may read it.

An Acrobat's Childhood, by Hesba Stretton. This little story tells how a father was induced, by a man and woman who catered for acrobatic exhibitions, to allow his daughter, a bright, motherless girl, to be trained for such entertainments. Under the strain and pressure the health of the child gives way, and death speedily ensues. The story is told in Miss Stretton's best style, and shows at what cost of pain, and even life, such spectacles are provided. Little do those who witness the wonderful feats of children at the circus or theatre consider the suffering and humiliation they have to go through, before they are fitted to appear before the public. Miss Stretton has done well to draw attention to this subject, and we cannot but think that her pages will tend to moderate the zest with which the performances of young children are received, and do much to discourage them when so much suffering is involved in training for them.

The Child's Pictorial Annual. Volume for 1889. We are quite sure that this dainty little volume will meet with a warm reception. The pictures are charming, and the short tales very bright and amusing. Mrs. Molesworth's 'House to Let' keeps up the interest from beginning to end and will be sure to have a great fascination for our young folks. More deservedly popular than Mrs. Molesworth we do not know any writer for children. She invests the simplest incidents with an absorbing interest, and in the tale before us has managed to make from materials like an empty house, a caretaker's child, a family of children in an opposite house, and a family of mice in the empty house, quite a fascinating little narrative. The shorter tales, 'Electra,' 'A Dreadfully Bad Memory,' 'Hilda's Carriage,' and others, are also full of interest for juvenile readers, and the capital papers about animals by the late Rev. J. G. Wood, illustrated by Harrison Weir, cleverly combine instruction with amusement. We can heartily commend this little volume.

Short Tales for Little Folk, by Frances Epps, C. S. Lowndes, and others. Fourteen illustrations, seven of them in colours. It is very prettily bound and illustrated, and contains three tales and three short sketches, the whole book only consisting of 16 pages. We are quite sure that the little readers of 'Hal's Treasures,' 'The Queen of the Wave,' and 'Sam and his Shilling' will wish the book had been larger.

The Dawn of Day, a Monthly Illustrated Magazine for Sunday School and parish use. Volume for 1889. This is an excellent publication, a kind of family and parish magazine, suitable for readers of all ages. The tales, of which 'Gershom, the Miner,' a temperance tale, is the longest, are really well told, and the other papers on 'Some of Nature's Weapons, 'Ichneumon Flies,' 'Charles Waterton,' 'A Crimean Heroine,' 'Mrs. Turner's Three Thousand Pounds,' 'Hints to Parents,' 'A Mother's Influence,' &c., are excellent, as also are some gardening notes and cookery receipts. The illustrations are numerous and good. Altogether there is a healthy, sensible tone about this annual which makes it distinctly welcome.

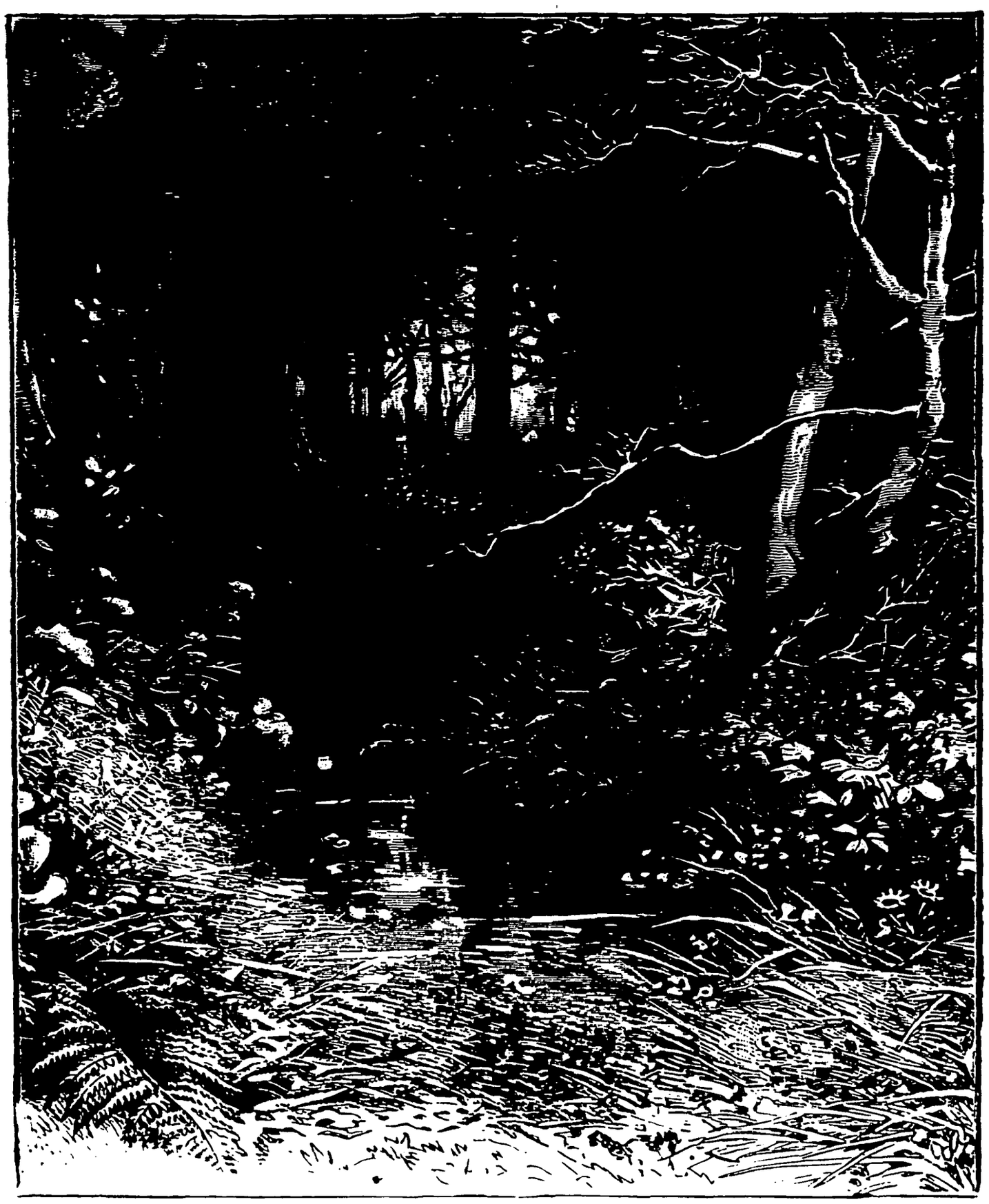
The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge also sends us an admirable story in **A Modern Don Quixote,** by E. M. Alford. The hero, Dudley Trevaine, is an Oxford don, who unexpectedly inherits considerable fortune. Finding that the money had been consecrated to the cause of Christianity, he resolves not to use it. Under the influence of a distant cousin, a girl named Gladus, he gives up Oxford, and settles down to philanthropy in a fishing village. Finding that part of the income in his estate arises from rack rents in the East of London, he himself goes there and settles to good work among the people. Eventually the real heir to the property he holds comes on the scene, and Dudley Trevaine, having married Gladus, settles down to the life of an East-End clergyman. Gladus is a beautiful character—an unworldly Christian woman. Dudley, although weak about Geraldine, is a man of high honour and integrity. The story is well written and interesting to the very end.

Miss Neville's Discovery, by A. Eubule-Evans. This is a weak but perfectly harmless story. It informs the reader how a maiden lady of easy circumstances and selfish interests is led into a better way of life by her servants finding a runaway schoolboy in the coach-house. This boy is adopted, turns out to be the motherless lad of an old and rejected lover. The father is not dead, as the schoolmaster, who starved the boy, believed, but comes home punctually at the moment when he is most wanted, will not take the boy away from his dear benefactress, but hangs up his own hat and is happy ever after.

Footprints, by Annette Lyster, contains 'Uncle Jasper's' recital of a theft committed in his youth, for which an innocent man suffered punishment, and which, in his old age and surrounded by attached friends, he humbly confesses. The lesson taught in the book is the duty of loving others although they may have done wrong.

How Sandy Learned the Creed, by F. E. Reade. The combination of religious instruction with a pleasant story forms the main feature of this book. Sunday-school teachers desiring an easy method of instilling a correct idea of the Creed into the minds of their scholars will find the book most serviceable.

Mr. F. E. Hulme, the well-known author of 'Familiar Wild Flowers,' has written in **Wayside Sketches** a vivid description, enlivened by apt illustration and appropriate anecdote, of the familiar sights of the country in summer and winter. A great deal of information concerning the habits of birds and the growth of flowers is given in the picturesque pages of this well-written book.



Between Two Oceans, or George Earley at Panama, by Edward N. Hoare, M.A., illustrated. A fair portion of this volume is given to a history of the Panama Canal enterprise, and the difficulties which bar its successful accomplishment. Interwoven with this is the story of a young man who is induced to leave his Kentish home and take a position of trust on the canal works. In the eddies of the unbridled life of such a community he is caught. Eventually he escapes the toils of those who had gained power over him, and, with the aid of a friend, Mr. Randal, discovers his father, whom he supposed had long since been drowned. In that discovery other mysteries are cleared up, whereupon George Earley returns to his village home, marries Rachel, whose story is intertwined with his own, and they become the stay of the now widowed mother in her old age. It is a book that will be read with pleasure as well as profit.

All lovers of nature will heartily welcome **Toilers in the Sea,** by M. C. Cooke, M.A., LL.D. Dr. Cooke takes up and carries forward the work so ably done in many fields by Rev. J. G. Wood. The animal and vegetable life of the sea, specially of the deep sea, has been a too much neglected study, but in our day the facilities are numerous for amending this, and this book is a valuable contribution to so desirable an end. In a clear succinct style the author treats on the formation of chalk and sponge in deep water. A vivid picture is drawn of marine zoology. The various explorations in deep ocean, up to date, are brought under review, and contribute to the data of the author. Indeed the dim recesses of the mighty deep, which have been too frequently regarded as nature's hidden territory to the observant eye, are here treated with a fullness and freedom which will delight all nature lovers. The account of the structure of coral and the formation of coral reefs is highly interesting. The quotations, numerous and helpful, from such writers as Darwin, Dana, Huxley, and Wyville Thomson, prove the author's breadth of view in dealing with this subject. There are some valuable plates. The book will not only help the microscopist and the student, but will arm visitors to the seaside with material for many a day's practical diversion.

The rise and growth of the Episcopal Church in England, put in the form of conversations with certain villagers, is the subject of a useful little volume entitled **A Story of the Church of England,** by I. F. The style is one that secures continuous interest, and the book is suitable for presentation to those who have no opportunity of studying Church history in the works of standard authors.

From Life, by Phœbe Allen. This is evidently a story without a purpose, except, perhaps, to prove that money is the 'root of all evil.' It is a commonplace story about commonplace people, but free from both excitement and vulgarity. We are introduced to a numerous family called Miles, concerning the rapid spread of which the doctor said 'that they would soon be reckoned by *miles*.' Every member of this devoted family tries to outdo the others by winning the good graces of a rich aunt who has returned from Australia, in order to obtain her money, which turns out to be more of a curse than a blessing to all who share in it after the aunt's death. The hero and heroine, Reuben and Hettie, are left penniless but happy. We are informed that the main features of this prosaic romance are 'from life.'

Mount Pleasant, by Catharine E. Smith. Inconstancy is the failing, and constancy the virtue, here incarnated in the persons of two brothers of the artisan class living in a picturesque village, situated, like 'loveliest' Tettenhall, close to the Black Country. Neither the failing nor the virtue meet with precisely the reward poetic justice might be expected to render. Like the two brothers in the parable, the elder, who has 'not transgressed at any time,' does not prove the most lovable in the end, while the younger is last seen, in 'a far country,' it is true, but in the capacity of lay-helper to the former curate of the village, who has become a missionary in Melanesia. The *motif* of the book is that the secret of patience under wrong, and of victory over one's worse self, is trust in a strength outside ourselves; and this is developed with sufficient skill and force to make 'Mount Pleasant,' in spite of its rather sad and ascetic close, a not unacceptable addition to the literature of its kind.

The Tenant of the Tower, by F. Bayford Harrison. Amongst the season's stories for boys this one is certain to be a favourite. It is just the kind of book that a boy is reluctant to close without finishing. 'Sam Pennywise,' a precocious London waif of fifteen, starts business by buying second-hand newspapers of a porter at Waterloo Terminus and selling to regular customers, such as cheap coffee-house keepers and intelligent cobblers. By-and-by Sam tramps down to Esher, and, after nearly becoming entrapped in the meshes of a trainer of pickpockets, makes the acquaintance of Victor Brandon, a lad of his own age, but of considerably higher rank in the social scale. A series of striking incidents follows, in which the sterling qualities of both youths are unfolded. At length Victor and Sam enter the same regiment of the line, the one as lieutenant and the other as private; and the author leaves them in Egypt, serving their country with boldness and fidelity. There is a healthy manly ring about the story which will commend it as a gift-book, and as an addition to the contents of the school library.

Peggy's Little Squire, by Maud Carew. Peggy is a country girl, full of life and spirits, the superabundance of which, coupled with her love of adventure, is always getting her into scrapes. Her 'little squire,' a cousin who comes to stay at the rectory as his parents are going abroad, is a very different character. Being an only child, and never having been away from home, he is very nervous and shy. This could never last long in such companionship; he soon becomes as brave as Peggy, while her wild spirit is kept within bounds by the thoughtfulness of her little cousin. These pages trace the manner in which characters of children are influenced by the companions of their youth.

Mother's Golden Guineas, by Annette Lyster, illustrated. It would be hard to find in this season's list a better book for boys than a bright little nautical story of the days of Nelson and Buonaparte. The 'Golden Guineas'—nine of them—are 'borrowed, without leave,' from a hoard Tom Adderley's mother is keeping for a rainy day, and with these guineas Tom takes coach to Liverpool and becomes a sailor. Before he can return home and repay his mother he is pressed into the navy. One cannot but sympathise with Tom's revolt against the serfdom of village life, and his indignation at the injustice of pressing for the service, and of flogging men for breaking rules they never undertook to keep. Tom has as shipmate a rare old salt, a Cornish Wesleyan, who saves him from disgrace, and finally persuades him to go home, where, after eleven years' absence, he hears his mother say, 'Forgive ye, child? Mothers don't forgive; they don't need to.' The dialogue in this story is particularly lively and natural. The incidents, too, are telling; and the action is well sustained throughout.

Jungle Jack, or To the East after Elephants, by Charles H. Eden. This is a volume of adventure in the Indian jungle, and furnishes a large amount of information respecting the haunts and habits of elephants and the customs of the hill-tribes. The incidents narrated do not exceed the limits of probability, and the author may be congratulated on having produced a sober, solid, and entertaining book of adventure.

The Prisoner of the Pampas, or The Mysterious Seal Island, by Charles H. Eden. The adventures of an English castaway amongst the Patagonian Indians form the groundwork of this romance. The author states that in his sketch of the manners and customs of the Patagonians, he has faithfully followed recorded facts. The author's style is too cumbersome for the fastidious tastes of boy-readers; but adults will find these chapters instructive.

Crown and Sceptre, a West-Country Story, by George Manville Fenn, is a lively and exhilarating story of the days of King Charles' civil wars, in which two plucky, high-spirited English boys are the chief characters. The author traces, with his usual ability, the feats of boyish daring, and by-and-by his heroes become champions of the Royalist and Puritan forces respectively. It would be difficult to find in any tale a more adequate or interesting description of the Parliamentary wars. The best traits of English character are admirably set forth. Chivalry and romance, as well as daring and endurance, are seen at their best. The story will be popular with all boys.

Few better stories are likely to appear this Christmas than **Edgar's Wife,** by Esmè Stuart. Verena Chatsworth, the heroine, had been brought up by two wealthy maiden aunts with an utter disregard for the claims or the sorrows of humanity; but, marrying a noble Christian man, and falling under the influence of a devoted vicar and his daughter, the course of her life is changed. There is some really powerful writing in the narrative of the drunken nurse who lost Mrs. Chatsworth's baby, and the manner in which, after two years, it was found. The author has knowledge of the inner working of the human mind and heart, and portrays with great ability the change from a young wife's frivolity and selfishness to a noble woman's sacrifice and sympathy. The book is valuable as teaching on the one hand how to dignify the lowliest duty, and how to conquer one's greatest weakness, while on the other it shows the miserable emptiness of some people, who fancy, to quote Lady Bentham, that 'if one does much good, it rather makes one drop out of society.' The literary character of the book is not less admirable than its robust moral teaching is high.

The Evolution of Religious Thought in Modern India, by Herbert Baynes. This little volume, appropriately dedicated to 'Christian Missionaries of all denominations,' traces the progress of Hindu religious thought from early Brahmanism in the Rig-Veda, through the developments of Buddha, of the Bhagavad-Gîtâ and Nânak, down to the enlightened movement under Rammohun Roy and its expansion under the late Chunder Sen. The author, in a vein of winning earnestness, pleads for 'sympathetic emotional activity' in missionaries, that they may 'have that rare power of viewing a man from the best and purest times of his faith, of sympathising with his spiritual aspirations, of realising in vivid imagination the hidden workings of the human soul.' But while thus susceptive of the elements of truth in the successive developments of Hinduism, Mr. Baynes does not omit to

point out their defectiveness, and to affirm that the 'Light of Asia' must become merged in the Light of the World. Many blooms of singular beauty might be culled from Mr. Baynes' anthology; but space only admits of a closing word of thanks for a very concise and serviceable handbook to a subject of increasing and fascinating interest.

How we saw the Fairies, by the author of 'A Blind Man's Dog.' A bright little story, supposed to be told by a child, of how Oberon and all the fairies appeared to him in his sleep.

Quite a small library of short stories in limp illustrated cloth covers have been published this season at a nominal price by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Amongst the best are **The Fairy Christmas Boxes** and **Phil's Fortune,** by Ascott R. Hope, and **Emmy's Opportunity** and **Father's Pet,** by Mrs. Sitwell. These little books are so cheap and good that we anticipate for them a quick and large sale.

In **The Royal Progress of King Pepito,** by Beatrice F. Cresswell, a baby-boy is depicted as monarch of the nursery and the ruler of the hearts of all around him. He wanders away from home into the hay-fields, and causes no small consternation in the household by his disappearance, but is finally restored in safety to his mother's arms. The clever illustrations of Kate Greenaway which adorn the book are executed with the delicate finish for which this artist is so famous.

St. Anne's Court, by C. E. M. St. Anne's Court was an old English country house in Wiltshire; its inmates and many of the rustics in the village are the leading personages of the story. Various types of character are introduced, together with many pleasing incidents. The rustic folks are cleverly sketched, and a vein of humour renders the book enlivening. Perseverance in well-doing and forbearance seem to be the chief lessons inculcated. Youths and maidens on the border of manhood and womanhood will be pleased with the book.

Messrs. Swan Sonnenschein & Co.

An Official Tour through Bosnia and Herzegovina, by J. De Asboth, Member of the Hungarian Parliament. The author of this handsome and beautifully illustrated book gives an account of the history, antiquities, religion, folk-lore, and social life of the people amongst whom he travelled. He says, with justice, that Bosnia and Herzegovina—where Western life and culture formerly flourished, 'first under Roman, and afterwards under Italian and Hungarian influences'—were severed by the Turkish conquest, not only from Europe as a continent, but from all contact with European thought. In spite of their proximity to Italy and Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina are scarcely better known than the most remote districts under Mohammedan rule. Herr Asboth spent four years in Bosnia, and during that time accompanied the Governor of the province on all his travels through the length and breadth of the land, and in this volume he enters fully into the past history and present condition of its inhabitants. The book is written with great ability, and the author has thrown himself into the elucidation of the subject with scholarly enthusiasm. He gives an interesting account of the state of religion, education, agriculture, and literature; and the value of the book is enhanced by a careful biography, a good index, and many capital illustrations.

High School Lectures, by M. E. G. Hewett, A.Q.C. Miss Hewett is the Head Mistress of the Girls' High School, Napier, New Zealand, and offers these lectures for the benefit of a larger audience than that for which they were first intended. She deals with the questions of 'Health,' 'Food,' 'Dress,' 'Books,' 'Manners,' 'Social Intercourse,' 'Women's Rights,' &c., and presents her views in a thoughtful, careful, and genial manner. We can heartily recommend the book for elder girls.

Matthew Coffin, by Florence Gregg, is a story of English life in the seventeenth century, based on the life and heroism of a champion of truth and righteousness, who won for himself the proud title of the 'Battle Axe of Sussex.' Matthew Coffin did much to widen religious liberty and to bring about the freedom and tolerance which now prevail.

The Contemporary Pulpit Library, Sermons by the Rev. H. P. Liddon, D.D., D.C.L., Canon of St. Paul's. This little volume contains fourteen sermons. Among the subjects dealt with by the Canon are 'Death and its Conquests,' 'God's Justice and the Cross,' and 'The Christian Warrior.' Those who know anything of the literary value, the eloquence, and spiritual force of Canon Liddon's sermons will not need to be assured of more than that this new volume is worthy of the high reputation he has gained as a pulpit orator. To those who are unacquainted with Dr. Liddon as a preacher, we simply say that the next best thing to hearing his voice is to read his sermons, of which this little volume is a typical sample.

My Boynie, by Evelyn Everett-Green, is a little book with good pages for children. It tells of a brother and sister who lost their mother when they were young. The boy was always delicate, the sister a madcap. One day Boynie followed his sister up a tree, and falling, injured his spine. The tale then tells of a kind tutor, a generous uncle, and a repentant sister, who spent her life in trying to retrieve the evil she had done her brother. The boy is a beautiful character, and there are pages which are pathetic in their interest.

Quite a number of fairy tales have been published this season, and amongst the best is one from the pen of Miss Eden, from which we borrow the accompanying plate. The title of this dainty little book is **Otto in Search of the Fairies.** It is charmingly written, and children are sure to treasure a volume which is full of wonderful adventures and pretty pictures.

Travels in Dreamland is the pretty title of a fairy tale by Alfred C. Fryer. The hero of a series of strange adventures is a boy called Harold, who in visions of the night visits all sorts of wonderful places and witnesses all sorts of interesting scenes whilst all the while comfortably tucked in his snug bed at home. There are twelve stories in the book — one for each month in the year—and they are told with some literary ability and a good deal of imagination. The author evidently understands child-life.

Knight Asrael and other Stories, by U. Ashworth Taylor. The shriek of the locomotive has not yet quite succeeded in frightening all the fairies away; at all events they survive in the pages of contemporary fiction. In this book we meet many of them, and strange tricks occasionally they play with their betters. There is a dreamy mystical atmosphere pervading this volume, and some of the stories which it contains are marked to an exceptional degree by imagination and poetry. Young people are certain to like the book, and older folks will often find suggestions in it of deeper meaning than childhood or youth can fathom. There is a literary finish about these stories which is as welcome as it is unusual.

Mr. Elliot Stock.

A Book for Boys and Girls, or Country Rhymes for Children, by John Bunyan. Considerable literary interest attaches to this facsimile edition of the great Dreamer's choice little volume. It was first published, as Dr. Brown, of Bedford, states in the introduction, in 1686, and it was never reprinted in Bunyan's own lifetime. In 1701, however, it reappeared with a title-page which then ran as follows:—'A Book for Boys and Girls; or, Temporal Things Spiritualized, by John Bunyan, licensed and entered according to Order. London: Printed for and Sold by R. Tookey, at his Printing House in St. Christopher's Court, Threadneedle Street, behind the Royal Exchange, 1701.' Of this edition the only known copy is now in the Bodleian Library. The book passed rapidly through several editions, and the tenth appeared in 1757, with a quaint preface signed 'J.D.,' and 'addressed to the Great Boys in Folio and the Little Ones in Coats.' The first edition, though diligently sought for by bibliographers and students of Bunyan, was supposed to be hopelessly lost until a few months ago, when the Trustees of the British Museum secured a copy through the agency of Mr. H. W. Stephens. By the permission of the authorities of the British Museum Mr. Stock has now reproduced the work by photography. It is printed on antique paper, and bound in old-fashioned leather. This is a unique little volume, and one of great intrinsic merit. Students of Bunyan, and indeed all lovers of the literature of the seventeenth century, are sure to prize it.

Sunday School Union.

Talks upon Little Things, by G. Howard James, Nottingham, with an index of anecdotes, contains ten addresses upon such subjects as 'Ants,' 'Locusts,' 'Spiders,' 'Flies,' &c. Each of the addresses is headed by a passage of Scripture. They are not, however, sermons, but interesting talks to young people; they are full of information, and abound with illustrative anecdotes, and so cannot fail to be read with both interest and profit by such as constitute the elder classes in Sunday schools. Works of this kind ought to find a large class of readers, as they take a mid-course between books of tales and those more directly intended for instruction. The volume contains a number of engravings, and is well suited, both from its contents and get-up, as a present to young people, or for prizes in Sunday schools.

A Teacher's Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, by Richard Glover, Minister of Tyndale Chapel, Bristol. This book will be of great service to ministers as well as to teachers. Its notes are not mere dry and hard compilations, but are interesting to read, and full of suggestiveness; the style is simple and chaste, and withal very fresh and vigorous. In an unpretentious way the fruits of ripe scholarship and a well-balanced Christian judgment are here placed at the disposal of Sunday-school teachers. We congratulate the Sunday School Union upon this excellent addition to its useful publications, and we heartily commend the volume to teachers, for both they and their scholars will benefit by the use of it.

An attractive Sunday picture-book for young children is **Rays from the Bright and Morning Star.** It contains a number of full-page coloured illustrations of scenes in our Lord's life, and is bound in pretty pictorial covers. The picture of the flight into Egypt is particularly good, and the descriptive letterpress closely follows the Bible narrative in simple words that a child can easily understand.

The Child's Own Magazine. The bright and absorbing features of this cheap prize annual for children recommend it for a prominent place amongst the juvenile gift-books of the season. Those who can only afford a small outlay for their young friends will find this to be one of the books that they may present with the certainty of its being appreciated.

National Temperance Publication Depot.

The Temperance Mirror, an Illustrated Magazine for the Home Circle, Volume IX. This annual is handsomely got-up, and presents the case for teetotalism in well-written stories, sketches, dialogues, verses, and short paragraphs. There is a good supply of illustrations; but a few more inspiriting songs, like Mr. Spencer Curwen's setting of 'Away to the Glorious Field,' would be acceptable.

Mr. Joseph Toulson.

Johnnie's Goats, by Joseph Ritson, is an illustrated story of filial affection, intended for both boys and girls. It is embellished with numerous extracts from celebrated poets. A letter towards the end relates a curious incident in connection with convicts at Portland prison, where a fugitive is shot in trying to escape.

Ned West, by Robert Hind, is an account of the supposed adventures of a young man in the Soudan War. His ride towards Khartoum, his experiences during the investment, and his escape from the city on a mission to the British, give occasion for an account of Gordon's heroic defence, with page engravings of the desert, Egypt, and military life in Eastern Africa.

A Fateful Night, a North-Country Story, by W. M. Patterson, is prettily told, and will, we are sure, agreeably while away a leisure hour at Christmas time. The page engravings lend themselves to the interest of the book, and the head and tail pieces to the chapters are very pretty. The scene is laid in the villages of a Durham colliery district.

Mark Maskell, a Life Story, by Thomas Guttery is an illustrated tale for the young, which is not altogether fiction. As the author says, 'Our story is not yet complete, for our hero's life is not yet closed. When the travellers have passed over the river, and have entered the greater life to which this leads, we may resume our pen, and sketch the later incidents of the journey.' 'Mark Maskell' is prettily written.

Counting the Cost, by Wilhelm, is a deeply religious tale of country life. Its hero incurs the displeasure of his father by joining the 'Primitives.' It ends, however, with reconciliation. The story is not without its love-making, has numerous page illustrations, and the last chapter of the book is occupied with the marriage of the chief personage mentioned in the book.

Councillor Kerwood's Investment, and What Came of It, by Rev. George Shaw, is a tale of a country town. It is what is called a religious story, and advocates the cause of temperance. The numerous quotations from hymns give the little book a devotional cast. There are many page engravings.

Pictorial Sketches from Bible Lands may be described as a smaller drawing-room table-book, composed of thirty or forty page engravings, which are views of cities, memorable sites, &c., in illustration of the Bible narrative, with explanatory lettarpress. The Garden

of Gethsemane, and the mountains of Moab near the Dead Sea, may be pointed to as good examples of these. There are, besides, lesser engravings, and head and tail pieces. The

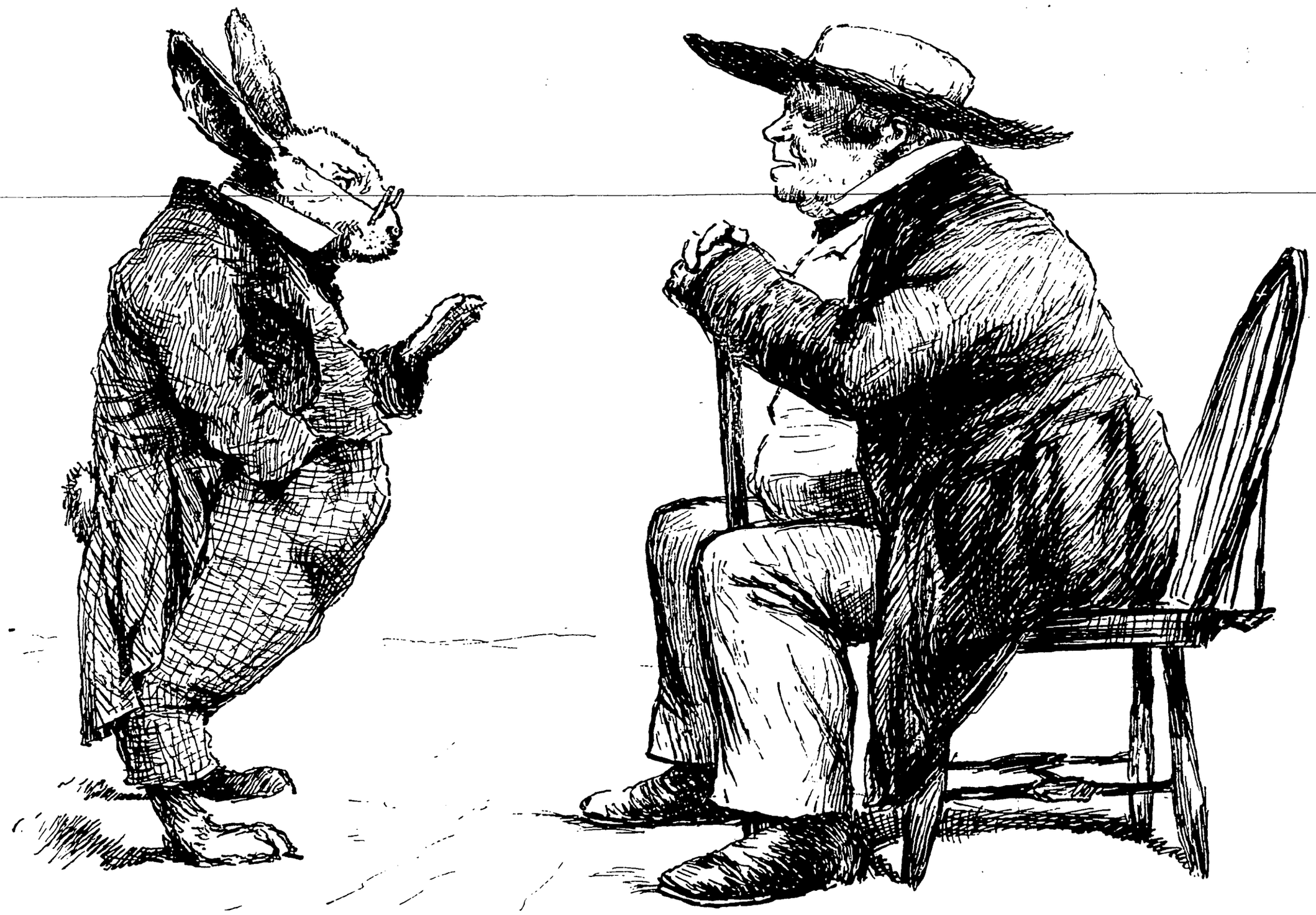
binding is ornamental and emblematic. The volume commends itself by an exceedingly low price, and is moreover well written.

Mr. T. Fisher Unwin.

Our Journey to the Hebrides, by Joseph and Elizabeth R. Pennell. The greater part of this charming book was published originally in *Harper's Magazine*, and when it first appeared it was severely criticised. The authors complain, in rather a saucy preface, that they were taken to task for not 'discovering in Scotland and the Scotch what has been made the fashion to find there; for not giving second-hand descriptions which are the stock-in-trade in Scotch guide books; whether romantic or real; in a word, for not staying at home and manufacturing our journey in the British Museum.' Mr. and Mrs. Pennell, though in search of the picturesque, did not shut their eyes to the painful condition of the crofters in the far north, nor did they scruple, moreover, to state, in extremely plain English, their own conclusions concerning the vexed question of the grievances of these poor people. The book gives a pleasant and racy description of the wanderings and adventures of its talented and enterprising authors, but its chief charm consists in the humour and poetry which mark its really brilliant illustrations. People on the look-out for a pretty gift-book which can be purchased for a modest sum would not find it lost time to turn over the pages of this volume.

St. Nicholas, Vol. XVI., conducted by Mary M. Dodge. In thousands of households there is no more welcome guest month by month than this delightful and splendidly illustrated magazine. Many people consider that, as a magazine for young folks, it is unrivalled; at all events there is no doubt whatever that it stands quite in the front rank. Palmer Cox, Joel Chandler Harris, Celia Thaxter, Joaquin Miller, and other well-known American writers contribute to a volume which is full of pleasant stories, sketches, and poems, and enriched with beautiful illustrations.

Daddy Jake the Runaway, and other Stories Told After Dark, by Uncle Remus (Joel Chandler Harris). Uncle Remus needs no introduction to English readers. He is a genuine humourist, and in this entertaining volume he displays all his old fascination as a story-teller.



This is a mirth-provoking book, full of quaint drollery, and written throughout in a fresh and sparkling manner. The accompanying picture shows 'Brer Rabbit' solemnly laying down the law.

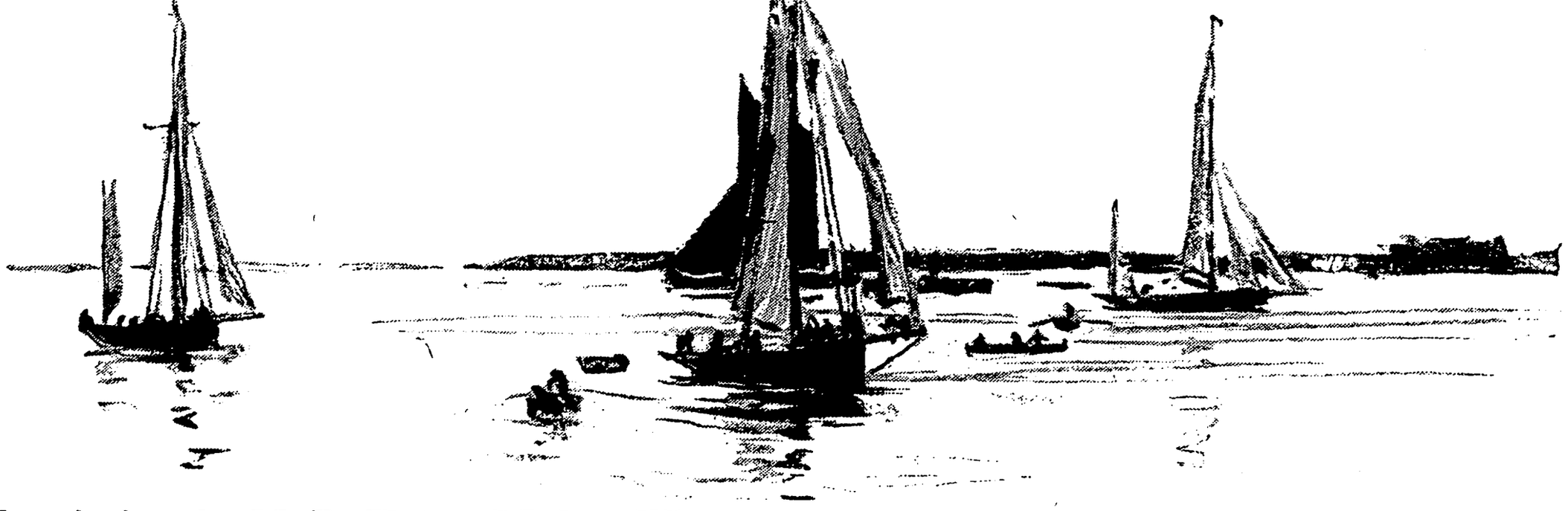
When Mother was Little, by S. P. Yorke. This is a collection of simple childish

frolics and scrapes that 'mother' got into when she was 'little.' Honora was the daughter of a poor curate who, during her childhood, left the town for a small country living. The town-bred child ran wild in the country, and nearly came to grief in her hunt after blackberries &c. The chief charm of the book lies in its naturalness; and though none of the escapades are startling, they are told with realism and from a child's standpoint.

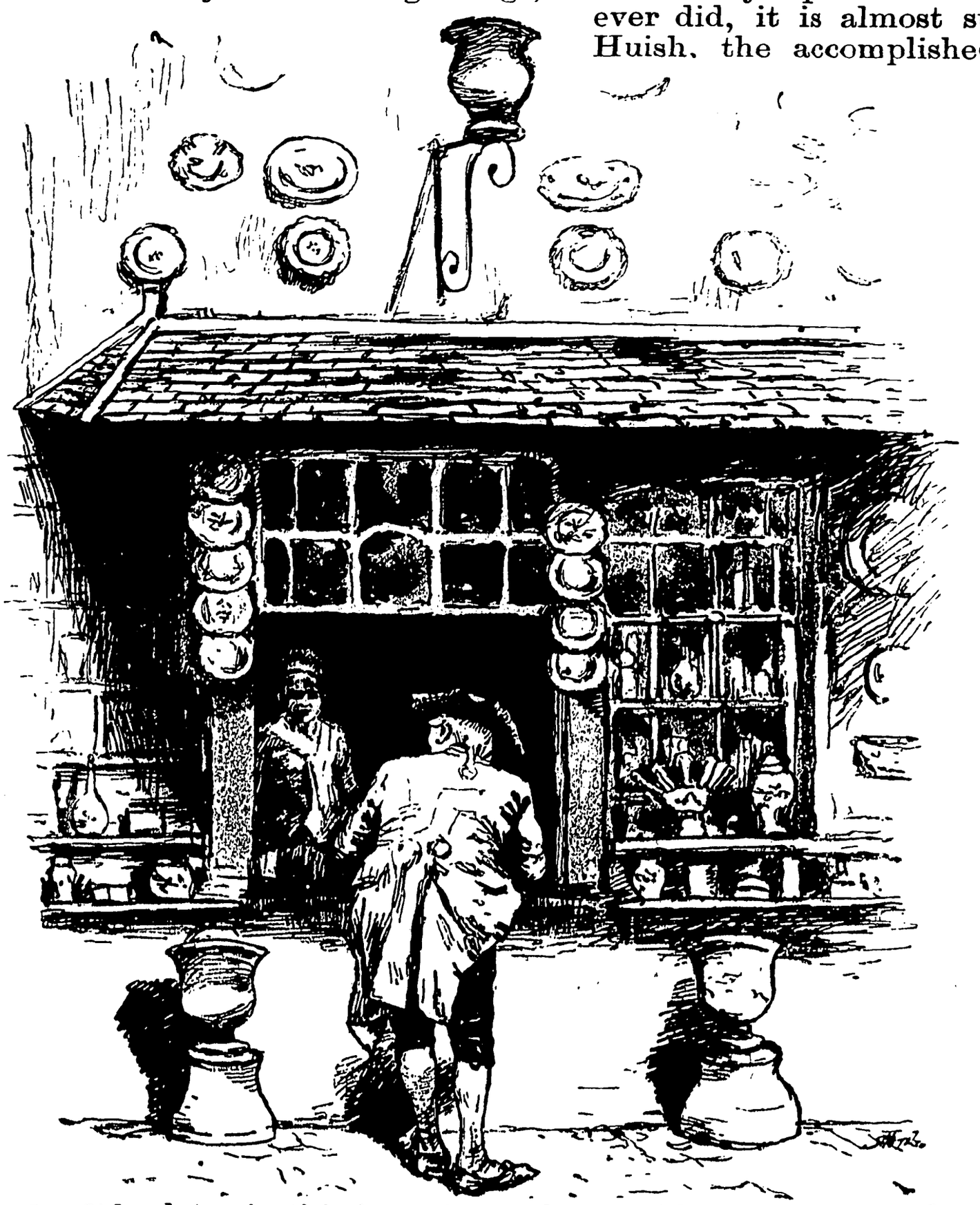
Messrs. Virtue & Co., Limited.

The Art Journal, for 1889. The plate illustrations to this volume consist of six etchings, four photogravures, and two chromo-litho-graphs, 'My Little Model' and 'Little Chrysanthemum,' from charming drawings by Ludwig Passini and Maud Goodman. Biographies of artists, descriptions of exhibitions, and careful reviews of books are prominent features amongst the literary contents; as for the pictures, in our judgment they were never better or more varied. In every sense of the word this is a book which attains a high degree of excellence.

One of the most attractive fine-art gift-books of the year is **The Seine and the Loire,** after drawings by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., with introduction and



descriptions by M. B. Huish, LL.B. When we state that this magnificent book contains no less than sixty-one line engravings, and that they represent some of the best work that Turner ever did, it is almost superfluous to add more. Mr. Huish, the accomplished editor of the *Art Journal*, has written a brief popular description of these famous pictures. They were originally published in three volumes in 1833-5, and the accompanying letterpress was written—very indifferently—by Leitch Ritchie. In its present form the book is sure to appeal to all lovers of art; Mr. Huish's explanatory notes are brightly written and really valuable. The book is elegantly printed and bound.



Clubland — London and Provincial, by Joseph Hatton, is a fine-art book which will appeal powerfully to a wide circle of readers. Mr. Hatton states that in London alone there are a 'hundred clubs which meet in their own houses; how many others may be leading precarious lives in hotels and taverns it would be difficult to say.' The age of Addison and Steele, it is sometimes asserted, was the golden age in London clubland; but, as Mr. Hatton points out, there is hardly an instance of a club in the reign of Queen Anne which had its own house. Now, however, many of these centres of political, literary, and artistic life are veritable palaces, as a glance at the splendid plates in this beautiful volume will show. Such clubs in London as the Athenæum,

the Travellers', the Reform, the Carlton, Brooks's, the Garrick, the National Liberal, the Constitutional, to mention only a few almost at random, are graphically described in the pages of this book. Then we are taken first to the fashionable resorts along the river, such as the Guards' Club at Maidenhead, and afterwards to the clubs of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Belfast, and other great cities and towns in the provinces. The illustrations are most artistic, and altogether this is a very attractive book.

Messrs. J. Walker & Co.

The 'Back Loop' Pocket Diaries for 1890 are as elegant and handy as anything of the kind which we have ever seen. The pencil is fitted into the loop at the back of these dainty, compact, and beautifully printed little books. They vary in size from $3\frac{1}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 by $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and can be had in paste grain, American or Russian leather, and they are, moreover, arranged so as to be easily refilled year by year with fresh diaries prepared for the purpose. Merchants and other busy men are certain to appreciate these sensible and convenient pocket-books.

Among **Messrs. J. Walker & Co.'s** novelties is a Dial Date Cabinet, a box of paper and envelopes which is externally a species of perpetual calendar. There is a clock face whose hands are made to indicate the date—the one pointing to the month, the other to the day. *Sub rosa* is the name of a new tinted note-paper, in which rose is made subordinate to the other colour; and *Élégante* is the name for a combination of rose and neutral. We have also to mention a presentation case of four volumes of the miniature gold and florals, in Dudley leather. 'Shakespeare's Home,' the 'Home of Wordsworth,' and the 'Riches of the Year' are each illustrated by a series of etchings on extra paper, any one of which is worth framing as a picture. As a minor article we may name packets of sacred poems elegantly printed on tinted cards; and two coloured toy-books, 'The Little Gingerbread Man' and 'The Enchanted Shirt.' As a book 'for all seasons,' rather than for any season, the 'Handy Reference Atlas,' which, within the compass of a small octavo volume, comprises 70 or 80 maps, besides index and statistics, is worthy of mention.

Messrs. Ward, Lock & Co.

Old Mortality, by Sir Walter Scott. A charming edition of this classic book, with full-page and other illustrations by Gosselin, Kauffmann, D. Maillart, Pellico, Pranishnikoff,

and Scott. These pictures are singularly vigorous and effective, and the artists have caught the spirit of this inimitable romance. Some valuable notes are added, and the book is printed in bold type and handsomely bound.

Days of Yore, by Sarah Tytler, is an interesting collection of historical incidents told with vivacity and real ability. The volume is nicely printed and prettily bound.

The Teeming Millions of the East, by G. T. Bettany, M.A. This is an illustrated volume, published in a popular form, which gives an account of the different races of Asia. Mr. Bettany traces, in a clear and concise manner, the history of the early inhabitants of India, Ceylon, China, Japan, Siberia, Persia, Afghanistan, Turkey, and other regions of the globe; and he also gives a graphic picture of the present social condition of the people who inhabit these lands. There are many illustrations in this useful and instructive book.

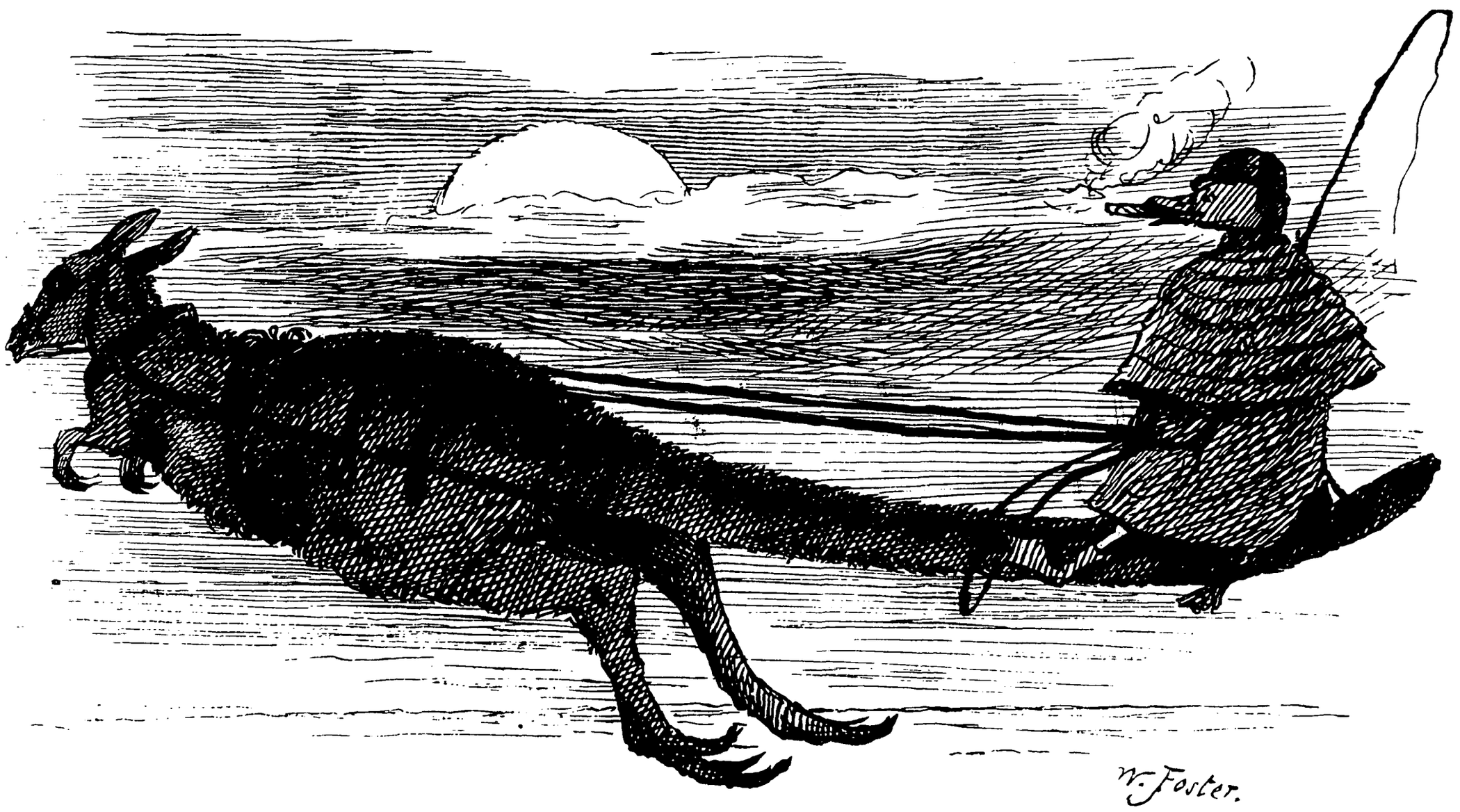
The Conquerors of the World, by G. T. Bettany. This book is described as 'a popular account of the peoples and races of Europe.' It is illustrated copiously with full-page and minor engravings, and the contents of every paragraph are indicated at the side of each page. It is a volume well adapted for use in school and home teaching. The history of each European nation is in turn discussed, commencing with that of the inhabitants of England; whilst the last chapter is devoted to an analysis of the distribution of the different races in Europe, and gives the approximate number of each race

Messrs. Frederick Warne & Co.

Master Roley, by Beatrice Harraden, is a simple and pleasing book for young children. Roley is one of those sharp, active, mischievous boys who frequently get into trouble, but amid it all contrive to be universal favourites.

To any child with a genuine taste for art, the **Palette Painting Book** would be a most welcome present. It is shaped like a palette, and contains a number of original outlines to paint, and coloured copies by way of example. Sixteen of the outlines have plain backs so arranged that the pictures can be cut out on the blank pages made use of for sketching. There is great variety in this really artistic painting book, for there are pictures of children, soldiers, sailors, dogs, horses, ships, cottages, flowers, &c. A few practical directions for the mixing of colours are given opposite the last page. A beautiful, cheap, and unconventional little book.

Nonsense Drolleries, by Edward Lear, with illustrations by William Foster. Mr. Ruskin once said, 'I really don't know any author to whom I am half so grateful as Edward Lear. Surely the most beneficent and innocent of all books yet produced is "The Book of Non-



sense."' Mr. Foster has caught very happily the humour of 'The Owl and the Pussy Cat, and 'The Duck and the Kangaroo,' and his illustrations are both comic and clever. The adventures of the Duck and the Kangaroo are most admirably depicted, and we defy anybody to glance through this little book without a smile.

Jack Trevor, R.N., by Arthur Lee Knight. Boys who love a story of peril and adventure will find in 'Jack Trevor' sufficient to excite their feelings and imaginations to a superlative degree. Jack, in order to escape a flogging, runs away from school, but is persuaded by his mother to return. He intends doing so, but is captured by smugglers and carried out to sea. He makes a successful attempt to escape, and is taken on board by a man-of-war. Again he is captured by the smuggling crew, and a second time escapes, but only to confront the perils of wild beasts and to be saved by a hair's-breadth from becoming a savoury morsel for the palate of a hungry leopard. Before long he joins the navy, encounters more dangers, and finally returns home to his mother to receive her dying blessing. The delightful series of adventures together with the author's graphic style will make this book one of the most popular of its class.

Scout's Head, or St. Nectan's Bell, by Frederick Langbridge. Lads will find this story of the 'Wild West' entirely to their tastes, for it deals with numerous exciting incidents and rousing adventures. The sea-board haunts of smugglers, uncanny subterranean passages, and supernatural omens form the chief portion of the material with which the story is constructed. The characters are, for the most part, rough seafaring men and two or three desperate smugglers. The interest of the book would have been enhanced had the author told us more definitely in what locality the events in the story occurred.

A pretty book crowded with amusing coloured pictures is **Old Mother Goose's Rhymes and Tales,** illustrated by Constance Hazlewood. It is difficult for an artist to throw much

freshness into the pictorial interpretation of familiar nursery rhymes like those which find a graceful setting in this book; but in the present instance the difficulty has been very cleverly surmounted.

Tregeagles Head, by Silas K. Hocking, is a spirited romance of the Cornish cliffs. It is full of stirring adventure, and its somewhat weird aspect gives an original touch and freshness to the book. It is an uncommon story, and puts before us realistic pictures of the strange life that prevails in the far West. The book is illustrated.

Notes and News

We beg to express our hearty thanks to Messrs. Arrowsmith, Griffith, Farran & Co., Messrs. Field & Tuer, Messrs. Hatchards, and Messrs. Virtue & Co., Limited, for the loan of additional blocks to illustrate some of the special papers in this number of the PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR.

Mr. Frederick Wedmore has completed his study of Balzac.

The Queen has contributed £25 towards the funds of the Newsvendors' Provident Institution.

It is expected that Lord Tennyson's new volume of poems will be issued during the month of December.

According to an American trade journal, Prince Bismarck is financially interested in the paper-making industry.

It is reported that Mr. Oscar Wilde is engaged on a novel which will be printed in an American serial in the first instance.

Professor Masson's first instalment of the new edition of De Quincey is ready. Messrs. Black, of Edinburgh, are the publishers.

A new serial will shortly be issued in Edinburgh which is to combine the comic and literary element. It is, we understand, to be called *Waverley.*

It is stated that the well-known historian, Mr. W. H. Lecky, will be asked to stand as a candidate for the representation of Dublin University in Parliament.

'A Canadian Love Story' is the title which the Marquis of Lorne has given to a novelette which he will contribute to the *Pall Mall Budget* of December 19 and 26.

David Christie Murray's new story, 'Scot Free,' is to be published in January by the Tillotson Syndicate. Mr. Murray is now on a lecturing tour in Australia.

We are glad to note that the exhibit of books published by the members of the 'Society of French Teachers' at the Paris Exhibition has been awarded a silver medal.

It is also very gratifying to learn that the educational works in the above exhibit of Mons. F. Julien, of King Edward's School, Birmingham, have been pleasantly recognised by the Minister of Public Instruction in France, and he has been made an *Officier d'Académie*. M. Julien's works 'Petites Leçons,' 'Conversational French Reader,' &c., &c., are well known to our readers.

A son of Mr. Henry Irving will take part in a play at Oxford next spring under the auspices of the University Dramatic Society. He is now a student at Oxford.

Mr. F. Marion Crawford, we hear, contemplates settling down in Washington for a winter or two. His health, we are glad to learn, is better than it was some months ago.

Mr. Walter Scott, of Newcastle, is, we understand, about to publish a complete edition of the prose plays of Ibsen, the first instalment of which is to appear in January.

The number of candidates for the B.A. degree in the London University this year is considerably greater than in any previous year since the foundation of the University.

We hear there is a large increase in the unattached students at Oxford for the present year. Indeed, the total number on the books is the greatest that has yet been recorded.

Amongst the contributors to *Good Words* for the New Year the names of Mr. Gladstone, Lord Lorne, the Dean of Wells, Professor Rucker, and Sir Robert S. Ball are announced.

M. Merle d'Aubigné, a son of the well-known author of 'The History of the Reformation,' is on a visit to England, and has been addressing meetings in support of the Foreign Aid Society.

Mr. Edward Foskett has been appointed chief librarian of the Camberwell Free Libraries. He was warmly recommended by the Bishop of London, Archdeacon Farrar, Professor Durban, and others.

The walls of Paris are well posted with pictures heralding the approach of M. Zola's new novel. These pictures are much discussed in view of the proposal to elect M. Zola a member of the French Academy.

We are informed that the lecturing tour of Miss Amelia B. Edwards in the United States is quite a success. Amongst the audiences have been observed many notable figures in literary and social circles.

Several valuable autograph letters of Luther and Melanchthon have been found in the Protestant church library at Neustadt on the Aisch, and have been handed over to the German Library in Nuremberg.

We believe the Earl of Lonsdale has made some progress with his work describing his adventures in search of the North Pole. His materials are quite enough to enable him to produce a most striking narrative.

At a public meeting held in connection with the Lambeth Public Libraries, it was resolved to increase the rate to a penny in the pound. There was a good deal of discussion, however, and a strong opposition was shown.

Her Majesty the Empress Frederick has generously presented £400 to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square, this sum being the profits derived from Mr. Rennel Rodd's book on the Emperor Frederick.

The sixty-second annual report of the Council of the Royal Scottish Academy expresses the view that both in regard to colour and black and white the studies may be favourably compared with those of any past session.

Koppy, the great Hungarian artist, has, we hear, been engaged on a painting of Prince Bismarck. He was afforded ample opportunity of seeing the German Chancellor at home, and the picture is in every respect a family one.

A new work by the author of 'From Log Cabin to White House' will shortly be published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, entitled 'From Printing House to the Court of St. James: the Story of Benjamin Franklin's Life.'

We hear from Paris that a singularly valuable autograph was disposed of there last week. This is a document prepared by the great Carnot during the memorable year of 1815. In this letter he avowed his belief that there would be no war.

Messrs. Dean & Son announce the authorised translation of Madame Carette's new volume, which is entitled 'The Eve of an Empire's Fall,' and is a continuation of 'My Mistress the Empress Eugénie,' recently issued by the same publishers.

It is announced that no less than a hundred and fifty thousand names are now enrolled on the books of the Chautauqua Literary Circle, a society which believes that it is never too late to commence self-education, and that education ends only with life.

The next volumes to appear in the 'Statesmen Series' will be 'Lord Derby,' by Mr. T. E. Kebbel; 'Gambetta,' by Mr. Frank T. Marzials; 'Mirabeau,' by Mr. Arthur Hassall; 'Fox,' by Mr. H. O. Wakeman; and 'Lord Grey,' by Mr. Frank Hill.

The last number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* has a paper entitled 'Joseph Chamberlain and State Socialism.' The article says: 'We Frenchmen have reason to be interested in Mr. Chamberlain, for he is a pupil of the French Democrats.' The writer is M. Auguste Filon.

We regret to be informed that Mr. James Tregaskis, for the last twenty years of the firm of Messrs. Blenkinsop & Co., printers, 12 Well Court, Bow Lane, E.C., has been obliged to retire from the partnership, owing to the serious injuries he sustained twelve months ago.

The Royal Colonial Institute has acquired the original pencil and water-colour drawings by William Westall, landscape painter to the expedition of discovery and survey of the coast of Australia commanded by Captain Flinders, of H.M.S. 'Investigator,' in the years 1801-3.

'The Foundation of the German Empire by William the First' is the title of a new work by Von Sybel, which, we believe, will be issued shortly. It is to consist of four volumes. An English translation of Gustav Freytag's book on the Emperor Frederick is being prepared.

Some stir has been created at Exeter by the discovery in the Exchequer Room of the Cathedral of a number of manuscripts relating to Church work in the fourteenth century. They describe many curious methods of the way the diocesan clergy prosecuted their labours.

An American firm of contractors has just published its list of lectures for the season of 1889-90. The name of Henry M. Stanley is included. It seems an arrangement was made before the traveller left for the Dark Continent, and the firm is sanguine that Stanley will be back in time to overtake his engagement.

'Moidart, or Among the Clanranalds,' by the Rev. Charles Macdonald, is a contribution to the history of the Highlands and Highland clans. Mr. Macdonald, who is priest of Moidart, writes with full knowledge of the subject. The publisher is Mr. Duncan Cameron, of Oban.

Green's 'History of the English People' has at last appeared in a German dress. A reviewer in a leading paper admits that Germany possesses no similar work on German history. The translator is a lady, E. Kirchner, and the preface is from the pen of A. Stem, of Zurich.

The serial stories in the *Sunday Magazine* for 1890 are to be written by Annie S. Swan and Silas K. Hocking. Mrs. Fawcett, Professor Dallinger, Archdeacon Farrar, the Bishop of Ripon, and the Rev. Mark Guy Pearse are amongst the other prominent contributors for the new year.

An interesting celebration has just taken place in Berlin. Professor Gneist, who has made several marked achievements in the field of constitutional history, has reached the fiftieth anniversary of his connection with the University of Berlin, and due honour was paid to his labours.

The Queen of Italy has decided not to make public at present the memoirs of Queen Caroline, which, with several letters from Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton, were found in the palace at Naples some time ago and forwarded to Rome, and access to them is refused to students of history.

We are glad to learn that Cardinal Newman is wonderfully well, considering his advanced age. Mr. C. H. Spurgeon has gone to Mentone for his annual holiday. We are sorry to hear that the health of Mr. Macdonald, the manager of the *Times*, has not improved so much as his friends could wish.

In musical and other circles much regret is felt at the death of Mr. Frederic Clay, who has passed away at a comparatively early age. He was originally intended for political life, and on one occasion was employed by Mr. Gladstone, but he soon showed that his real tastes lay in musical composition.

We regret to hear of the death of Mr. R. B. Smyth, an eminent Australian geologist, who was born in Newcastle, and emigrated to the colony about forty years ago. A book which he wrote on 'The Goldfields and Mineral Districts of Victoria' has always been regarded as a high authority on the subject.

Dr. Parker, of the City Temple, has written a story for *Great Thoughts*, entitled 'The History of a Soul; or, Robert Elsmere's Contrast.' It deals, we understand, with some vexed problems of theology, and its publication will commence in the issue of that widely popular magazine which is due on January 4.

The latest novelty this Christmas in the photographic trade in New York consists of a set of cards with invisible pictures, which are developed by the application of heat. Each of the cards has a pretty ornamental border; and when they are held over a lamp for a few seconds a pretty vignette appears in the centre.

Mr. James Payn confesses that he has acquired the habit of reciting 'certain snatches of song' as he rolls homeward in four-wheeled cabs after dark. He says he does not know what the cabman thinks of his recitations, but he adds: 'I gather from the expression of his face—in which alarm is prominent—what he thinks of me.'

The literature of the Parnell Commission is already causing some talk in publishing circles. Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. will issue Mr. Davitt's speech under the title of 'The Defence of the Land League.' Mr. Fisher Unwin will also publish a work by Mr. John Macdonald, named 'The Diary of the Parnell Commission.'

In Messrs. Agnew's Galleries, Old Bond Street, there is an interesting exhibition of drawings of characters and scenery connected with the life of Mary Queen of Scots. The portraits are specially attractive. Sir James Linton, President of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, and Mr. Orrock are the principal promoters.

We are requested by the publishers of *The Season* to state that a person calling himself J. W. Hendy and Walter Leith, and in some instances William Perry, has been inducing intending subscribers to pay him a year's subscription in advance. The public are herewith warned that the publishers have no connection with this man.

Mr. T. Fisher Unwin has just issued, in a limited edition, a life of Sir John Hawkwood, the English soldier of fortune who is known in Italian history as 'L'Acuto.' The work was written in Italian by Mr. John Temple-Leader and Signor Giuseppe Marcotti, and has been translated by Leader Scott, the biographer of William Barnes.

A curious anthropological discovery, we are told, was lately made in a railway cutting in New Jersey. The articles found are supposed to form the earliest traces of man on the American Continent. Several anthropologists of authority declare them to be palæoliths of argillite, characteristic of the first efforts to form sharp edges in stone.

One of the most curious things in the new work of M. Alphonse Daudet, 'Lutte pour la vie,' published by Calmann Lévy, is the contention that Frenchmen have become more cantankerous since the terrible war of 1870. In this bock also M. Alphonse Daudet seeks to justify his famous attack on the French Academy in 'L'Immortel.'

The Rev. Dr. A. K. H. Boyd is to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He first became known in literature as a contributor to *Fraser's Magazine*, where he wrote under the initials of 'A. K. H. B.' Since 'The Recreations of a Country Parson' first appeared he has published many volumes of sermons and essays.

Messrs. Cassell & Co. publish as usual in many forms and shapes 'Letts' Diaries' for 1890. They are admirable and convenient books, and the quality of the writing-paper, blotting-paper, and binding leaves nothing to be desired, whilst the arrangement of the contents is simple and clear. Merchants and professional men will find these well-known diaries of the utmost value.

A book which is causing some interest in theological circles has been published by Messrs. James MacLehose & Sons, Glasgow. It is called 'Essays towards a New Theology,' the author being Mr. Robert Mackintosh, B.D. In this work he extends the argument of two previous pamphlets, namely, that neither orthodoxy nor revivalism furnishes a tenable theology.

Kensington has made a great stride in the Public Library movement. It decided to have three of these institutions, and what is named the Central Library was opened on November 29 by the Princess Louise at the Vestry Hall, Kensington. Notting Hill is to have the second library, and the other is to be in the Brompton district. The Central Library has started with 6,000 volumes.

The 'Law Almanack for 1890' is, as usual, full of information, and, besides a calendar boldly printed in black and red, it contains a wide array of useful facts concerning the Law and Public Offices, the Bank of England, the General Post-Office, the Stamp Duties, Legal and University Terms, &c. The publishers are Messrs. Thomas Scott & Co., Legal and General Printers, Warwick Court, Holborn.

There is good news for little girls. A wax doll has just been brought out which will wash. The manufacturers, a well-known firm in the United States, declare that they have been trying to make one for years, and now claim that they have produced a doll that is not only indestructible, so far as breakage is concerned, but one that can be treated to a bath of soap and water without the least injury to its complexion.

Mr. George Clulow, Master of the Company of Makers of Playing Cards, has just written an interesting little brochure on the 'Origin and Manufacture of Playing Cards.' A quarter of a century ago the fortunes of this ancient City company were at a very low ebb; indeed, at that time it consisted of only four members. Now, however, it is in a flourishing condition. The Makers of Playing Cards have existed as a Company for 260 years.

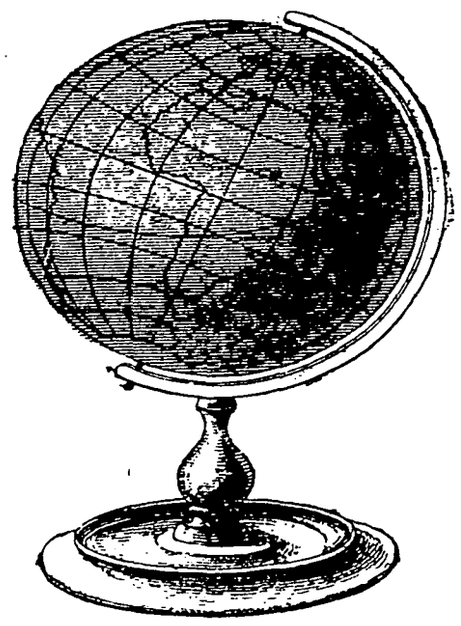
We understand that the Jewish Publication Society of America, which was founded in Philadelphia in June of last year, has already enrolled about three thousand members in spite of the fact that the annual subscription is unusually high. The object of the Society is to foster literary talent in the Jewish community, and to bring about the publication of works on the religion, literature, and history of the Jews. The Jewish clergy and press are heartily supporting the movement.

An interesting exhibition has just been held in connection with the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society. In addition to a number of Burns relics, there were shown letters of Allan Cunningham and Carlyle. In one of the letters of

the latter it is interesting to note how he particularly stipulates for the return of an old box in which he had sent some volumes to a bookseller for sale. Carlyle did this because he had borrowed the box.

We hear that a good deal of interest attaches to the forthcoming biography of Mr. James Macdonell, a well-known contributor to the *Times*. The Rev. W. Robertson Nicoll has prepared the work, which will, we believe, contain reminiscences of a fascinating kind for journalists. Mr. Macdonell enjoyed intercourse, more or less extended, with Alexander Russel, of the *Scotsman*, Delane and Chenery, of the *Times*, as well as with Froude, Carlyle, and other eminent men of letters.

The proprietors of *Harper's Young People* have decided to open a weekly and monthly competition for the readers and subscribers of this popular magazine. The weekly competition will begin in the first number of the New Year, published on January 4, for a prize to the value of one guinea. The monthly competition begins in the next (January) part published on December 20, and in this the prize each month is of the value of one guinea and a half. All information about these competitions can be obtained in the above-mentioned numbers.



Messrs. G. W. Bacon & Co. have just brought out their Excelsior Map of Asia on a somewhat reduced scale. It is clear and well coloured, reliable, and thoroughly adapted in every respect for use in schools and colleges. The same firm also send us samples of their Standard V. Astronomical Diagrams, 'Day and Night,' 'The Seasons,' and 'Latitude and Longitude.' These diagrams are coloured, and form admirable aids to scientific teaching in schools.

Amongst the novelties of Messrs. Bacon & Co. we wish to call attention to their new Globe for the use of schools and private students. The accompanying illustration gives a good idea of this useful educational appliance.

A new series, under new editorship, of the *Antiquary* will commence in January. It is proposed to devote special attention to folk-lore and legends, classical antiquities, genealogy, family history, &c. Amongst the contributors for 1890 we notice the names of Messrs. C. Roch Smith, J. P. Earwaker, Walter Money, Dr. Augustus Jessopp, W. Carew Hazlitt, G. L. Gomme, and other well-known authorities. The editorship has been placed in the competent hands of the Rev. J. C. Cox, LL.D., F.S.A., author of 'Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire,' 'Lichfield Capitular Muniments,' and other works.

Printers and publishers often find their customers extremely unreasonable, and sometimes people make themselves ridiculous by the nature of their demands. Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, for example, not unfrequently are appealed to by people who want small pocket editions of the whole Bible, in clear bold type. It must be clear, and it must be bold, but above everything else the volume must occupy very little space! This is an age of invention, but to get the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation into the waistcoat pocket in brevier is an achievement which more than taxes the resources of even the Queen's Printers.

A proposal for the establishment of a Guild of Writers is again being discussed in the United States. France, it is argued, has her Société des Gens de Lettres, and England her Society of Authors, and it is urged that America ought not to lag behind. The *New York Critic* remarks that in the United States it is 'more than likely that the big men would keep out of the Guild, and the little ones would use it for "ring" purposes.' It adds that every American author of importance is a member of the Copyright League, and it suggests that when the special object for which the League exists is accomplished, it will be time enough to organise a Writers' Guild for general, social, and protective purposes.

Mrs. Raikes—the mother of the Postmaster-General—who died the other day, knew many famous people of a vanished generation. As a child, little Miss Wrangham sat on Sir Walter Scott's knee in his historic home at Abbotsford. Her father, Archdeacon Wrangham, was a neighbour and friend of Sydney Smith when the latter held the living of Foston, in Yorkshire, and Mrs. Raikes could recall the great wit's delightful talk. As a young girl she was on terms of intimacy with Mary Russell Mitford, and she kept up a correspondence with Felicia Hemans. Mrs. Raikes could boast that she had breakfasted with Samuel Rogers, and that she had read the proof-sheets of Reginald Heber's poems.

The Master and Warden of the Stationers' Company have placed a wall-plate in St. Bride's Church, London, as a recognition of the genius of Samuel Richardson, the novelist. The inscription reads thus: 'Opposite to this spot lies all that is mortal of Samuel Richardson, printer, of Salisbury Court, in this parish, and author of "Clarissa," "Pamela," &c. Born in 1689, he became a member of the Stationers' Company, and in 1754 its Master, and died July 4, 1761. He enlarged the knowledge of human nature, and taught the passions to move at the command of virtue (Johnson). To perpetuate the memory of his genius this brass was set up in the year of grace 1889, the bicentenary of his birth, by a member of the Stationers'

Company.' The donor is Mr. Joshua W. Butterworth, of Kensington. This plate comes, perhaps, rather late in the day, but in this case, as in many others, we may gladly say, 'better late than never.'

American Notes and News

'All He Knew' is the title of the forthcoming new novel by John Habberton, author of 'Helen's Babies,' 'Brueton's Bayou,' &c.

Mr. David McKay of Philadelphia announces a cheap and popular edition of the works of the pioneer American novelist, Charles Brockden Brown.

The Globe is the name of a new quarterly review of World-literature, Society, Religion, Art, and Politics. It is edited by William Henry Thorne, the author of 'Modern Idols.'

Mrs. Jane G. Austin, a rising novelist and author of 'A Nameless Nobleman,' will publish this month, through Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, 'Standish of Standish,' a story in which the famous Captain of the Plymouth Colony is the leading figure.

'As You Like It,' forming the eighth volume of Dr. Horace Howard Furness's scholarly and 'monumental' work, the Variorum Shakspeare, is now in the press, and will soon be issued by J. B. Lippincott Co., of Philadelphia. Its appearance will be welcomed by all lovers and students of Shakspeare.

Beginning with the coming year the *North American Review* will have many fresh features and will be printed on a larger and handsomer page. Among the attractions of the year is announced a 'Duel between Free Trade and Protection: a Great Discussion between Two Prime Ministers, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and the Hon. James G. Blaine.'

The title of Mr. Frank R. Stockton's newest novel is 'The Story of the Three Burglars,' to be published by a syndicate of newspapers. It presents the three burglars as exchanging stories of their adventurous lives in the course of a midnight prowl. The English copyright edition will be issued by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington, Limited.

D. Lothrop Company, of Boston, will soon publish 'A Life of Anne Bradstreet,' by Helen Campbell. It will give to the public interesting information about a literary woman of the olden time, and who has been called 'the grandmother of American literature.' Anne Bradstreet was the daughter of one of the Colonial Governors of Massachusetts, and became the wife of another. Cotton Mather praised her with enthusiasm.

Mr. Joseph Kirkland, author of 'Zury' and 'The McVeys,' lately completed a third novel, in his opinion his best one. That this favourable opinion is not unwarranted is shown in a very substantial manner by the award to him of a $1,600 cash prize, by the Detroit *Free Press*, being the first of three prizes offered by that journal for the best original stories from authors throughout the world. Major Kirkland's story is entitled 'The Captain of Company K.' It will be published during the winter as a serial in the *Free Press*, and afterwards in book form.

A prominent feature of the *Atlantic Monthly* next year will be a new serial story, 'Sidney,' from the pen of Margaret Deland, author of the notable 'John Ward, Preacher,' and the welcome announcement is also made that Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes will write a series of papers of reminiscence and characteristic reflection for this magazine next year. To indicate at once a certain likeness and unlikeness to the famous 'Breakfast-Table' papers, he will call these 'Over the Tea-Cups.'

The eighth number of Dr. D. G. Brinton's 'Library of Aboriginal American Literature' is announced for early issue. It will be a volume of ancient religious chants, or sacred songs, of the Mexicans, and Dr. Brinton has given it the title of 'Rig Veda Americana.' They are derived from two Nahuatl manuscripts, one at Madrid, the other at Florence, both of which Dr. Brinton has personally collated. A 'gloss' which accompanies the song in the Madrid manuscript is a sixteenth-century commentary on the obscurities of the text. The two are, no doubt, the most ancient authentic examples of American literature and language in existence.

The Christmas number of the *Book Buyer* has as its leading feature this year a paper by Margaret Deland (author of 'John Ward, Preacher'), entitled 'Christmas Giving.' The other contributors of special reviews of the leading holiday books are Edward Bellamy, Mary Hallock Foote, Professor Arthur S. Hardy, Joseph Kirkland, Laurence Hutton, and Professor H. H. Boyesen. Mrs. Burton Harrison again has charge of the children's Christmas books, and Noah Brooks writes the paper on the miscellaneous holiday publications. The illustrations are selected from the books of the season, and many of them are, as usual, printed in colours. A special English edition of this well-known annual will be issued immediately by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., Limited.

Recognition of the claims of Russian authors to a prominent place in modern literature has long been a feature in American literary circles. Publishers in Boston and New York

have also issued from time to time able translations from the works of Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenieff, and Tolstoi, while others have been the means of drawing the attention of students and readers to the lives and works of these brilliant authors by the publication of biographical text-books. The latest of these is a little volume of 'Lectures on Russian Literature,' by Ivan Panin (a young Harvard Professor and translator), to appear at once from the press of G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. It gives in a compact and succinct form all that is noteworthy relative to the writers named, with characteristic extracts from their various works, and will doubtless be welcomed as a reliable guide to readers and *littérateurs*, for whom it was specially designed.

Mr. George Bancroft's biography of Martin Van Buren, which Messrs. Harper Brothers, New York, have just ready, was originally written many years ago, it is said, at the suggestion of Silas Wright, who was then a Senator for New York. President Van Buren himself saw the work in manuscript, and declared it to be authentic as to the facts. Mr. Bancroft decided not to publish it, however, until party feeling had subsided. His recent revision has involved no changes which could affect the approval formerly given by Van Buren The discontent in Europe and in America with the practical working of existing forms of democratic government has prompted the publication of a work entitled 'The Political Problem,' by Albert Stickney, the New York lawyer, whose book, 'A True Republic,' made something of a sensation upon its appearance a few years ago. It will be issued at once by Messrs. Harper Brothers. Mr. Charles Dudley Warner's first novel, 'A Little Journey in the World,' will also be published by this firm. It contains trenchant satire upon modern social life in America. An English edition of this novel will be issued simultaneously by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington, Limited.

COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

WE are indebted to Messrs. Crosby Lockwood & Son, the London agents of Messrs. Stone & Son, of Dunedin, New Zealand, for particulars of an interesting copyright action—*Stone & Son v. White*—heard in October before Mr. Justice Williams, in the Supreme Court of New Zealand, at Dunedin. This is, so far as we know, the first case of the kind that has been tried since the passing of *The International and Colonial Act of* 1886. One of the objects of this Act was to give Imperial copyright to authors in the colonies, but, judging by the case quoted below, it seems to have been the cause of some embarrassment in the New Zealand Courts. Prior to the passing of this Act, it was very doubtful whether a colonial author could get any copyright at all in the mother country, for, although he was called upon to send copies of his work to the British Museum and the other libraries, unless he published his work in *the United Kingdom first*, his merely registering at Stationers' Hall would not have given him copyright here. The Imperial Act of 1886 overcame this anomaly; by it a colonial author obtains Imperial Copyright by simply registering his work in the colony, provided, of course, that the colony has passed an Act providing for such registration, failing which, registration at Stationers' Hall becomes necessary. New Zealand, it appears, has not passed such an Act; therefore, the author, not having registered at Stationers' Hall, has no Imperial rights. Fortunately for him, however, New Zealand has a 'Copyright Ordinance,' passed in 1842, and this, so far as the colony is concerned, was sufficient to cover the plaintiff's copyright. It was contended by the defendant that 'if there was a colonial law at all, it was in a very chaotic state, and did not apply in this case,' and that 'unless local legislation provided for registration of copyright of books, they were neither copyrighted nor protected unless registered in England.' The Judge took a more rational and reasonable view, and ruled that the Imperial Act in no way abrogated the New Zealand Ordinance.

The work in dispute was one of purely local importance; had it been, on the other hand, a work for which the author desired Imperial rights, he would have been obliged to register at Stationers' Hall, failing the local machinery. In this view of the case, it seems to be a matter of importance that all the colonies which have not yet put themselves in touch with the International and Colonial Act of 1886, which was passed largely for their benefit, should take prompt measures to pass a short Act requiring registration, which will at once convey Imperial rights to a colonial author without the trouble of sending his work to Stationers' Hall. The plaintiffs, as publishers of 'Stone's Otago and Southland A.B.C. Monthly Guide and Diary,' asked for an injunction on the ground of breach of copyright, against the persons issuing a pamphlet styled 'The Stranger's Vade Mecum,' which was being distributed to visitors at the local exhibition, and which was mainly composed of matter taken from the plaintiffs' book.

It appears that the law of copyright in books in New Zealand rests on a 'Copyright Ordinance' of 1842, and that there is no registration of copyright in the colony. By the International and Colonial Copyright Act (1886) of the British Parliament, it was provided that the English Copyright Acts should apply throughout the British dominions, and also that

if there is an enactment in any particular colony as to registration of copyright, it shall not be necessary to register at Stationers' Hall to secure copyright under the Act. In the case of Stone & Son *v.* White, the counsel for the defendant maintained, in view of the Act of 1886, that unless the local Legislature had provided for registration of books, they were neither copyrighted nor protected in the colony without registration in England; and that, the plaintiffs' work not having been registered in England, their action must fail. Counsel for the Plaintiffs, however, contended that there was no intention in the International and Colonial Copyright Act of 1886 to interfere with a merely local copyright in a colony where there was no registration, but that if in such a colony the proprietor of a local copyright wished for a copyright also throughout the British Dominions under that Act, then only need he register at Stationers' Hall. In other words, an author might take his choice: if he was content with copyright in New Zealand, he would follow New Zealand Law, which did not require registration; but if he wanted copyright throughout the British Dominions and in foreign countries where there were copyright conventions, he must register at Stationers' Hall, in order to take advantage of the Imperial Act of 1886. This latter view was taken, substantially, by the learned Judge, who granted an injunction in the terms asked by the Plaintiffs, but reserved costs, as it was intimated that the Defendant would appeal.

A SCOTTISH NATIONAL LIBRARY.

WE learn that much interest is aroused in Scotland in regard to the proposed formation of a National Library. The promoters of the scheme wish to make the famous Advocates' Library in Edinburgh the nucleus of the new institution. This library has great historic value. It was founded as far back as 1682, and contains books and manuscripts which no other Scottish library either has, or can ever acquire; and it has been well said that if anyone had the inclination to write the history of Scotland, which should be full and authoritative, he would be compelled to reside in Edinburgh, and to gain access to the Advocates' Library. David Hume, the philosopher, once occupied the office of librarian to the Faculty of Advocates with a view to the promotion of his historical studies. In an interesting paper on the proposed scheme, the *Glasgow Herald* holds that the Edinburgh library ranks next to the British Museum and the Bodleian in the United Kingdom; and, for that reason, the consideration of any other library as the basis of a Scotch National Library would be preposterous. It is the only one possessing the material for laying the foundation of a National Library. It has been virtually agreed by all but the Government that Scotland should have such a national institution, after the pattern of that in the British Museum, open to all manner of scholars, students, and general readers. Sir William Chambers laid the case for such a library before the Social Science Congress more than a quarter of a century ago, and in the interval between that time and the present the subject has appeared and reappeared. Dr. Chambers turned his eye towards the Advocates' Library, as if coveting it for the nation;. and all his successors did the same thing. They took advantage of his statements, and are largely indebted to him for arguments. A National Library is wanted, that there may be a depository of national literature, as well as a disseminator of both national and general learning. It is clear that the first efforts of the movers of the scheme should be devoted to inducing the Government to take the matter in hand. It is believed that if the public knew more about the library, the privileges attaching to it, and the strenuous efforts put forth in the past to acquire it for the nation, they would more urgently insist upon their leaders, whether Members of Parliament or others, taking such steps as would at least bring the question to an issue between the Government, the Faculty, and the people of Scotland. We may add that the Library contains three thousand MSS., and two hundred and eighty-five thousand volumes.

VALUABLE ART BEQUEST TO THE NATION.

WE are glad to learn that Mr. G. F. Watts, R.A., has decided to hand over a great many of his extremely valuable pictures to the nation. His splendid bequest includes no less than twenty-six of his excellent portraits, comprising those of Gladstone, Carlyle, Tennyson, John Stuart Mill, Browning, Lecky, Rossetti, Swinburne, Matthew Arnold, Cardinal Manning, Lord Salisbury, Lord Lytton, &c. &c. The other eleven paintings have all a high reputation in the world of art. They include 'Love and Death,' 'Hope,' 'Time, Death, and Judgment,' 'The Court of Death,' 'Love and Life,' 'The Minotaur,' 'Death Crowning Innocence,' &c. We can well understand that so magnificent a gift as that of Mr. Watts will arouse the liveliest gratification in art and other circles.

SALE OF AUTOGRAPH LETTERS.—A large assortment of letters from eminent persons and a number of rare MSS. have just been sold at Messrs. Sotheby's. A letter from George Eliot, explaining some obscure passages in 'Romola,' brought £10. 15*s*. Two letters from Sir Walter Scott fetched £2. 15*s*. and £1. 17*s*., and a sheet of the MS. of 'The Abbot,' £17. 10*s*. A budget of seven letters from Charles Lamb to Samuel Taylor Coleridge realised a total of £138. 5*s*. The MS. of Isaac Watts' 'How doth the Little Busy Bee' sold for £3. 3*s*., and the proof-sheets of Thackeray's 'Fox and the Cat,' corrected by the author, for £10. Sixteen of Shelley's letters fetched prices varying from £6. 10*s*. to £35. 10*s*., reaching a total of nearly £300. Sundry letters which passed between Lady Hamilton and Lord Nelson were bought at prices ranging from £5 to £20, whilst several MSS. and letters of Benjamin Franklin, Dickens, Byron, Ouida, Southey, and others fetched a fair sum.

NOVELS AND NEWSPAPER SYNDICATES.—While it seems to be a question with publishers as to whether it helps or hurts a book to publish it first in a syndicate of newspapers, there is no question among the editors as to the effect of the serial publication of a novel upon the circulation of their journals. One editor told me recently that he could trace an increase of nine thousand subscribers to his paper through the publication of a single story; and yet, curiously enough, another tale by the same famous author, published shortly afterwards, did not visibly increase the subscription list. Between the two came a story by an unknown author, and the clamour for it was loud and long. This editor believes firmly in serials, but he wishes that he had the gift of knowing what the public wants. With all his experience he cannot do it.—'LOUNGER,' in the *New York Critic*.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM ALLINGHAM.

William Allingham, the well-known Irish poet, died at Hampstead on November 19, and his body was cremated at Woking. Mr. Allingham was the author of 'Day and Night Songs,' 'Songs, Ballads, and Stories,' a patriotic poem entitled 'Laurence Bloomfield in Ireland,' which originally appeared in *Fraser's Magazine*, and was republished, with revisions, in 1864, and again five years later. The poem gives vivid pictures of Irish life. Mr. Allingham was also the author of many other poems and ballads. Some of his earlier verses appeared in *Household Words*, and were greatly admired by the late Charles Dickens. Mr. Allingham succeeded Mr. Froude as editor of *Fraser's Magazine*. He was a man of many accomplishments and most genial spirit; but he can hardly be said to have justified the literary hopes of his friends.

M. EUGÈNE BERSIER.

In France another distinguished minister passed away on November 19. We refer to M. Eugène Bersier, one of the foremost Protestant pastors. He has indeed been called the Protestant Bourdaloue or Massillon, and his sermons obtained a prominent place in the ecclesiastical literature of France. His books have been widely read in certain circles in England. In Paris, where he founded a church in the neighbourhood of the Arc de Triomphe, he had a splendid reputation for zeal. During the siege of Paris he exerted himself greatly in the organisation of ambulances, and gave lectures to the people, which were remarkable for their soothing and consoling power. For these services he was made a Knight of the Legion of Honour.

MR. R. WHELAN BOYLE.

Mr. R. Whelan Boyle, the editor of the *Daily Chronicle*, died, we regret to say, on November 13. He was connected with various journals before he assumed the London editorship. In all the departments of newspaper work he had a practical knowledge. Under his guidance the *Daily Chronicle* has prospered well. Mr. Boyle before his death gave instructions that his body should be cremated. This was done, and a memorial service of a unique kind was held over the ashes in an urn, which were brought from Woking to Highgate Cemetery.

PROFESSOR ELMSLIE.

The sudden death of Professor Elmslie, on November 16, has awakened profound regret amongst the various branches of the Nonconformists. He was the son of Rev. W. Elmslie, late minister of the Free Church, Insch, in Aberdeenshire, and received his education at the University of Aberdeen, closing this period of his training by taking honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. His theological studies were prosecuted in Edinburgh under Professor Henry Drummond, and subsequently he spent some time in Paris and Berlin, where he added to his already great scholastic acquirements. Entering the ministry of the English Presbyterian Church, he was for a time assistant to Dr. Oswald Dykes, Regent Square, London, and afterwards he had charge of a church at Willesden. In 1883 he accepted the Professorship of Hebrew in the Presbyterian College, London. Professor Elmslie had

a considerable reputation as a preacher, and had received many tempting offers to relinquish his educational work for the pulpit. He made some valuable contributions to the press, including important papers in the *British Weekly*. He had an exceptionally full knowledge of the scope and drift of modern German theological literature, and, had so valuable a life been spared longer, much might have been expected from Dr. Elmslie in the realm of Church history and theology.

William Henry Leatham.

We also regret to announce the death of Mr. William Henry Leatham, formerly M.P. for Huddersfield, on November 15, in his 75th year. He was the son of Mr. W. Leatham, banker, of Heath, near Wakefield; and his sister Margaret Elizabeth was the second wife of Mr. John Bright. Mr. Leatham was the author of 'Tales of English Life and Miscellanies' and several poems.

Martin Farquhar Tupper, D.C.L.

By the death of the author of 'Proverbial Philosophy' an interesting link with the past has been broken. Martin Farquhar Tupper was born in London in July 1810. His father was a well-known medical man, of whom it is related that he twice refused to accept a baronetcy. The family was of German extraction, but settled in Guernsey in the sixteenth century. Martin Tupper was educated at the Charterhouse, and when he was one of the older boys Thackeray was in the lower forms of the school. He afterwards pursued his education at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took a good degree and won distinction in other ways. Whilst at Christ Church he vanquished no less a personage than Mr. Gladstone in a struggle for the Burton Essay Prize. When Mr. Tupper went up to receive the twenty-five pounds' worth of books, of which the prize consisted, he used to recall with a smile that he was asked to 'allow Mr. Gladstone to have five pounds' worth of them as he was so good a second.' At one time Mr. Tupper thought of entering the Church, but an infirmity of speech, which in later life disappeared, led him to relinquish that intention. His first appearance in literature was as far back as the year 1832, when he published anonymously a volume of poems. Six years later his famous book, 'Proverbial Philosophy,' was given to the world, and in spite of unfavourable notices in the critical journals the book leaped at once into popularity, both in England and America. Up to the year 1863 more than five hundred thousand copies of the work were sold in the United States alone; whilst its success in England was also quite phenomenal. Nothing that Mr. Tupper afterwards published during a long and active literary career arrested much public attention; indeed, his fame, such as it is, hinges almost entirely on the book which he wrote as a young man of eight-and-twenty. Ballads, odes, novels, and plays flowed from his pen, but the public cared little for them, though it held for at least a generation to its first impression, that Martin Tupper was a great and original poet, and that 'Proverbial Philosophy' was an epoch-making book. Since then, however, the tide has flowed in an opposite direction, and the genial, gracious old man, who died at Norwood on Thursday, November 29, outlived to a large extent his literary reputation. In his autobiography, which was published a year or so ago by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., Mr. Tupper stated that from first to last his receipts from 'Proverbial Philosophy' amounted in all to the respectable sum of £10,000. Personally Mr. Tupper was a kindly man, full of old-fashioned courtesy, beneath which there ran a simple but genuine religious life. If he was not a great thinker, he was at least a good man, and one who for many years in high regions of aspiration and endeavour was guide, philosopher, and friend to an unusually wide circle of readers. He has gone to his grave in an honourable old age, with the proud consciousness that he has not written anything base.

Index to the Books published between November 16 and 30.

The Words in Italics are those under which the Titles are given Alphabetically in full, with the Publisher's Name.

Abdomen, Tumours, Contri. to treatment, *Keith*, pt. 3, 6s. 6d.
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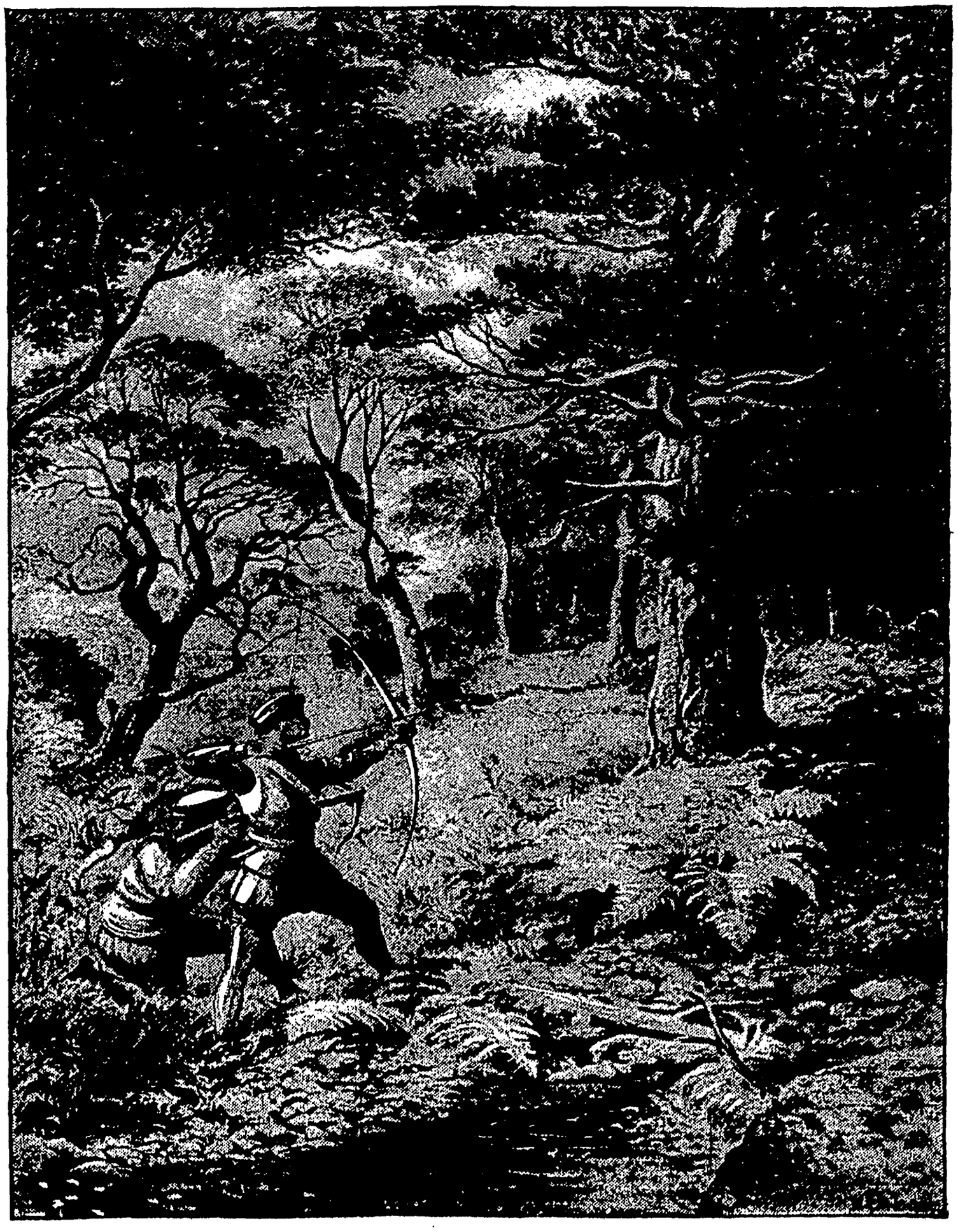

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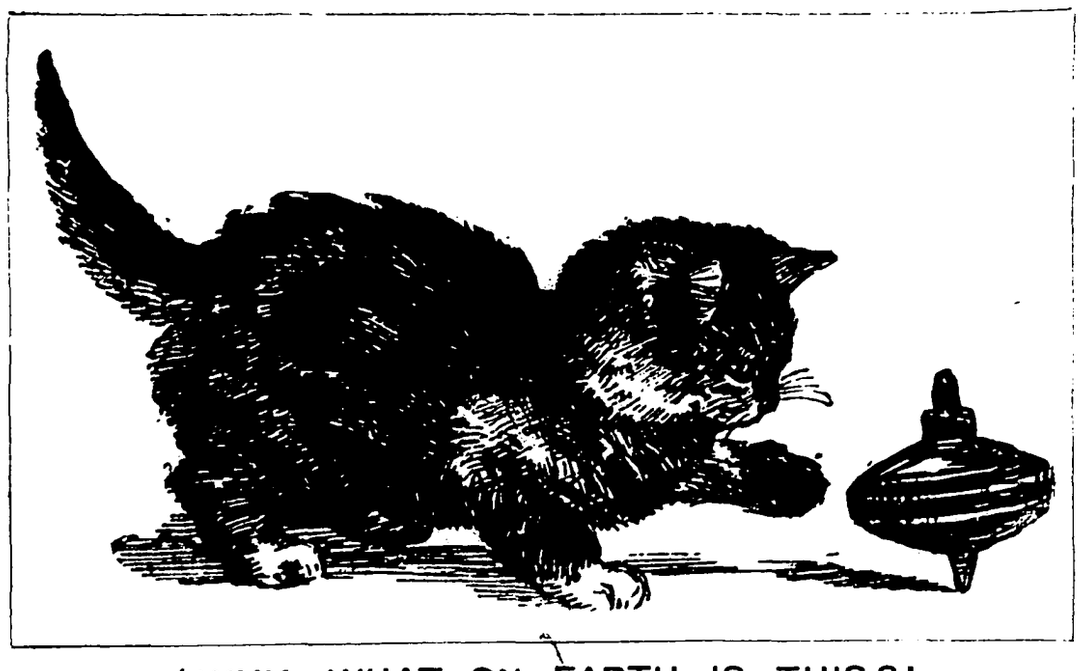

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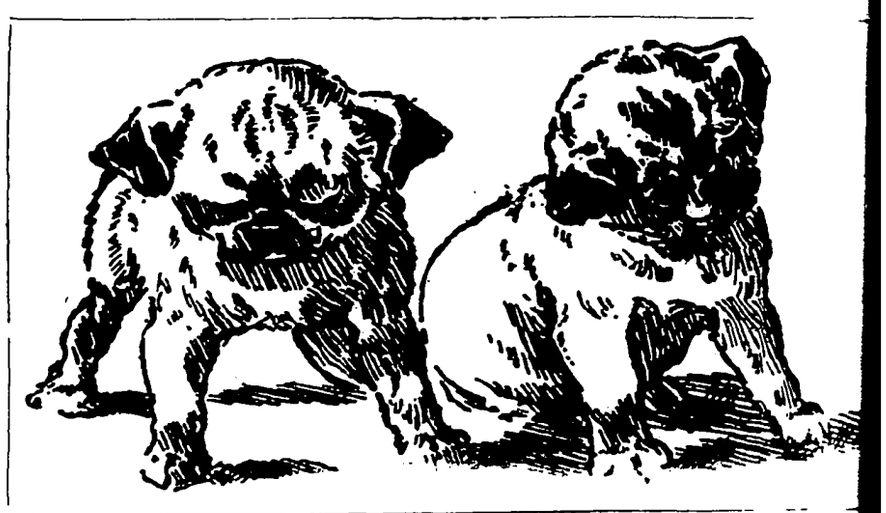

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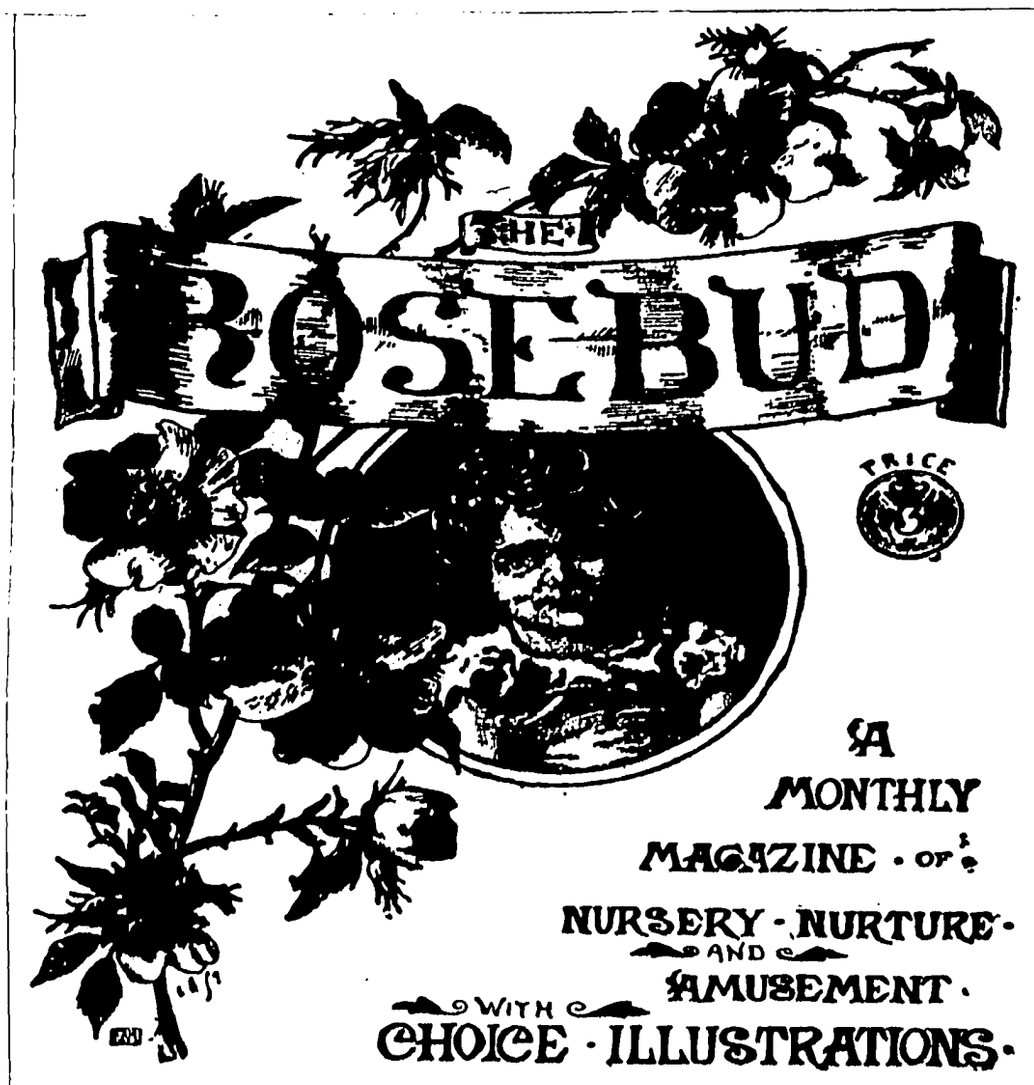

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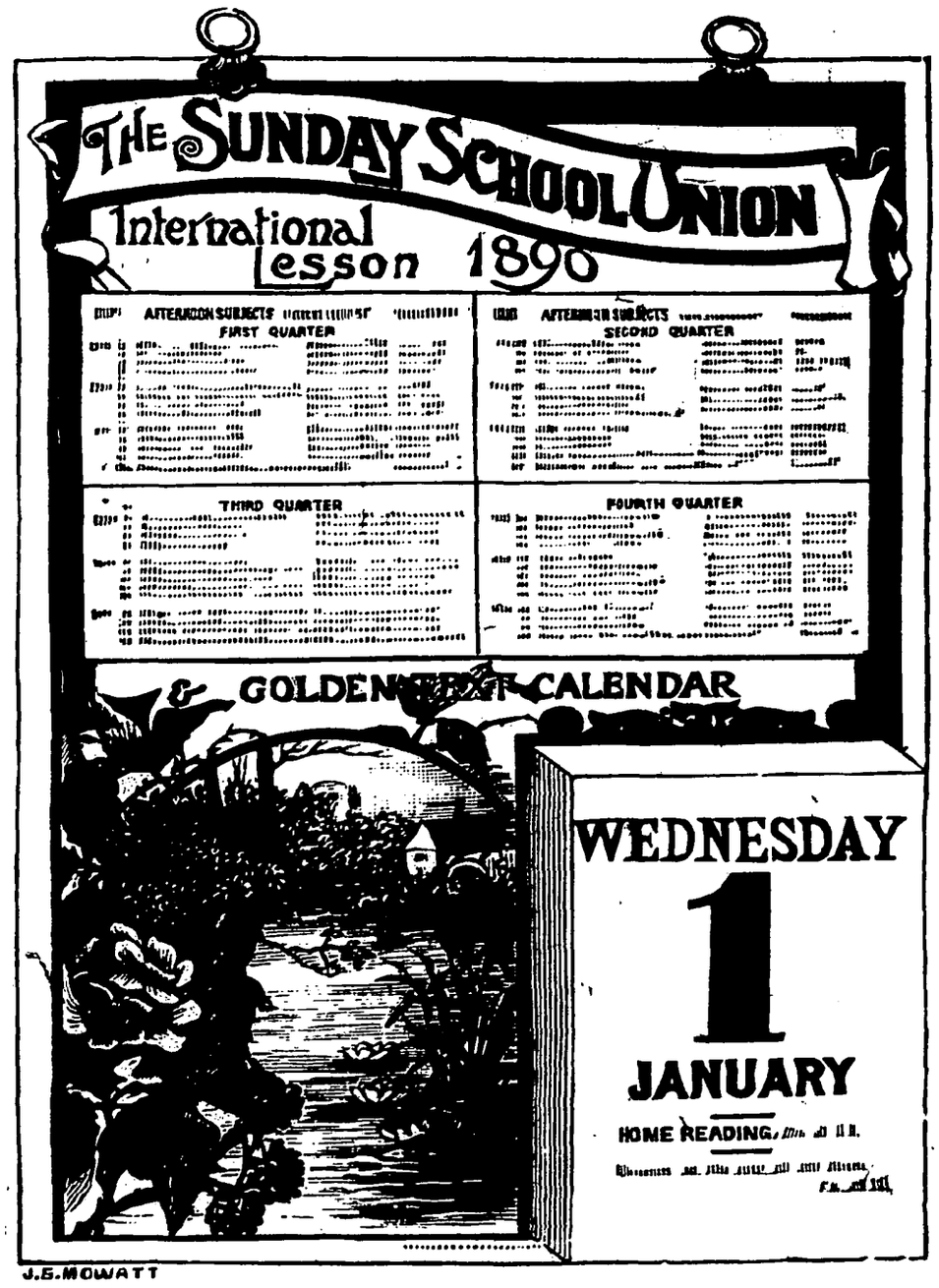

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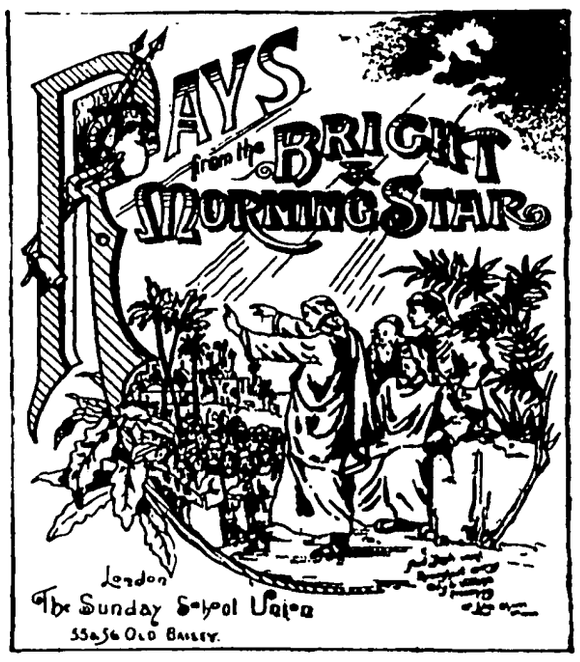

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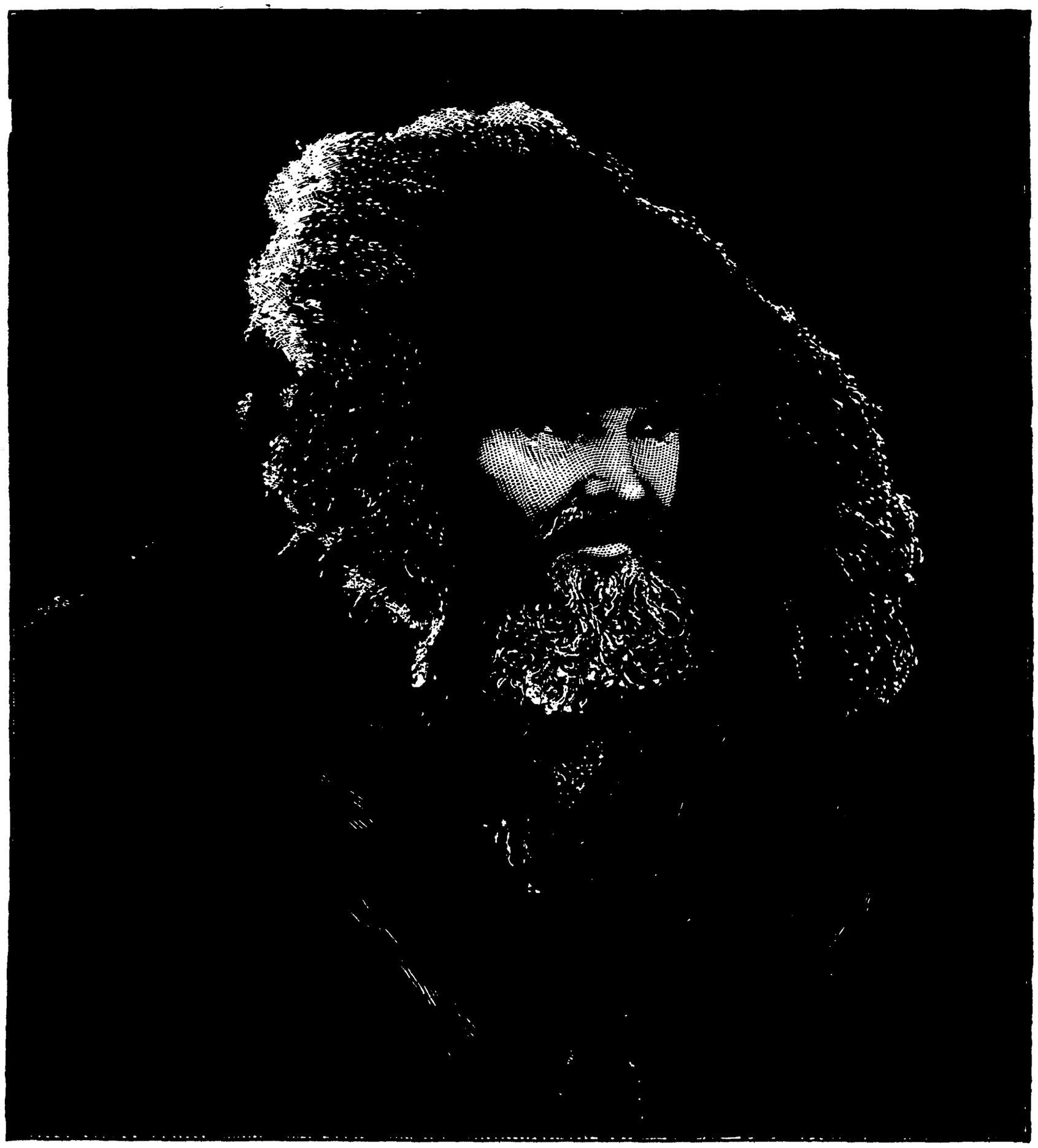

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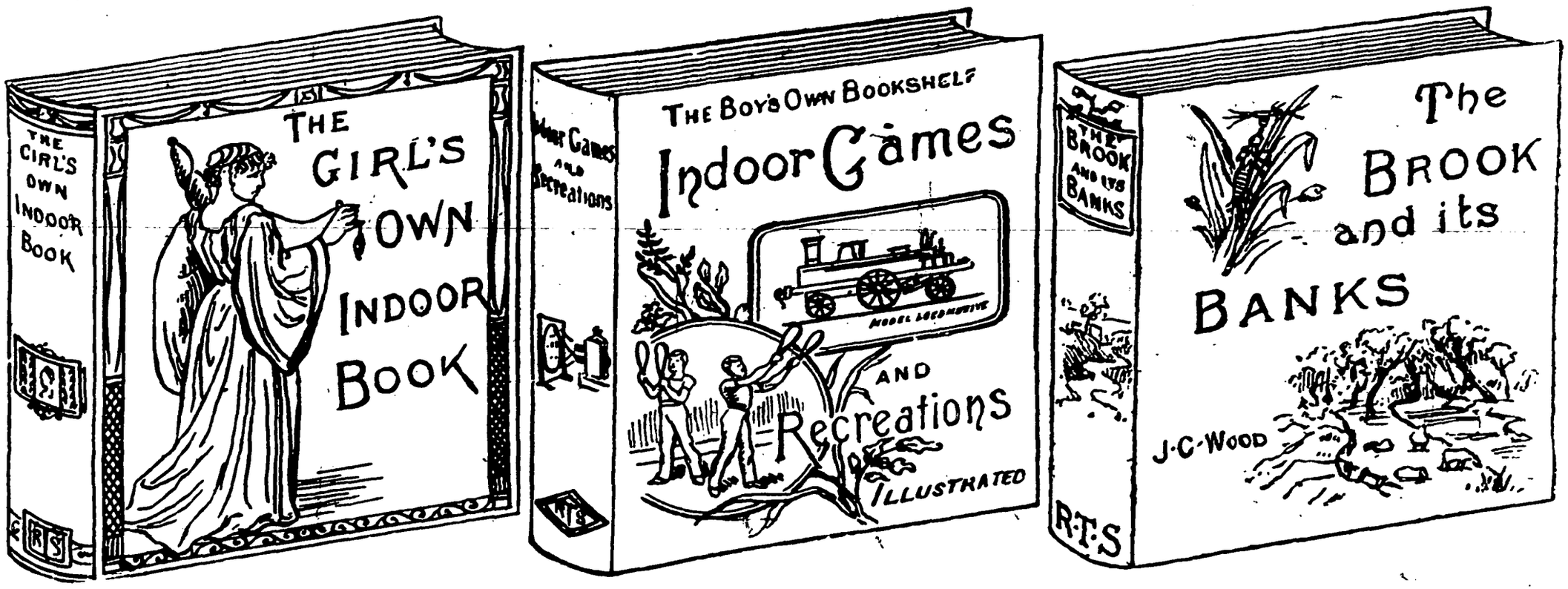

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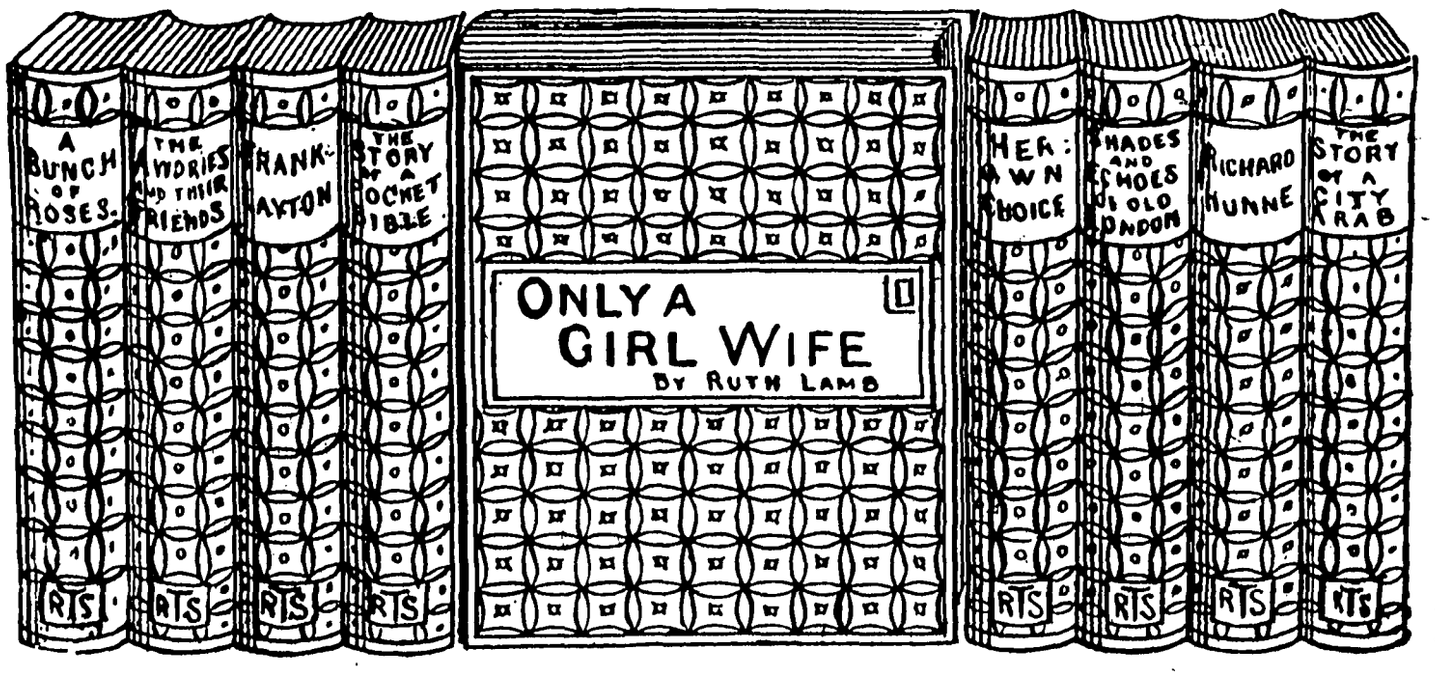

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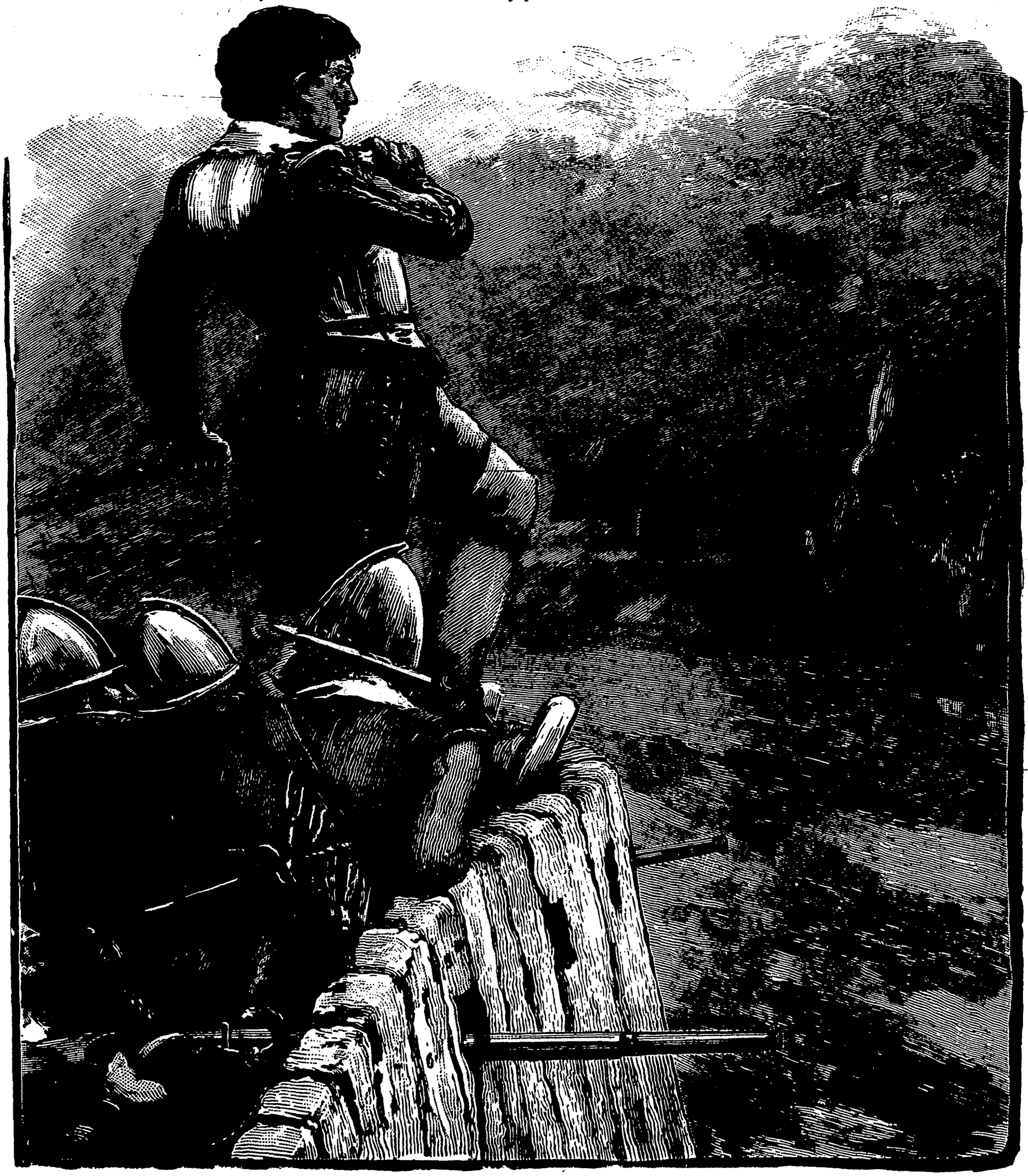

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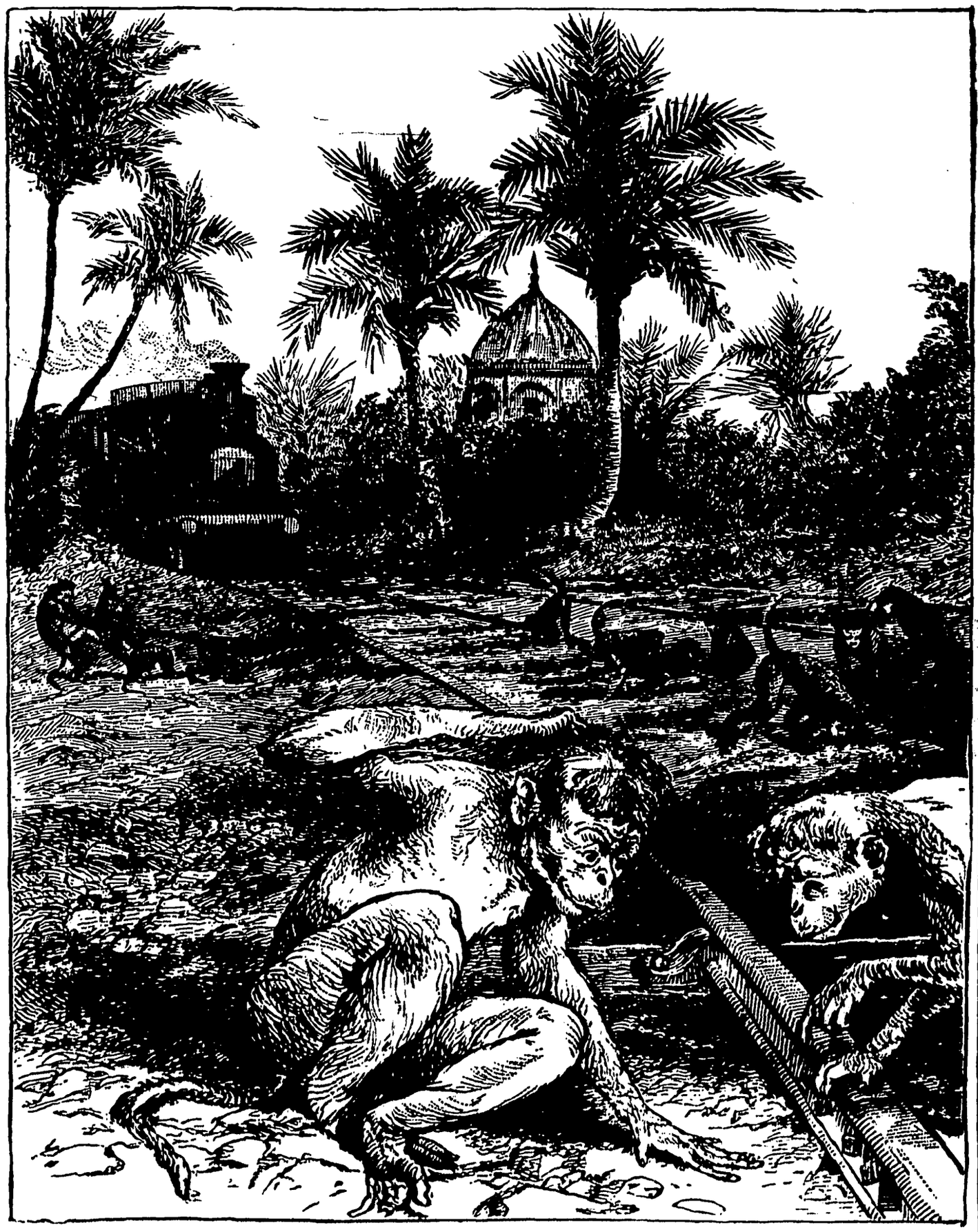

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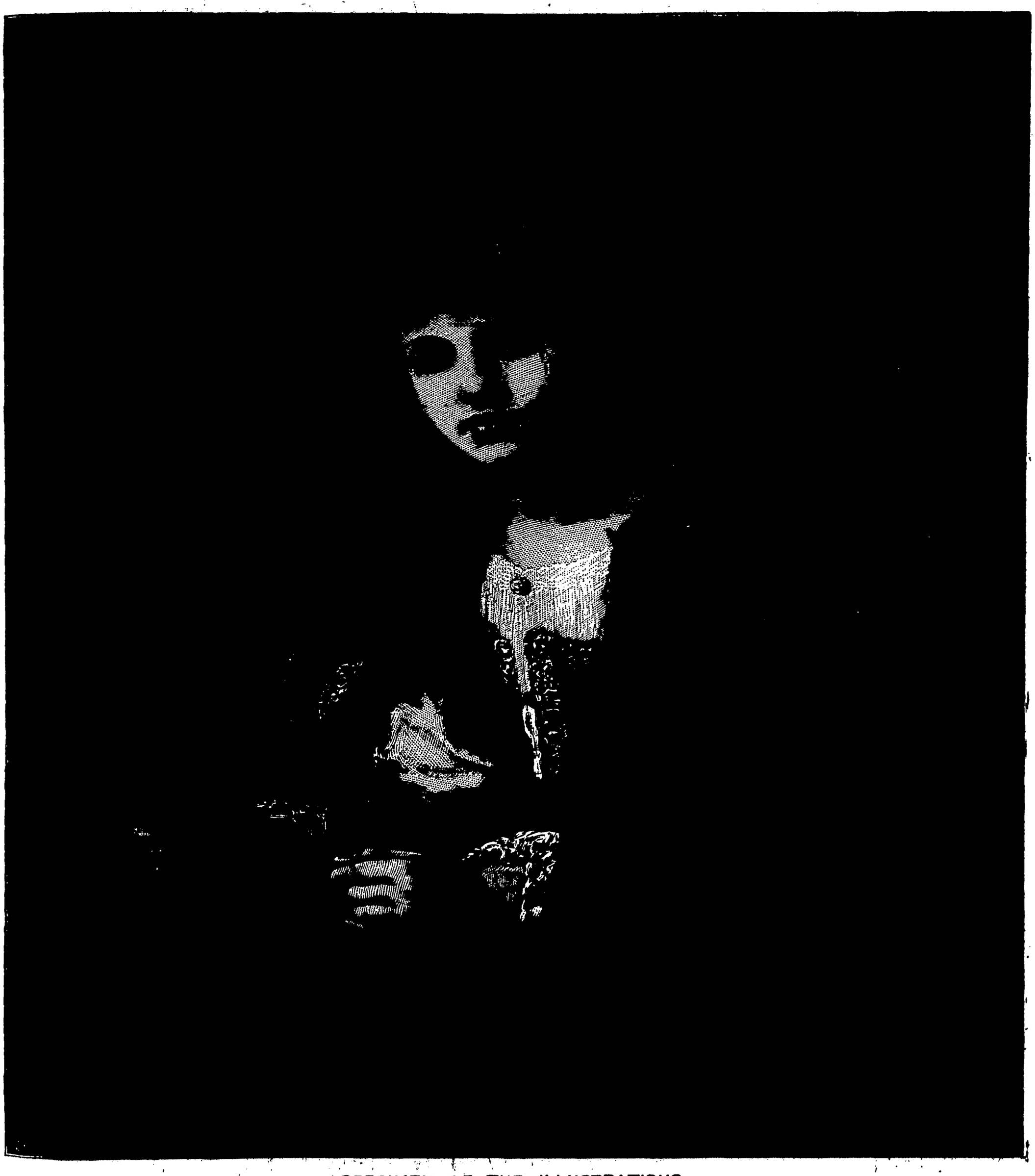

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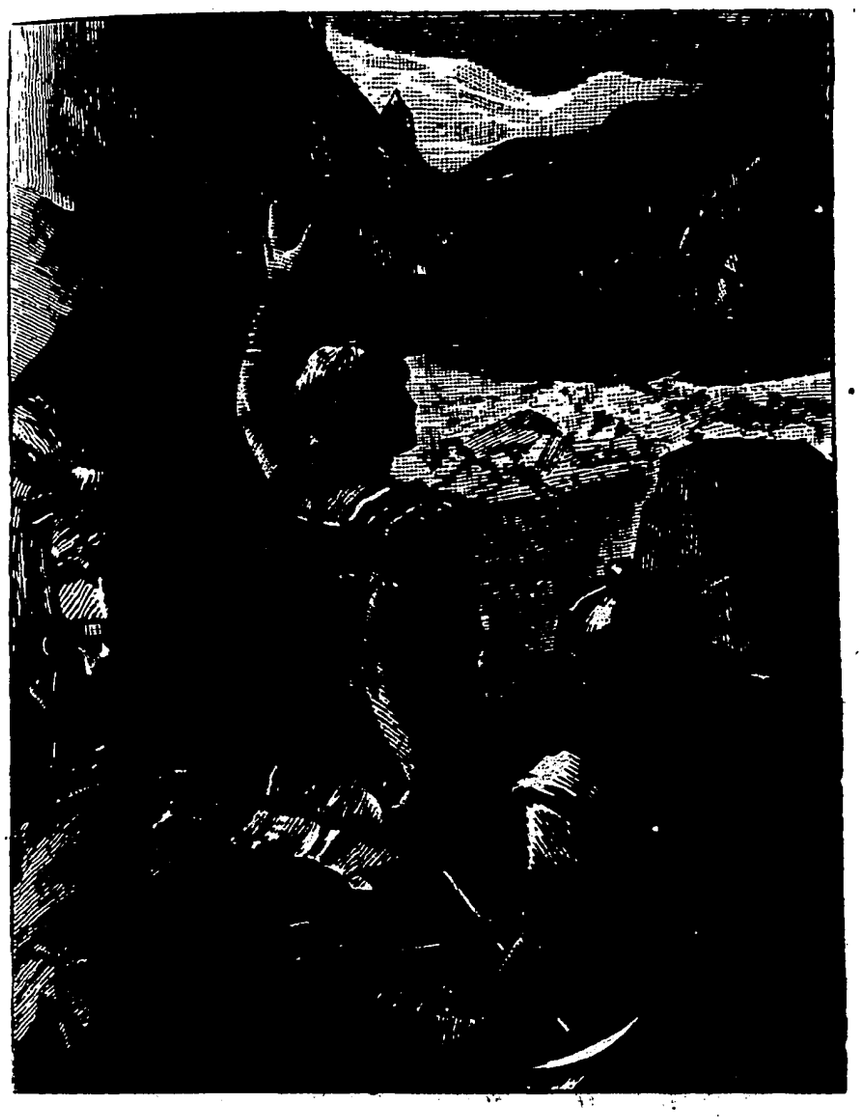

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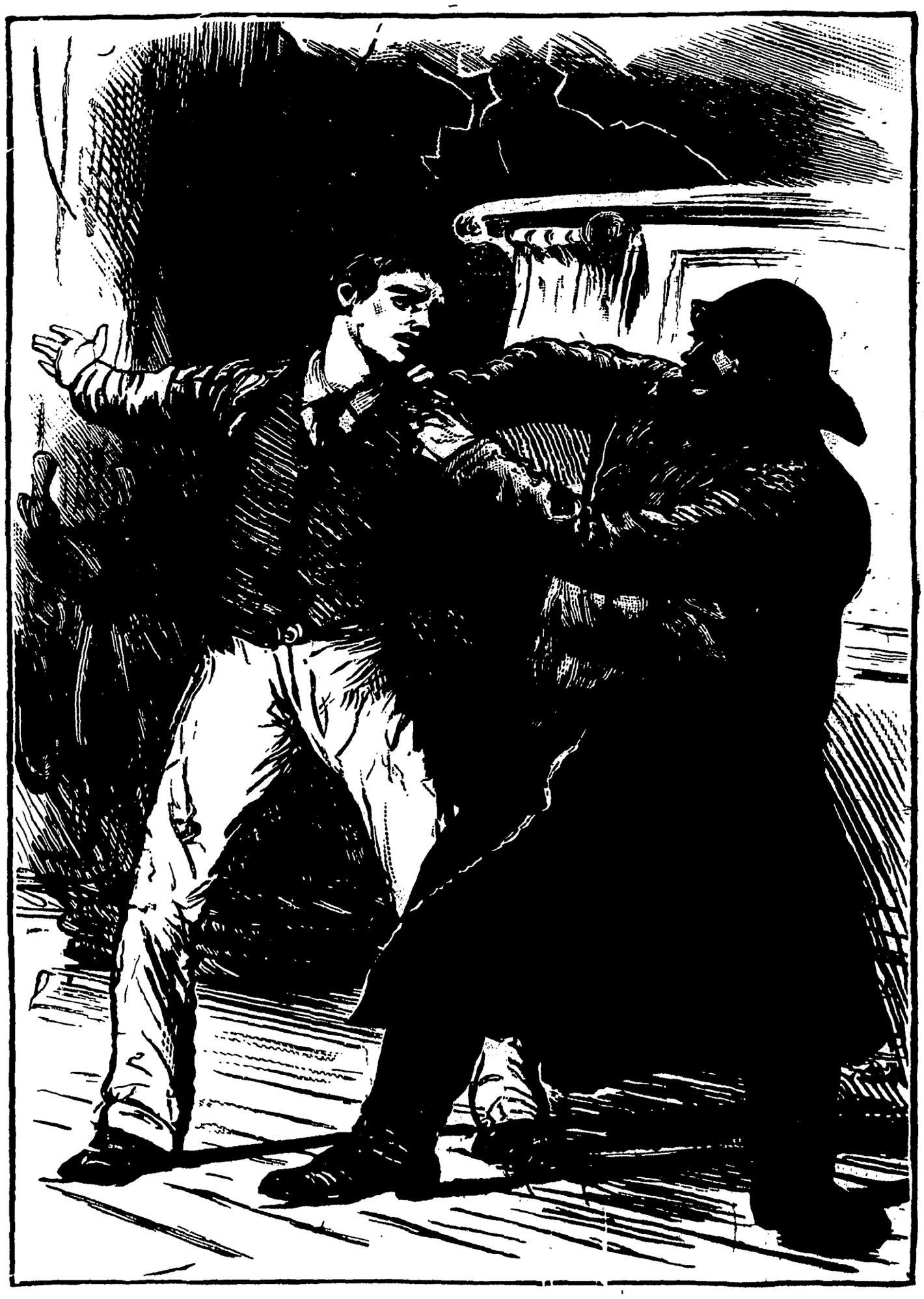

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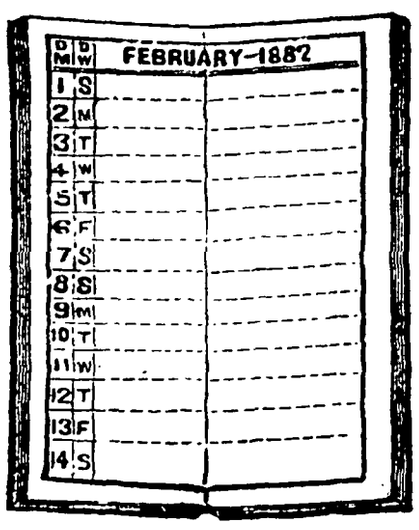

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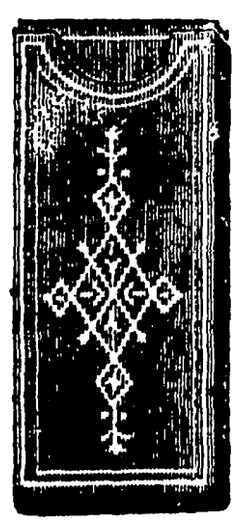
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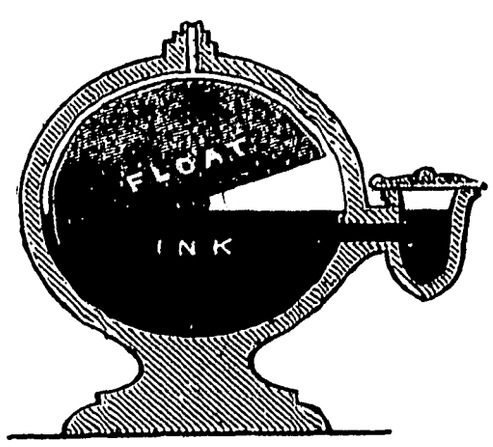

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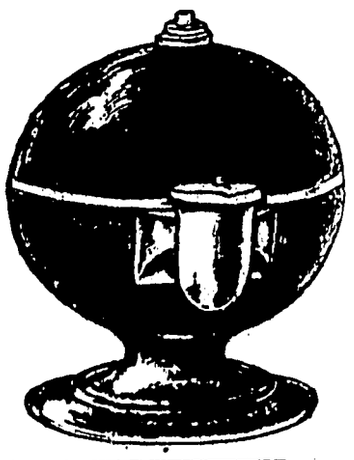

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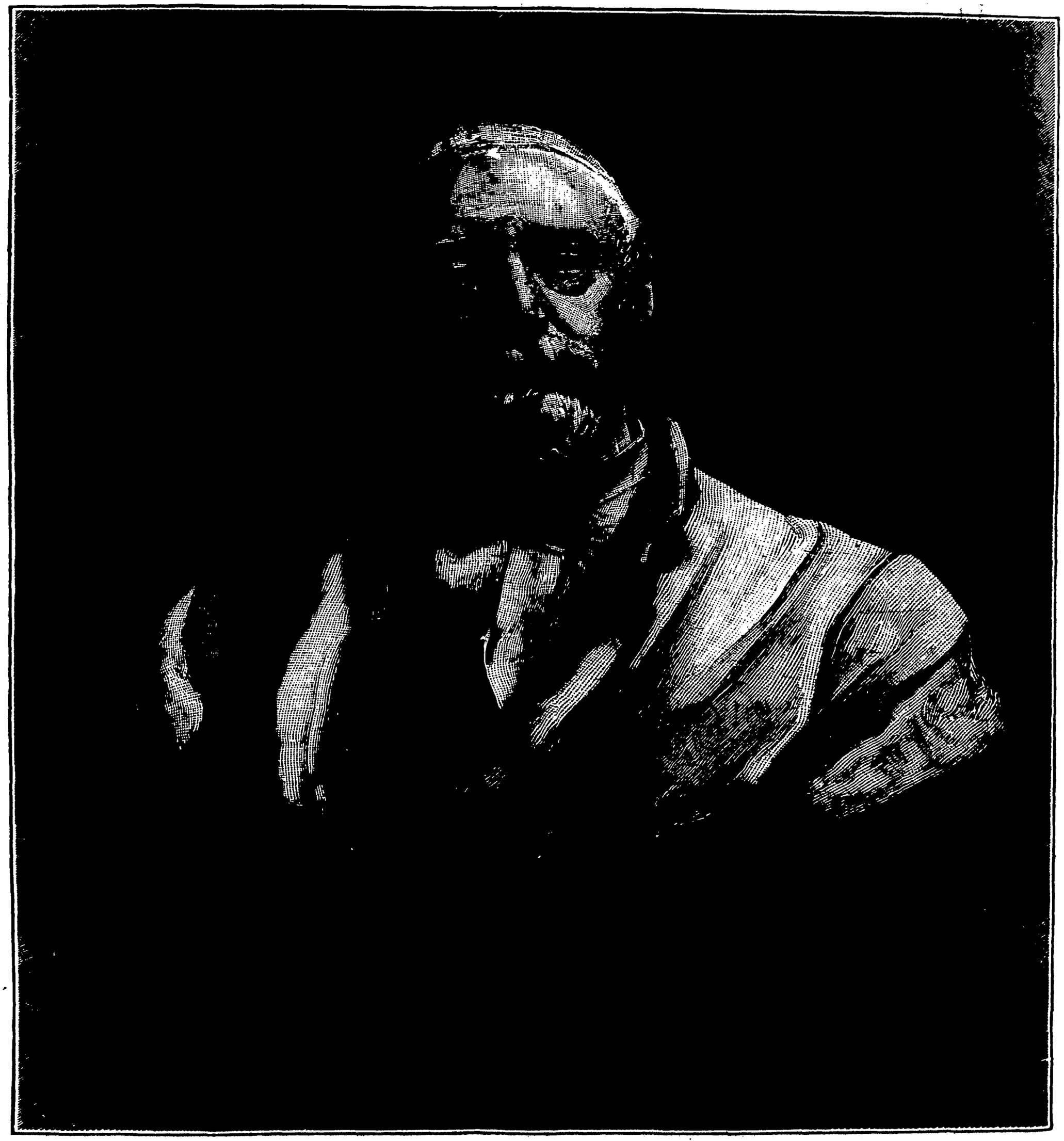

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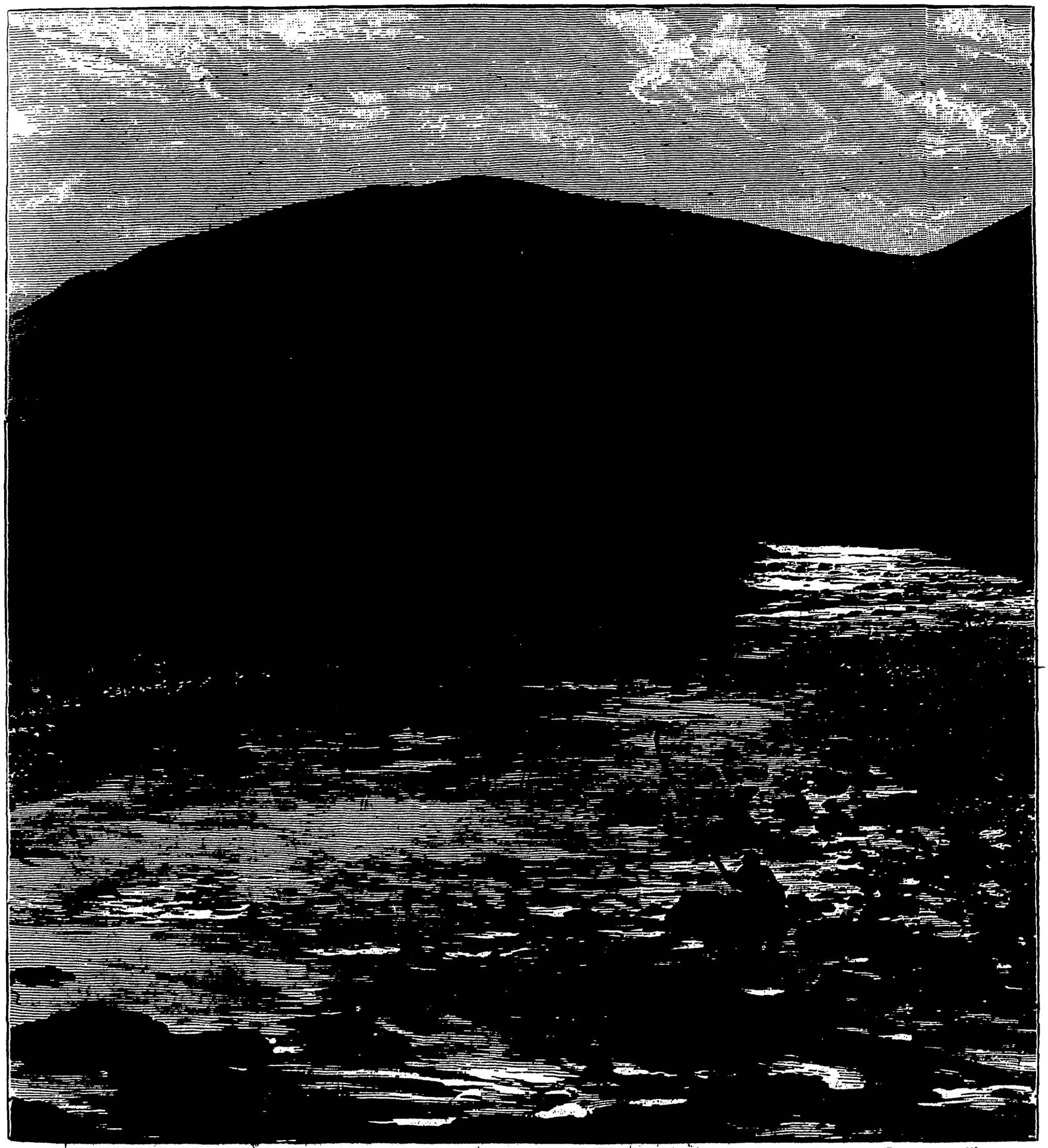

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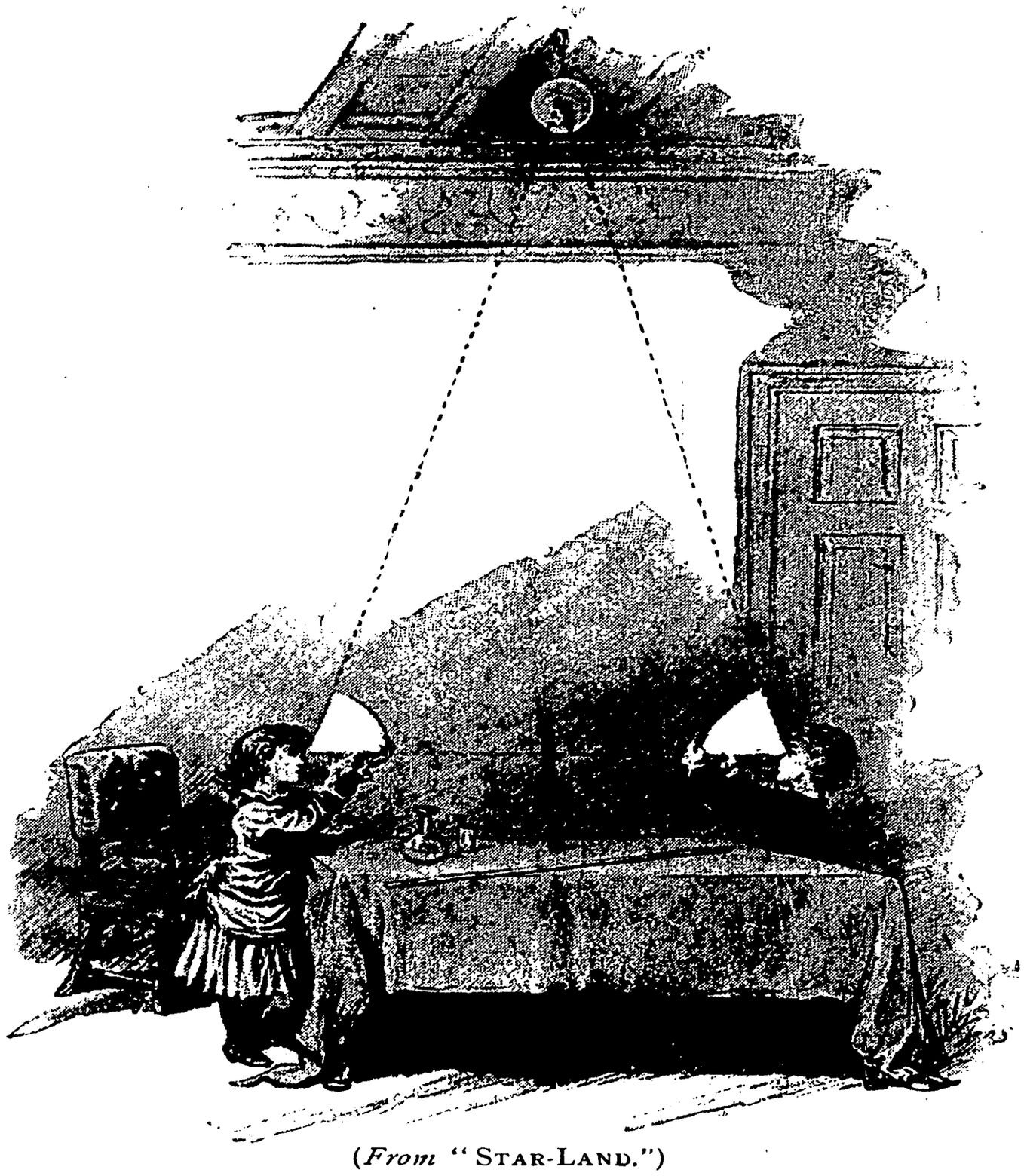

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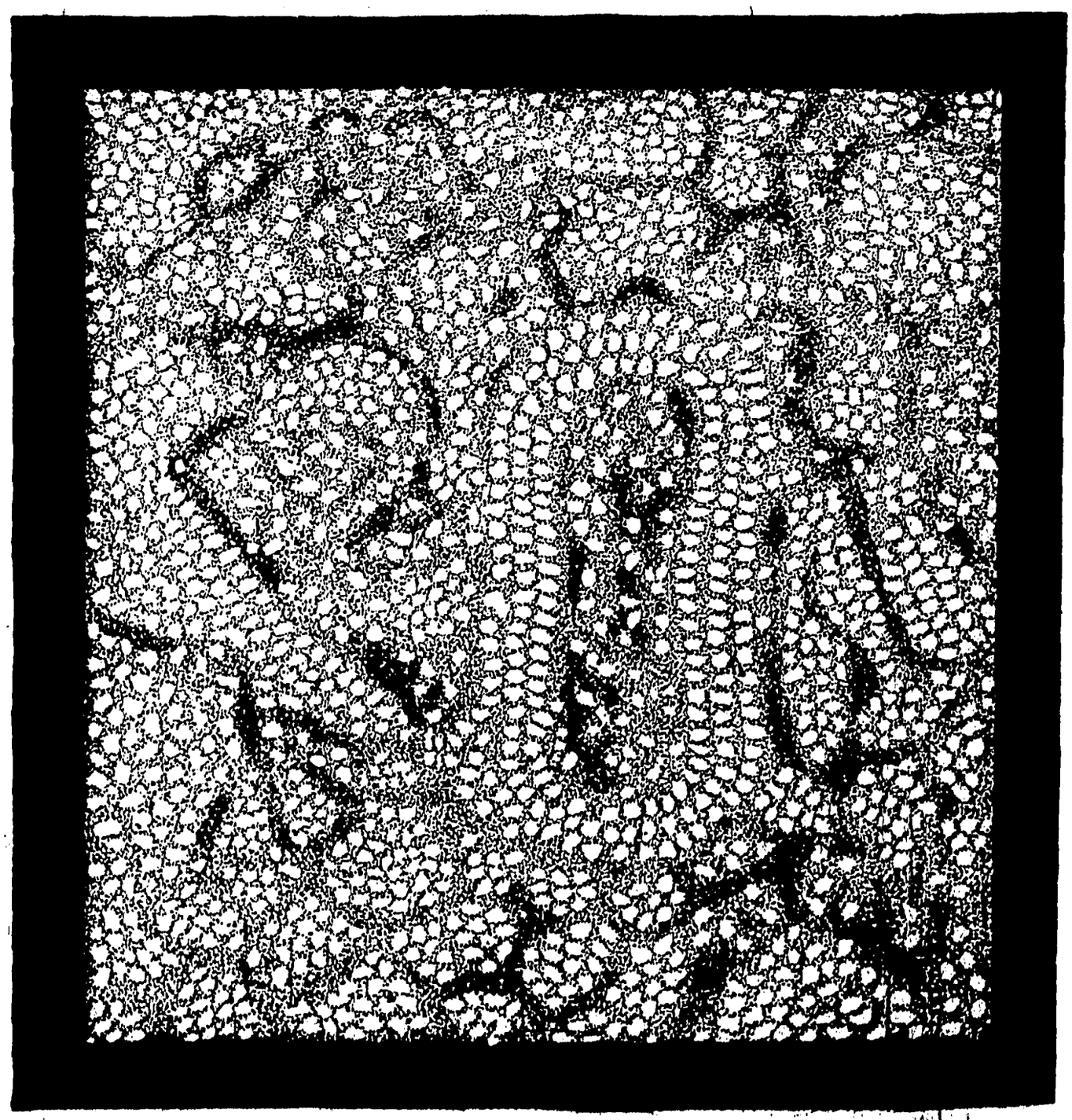

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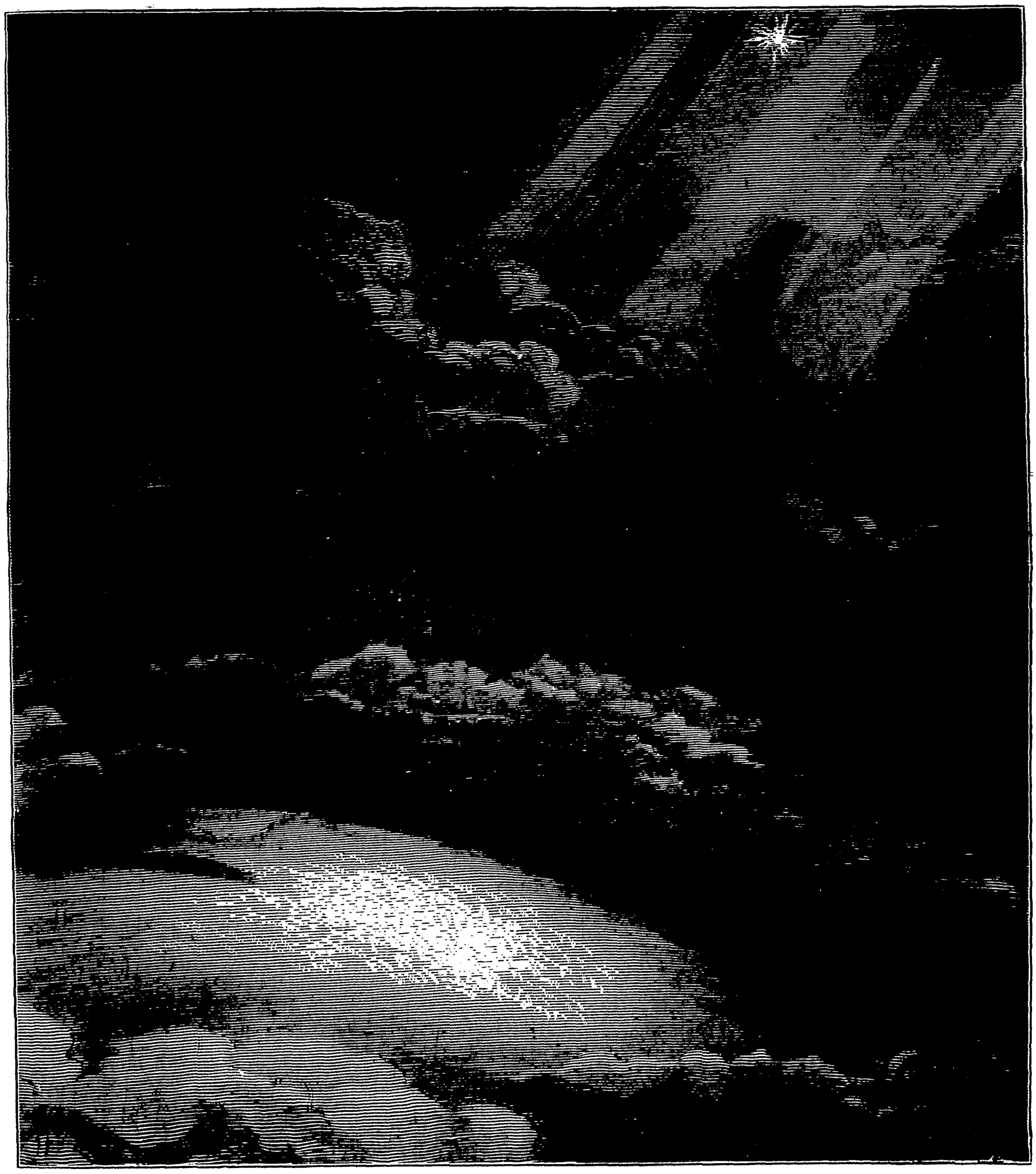

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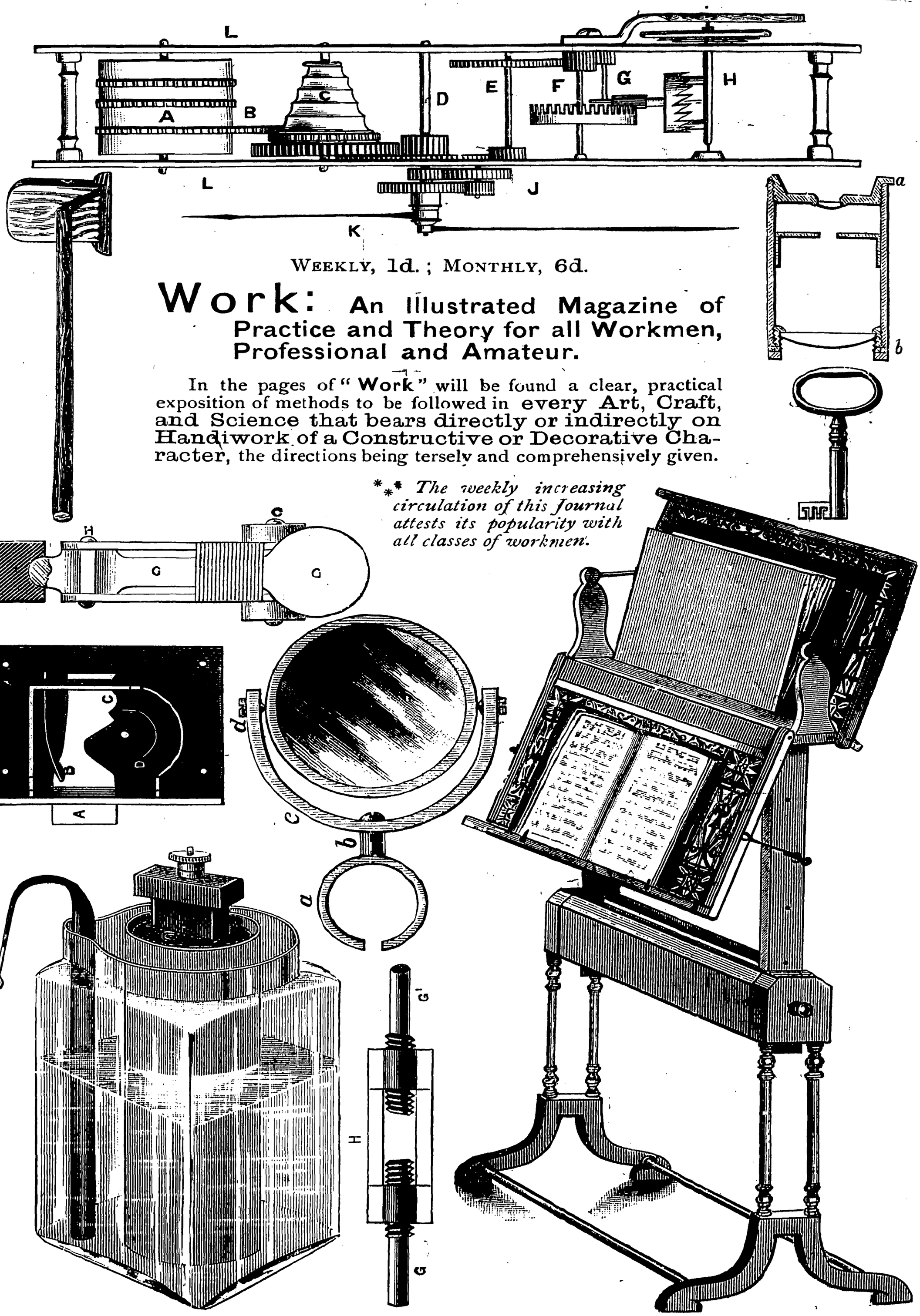

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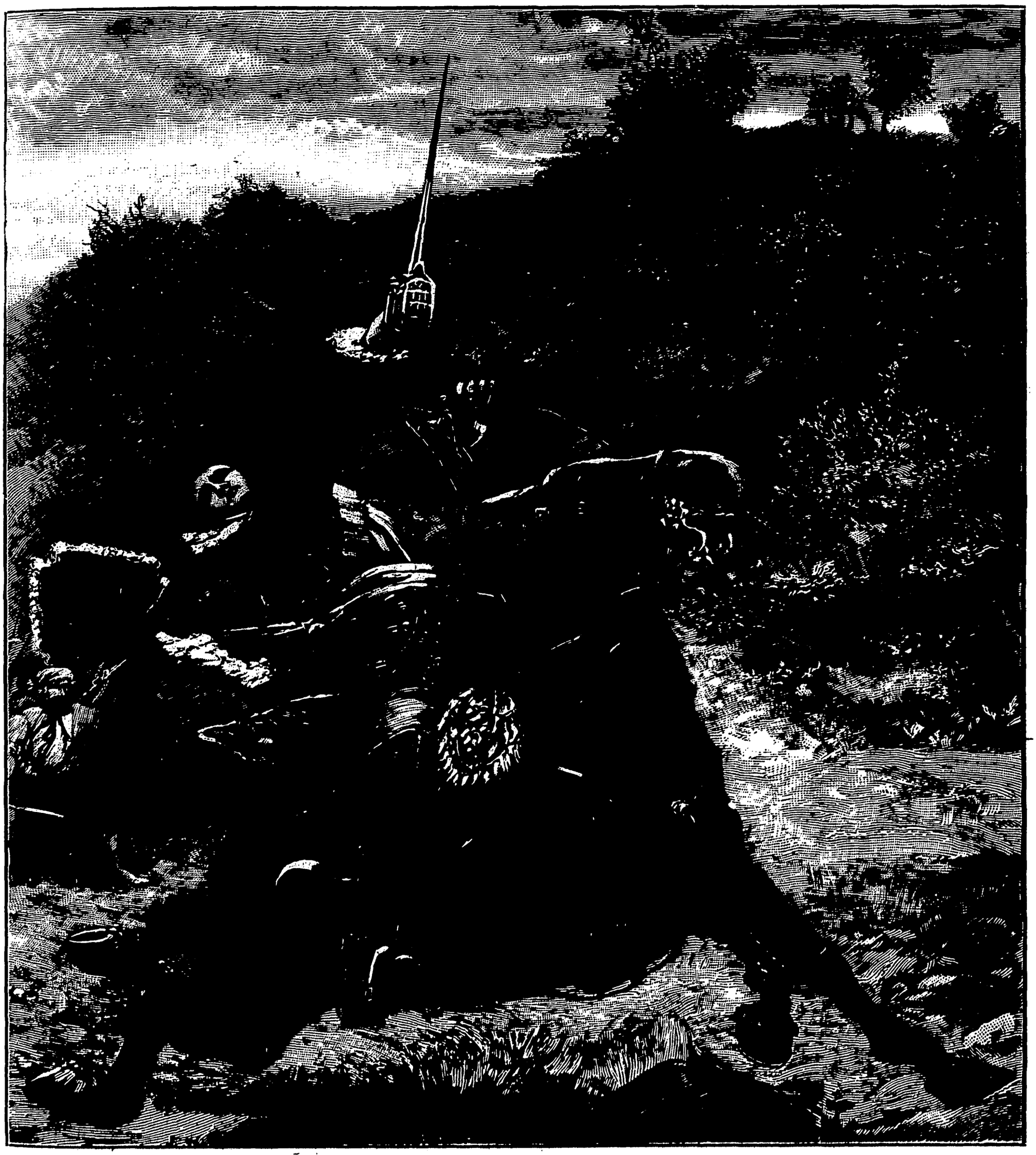

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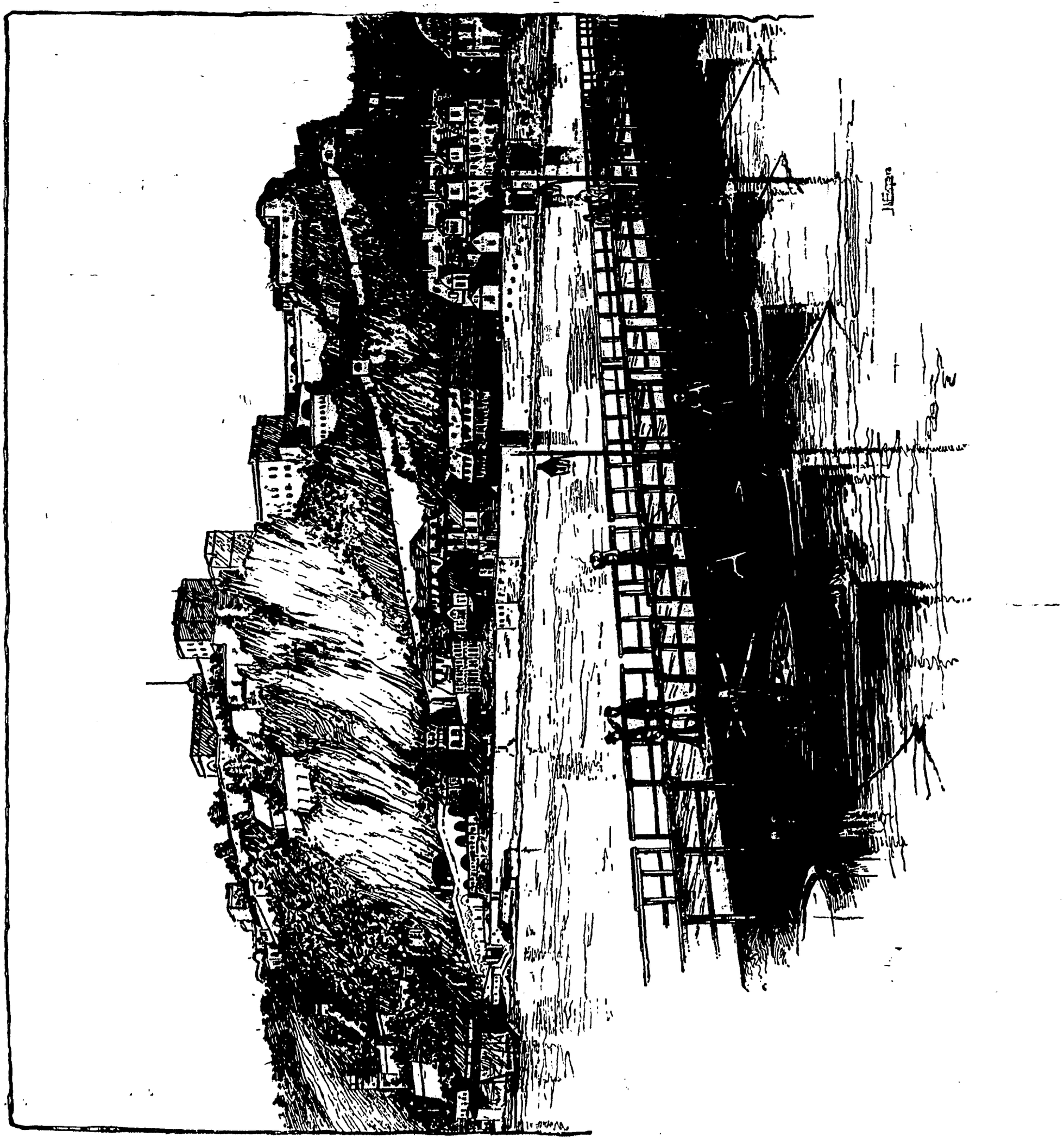

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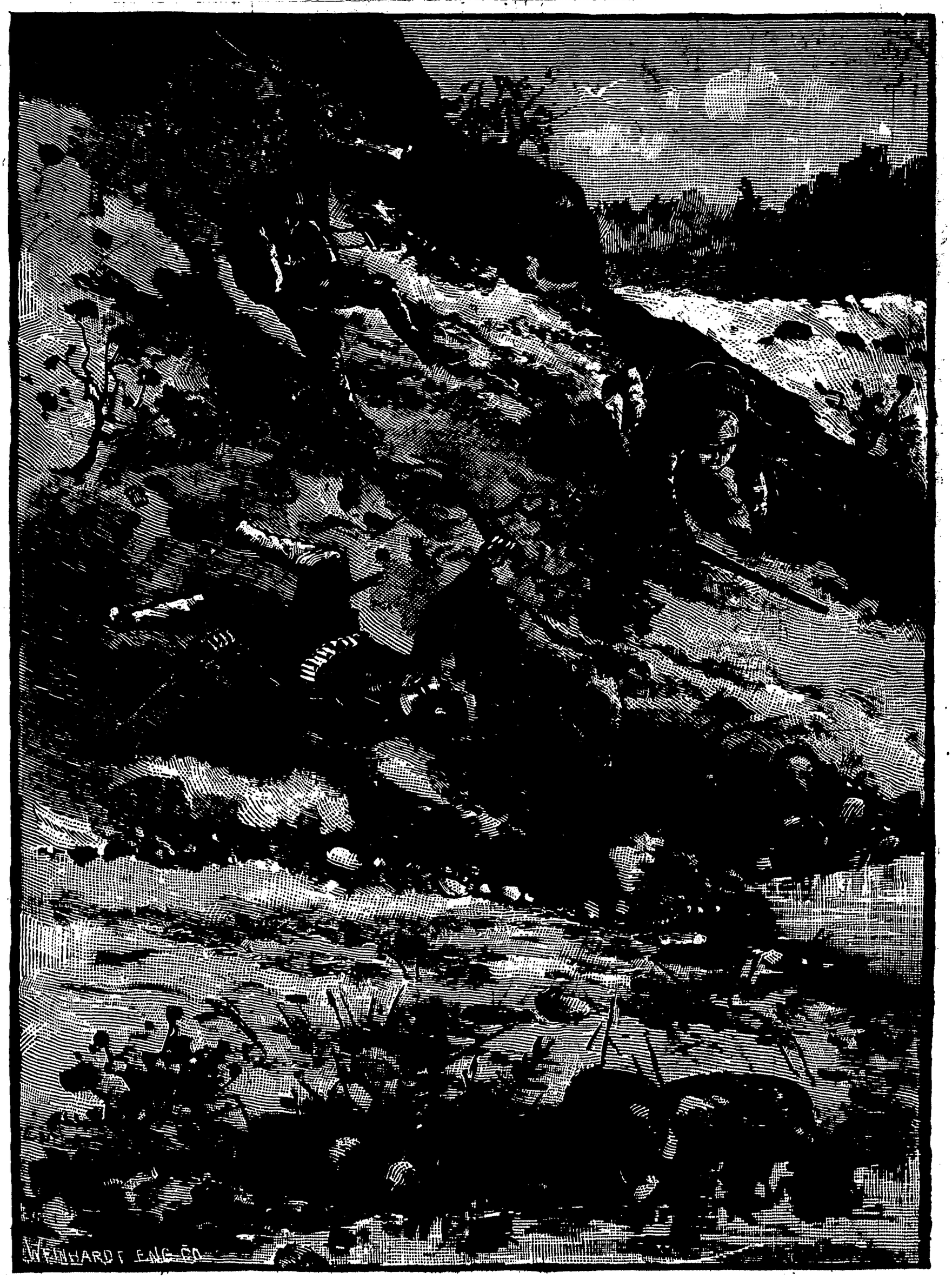

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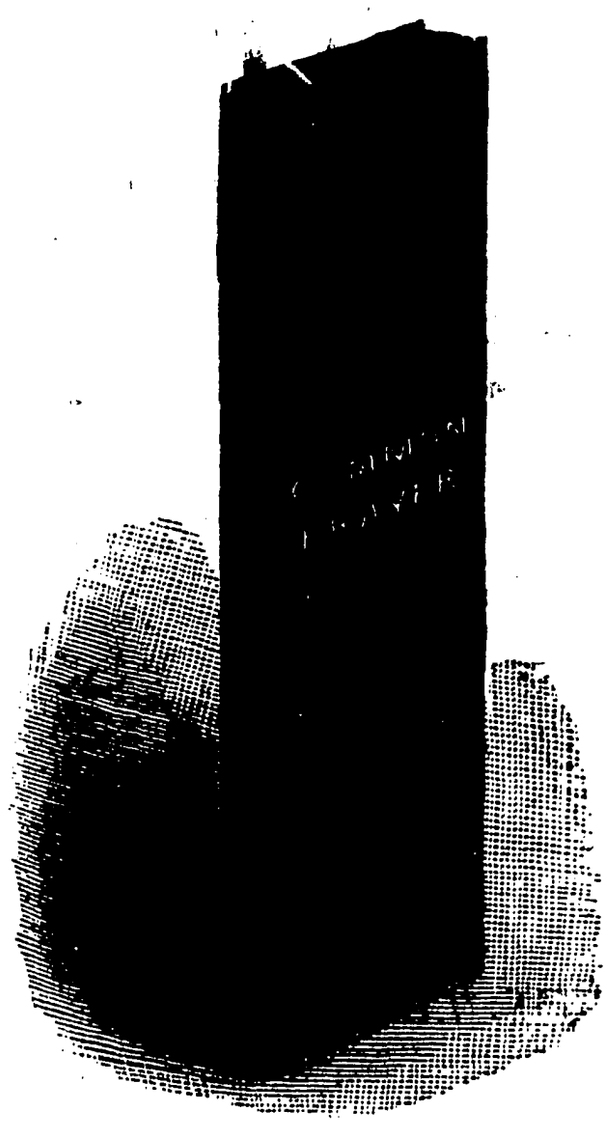

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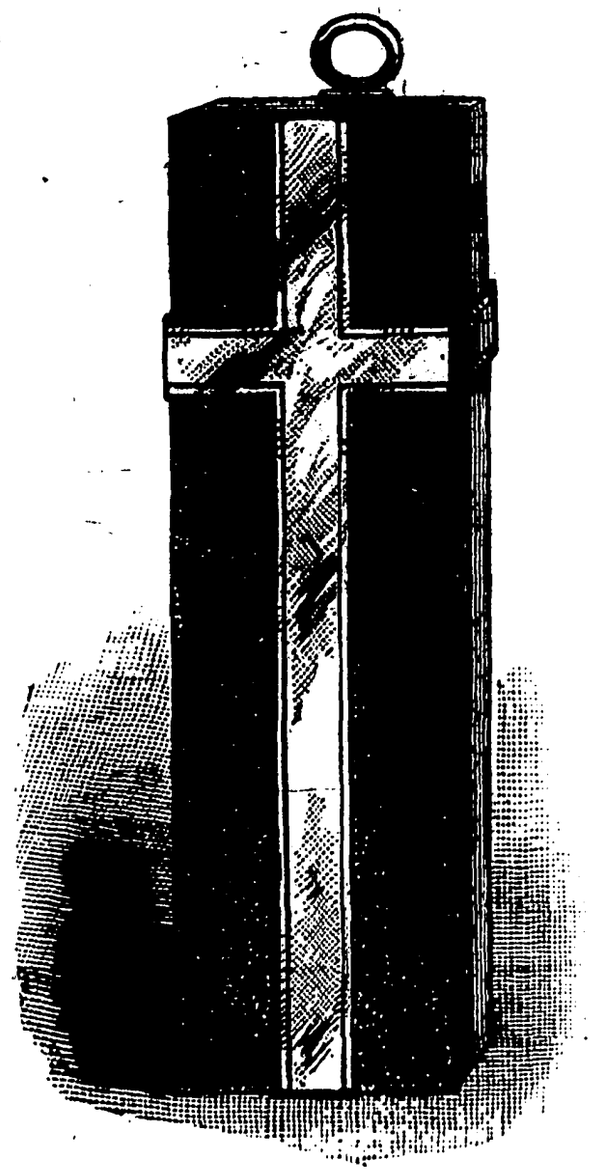

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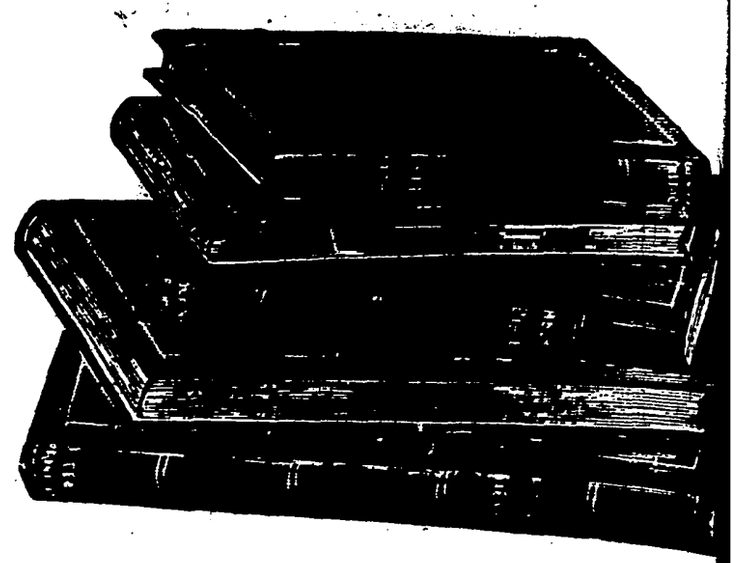

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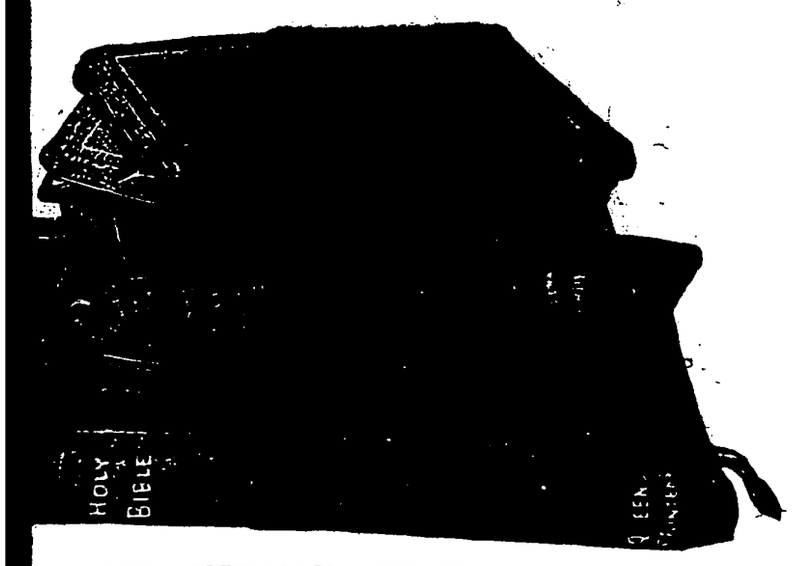

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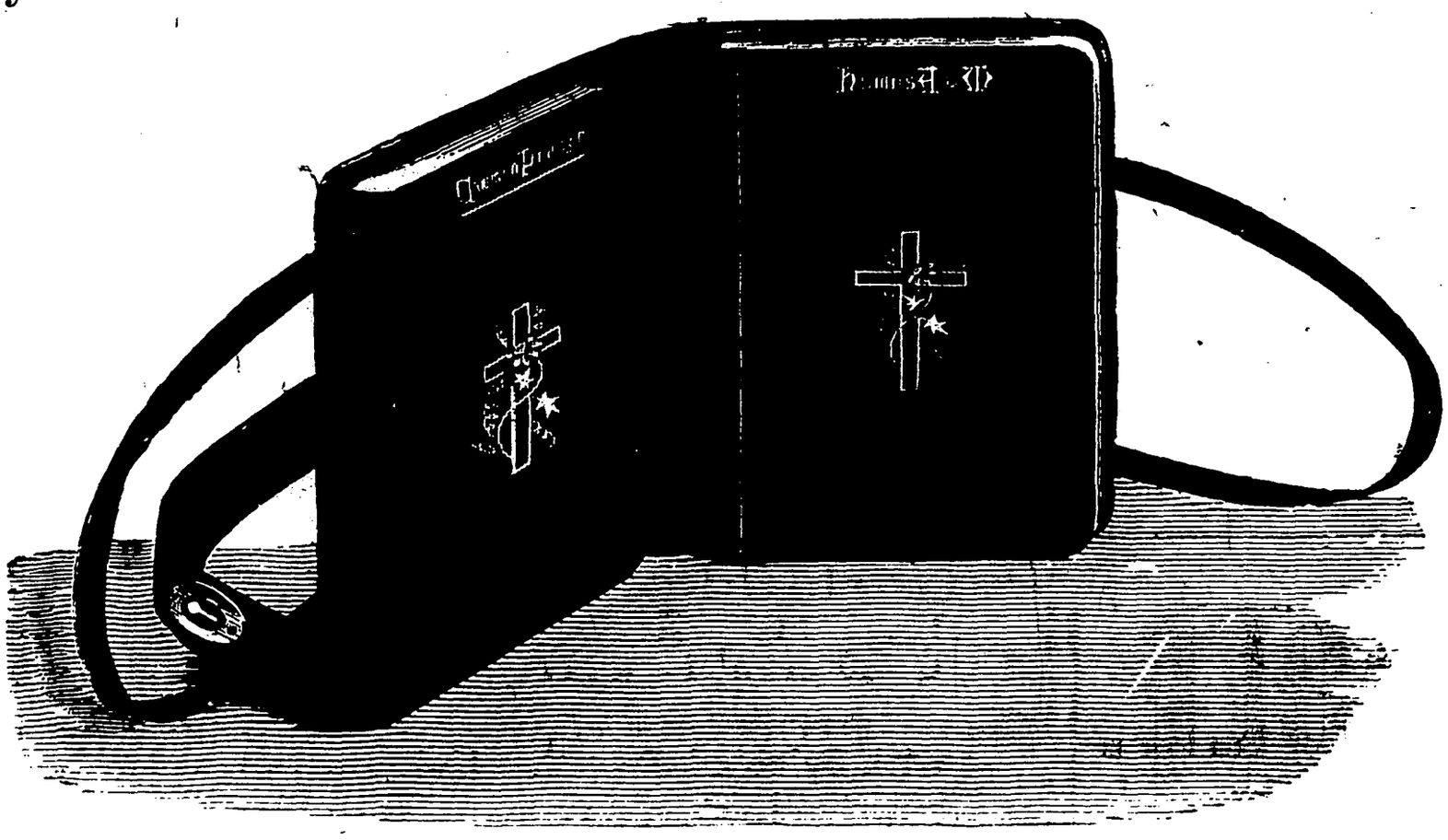

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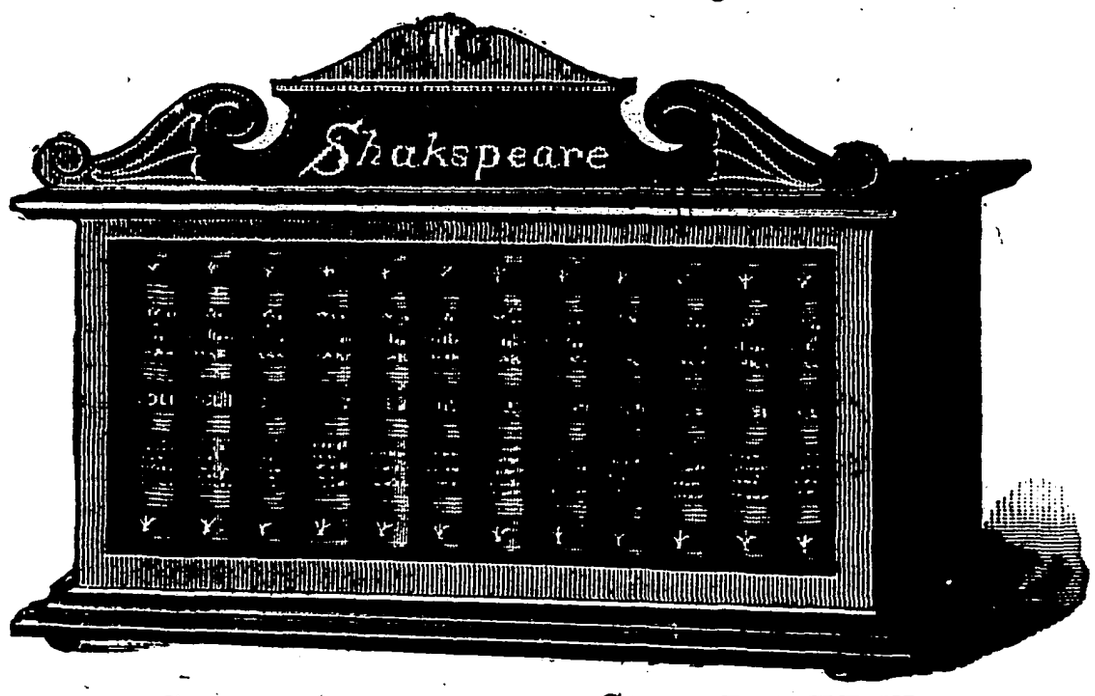

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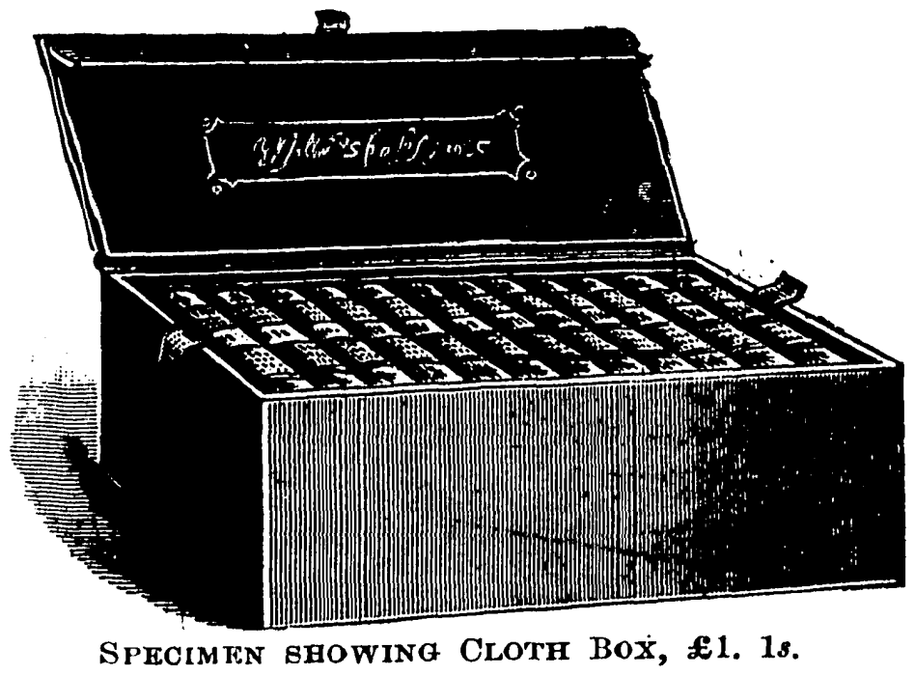

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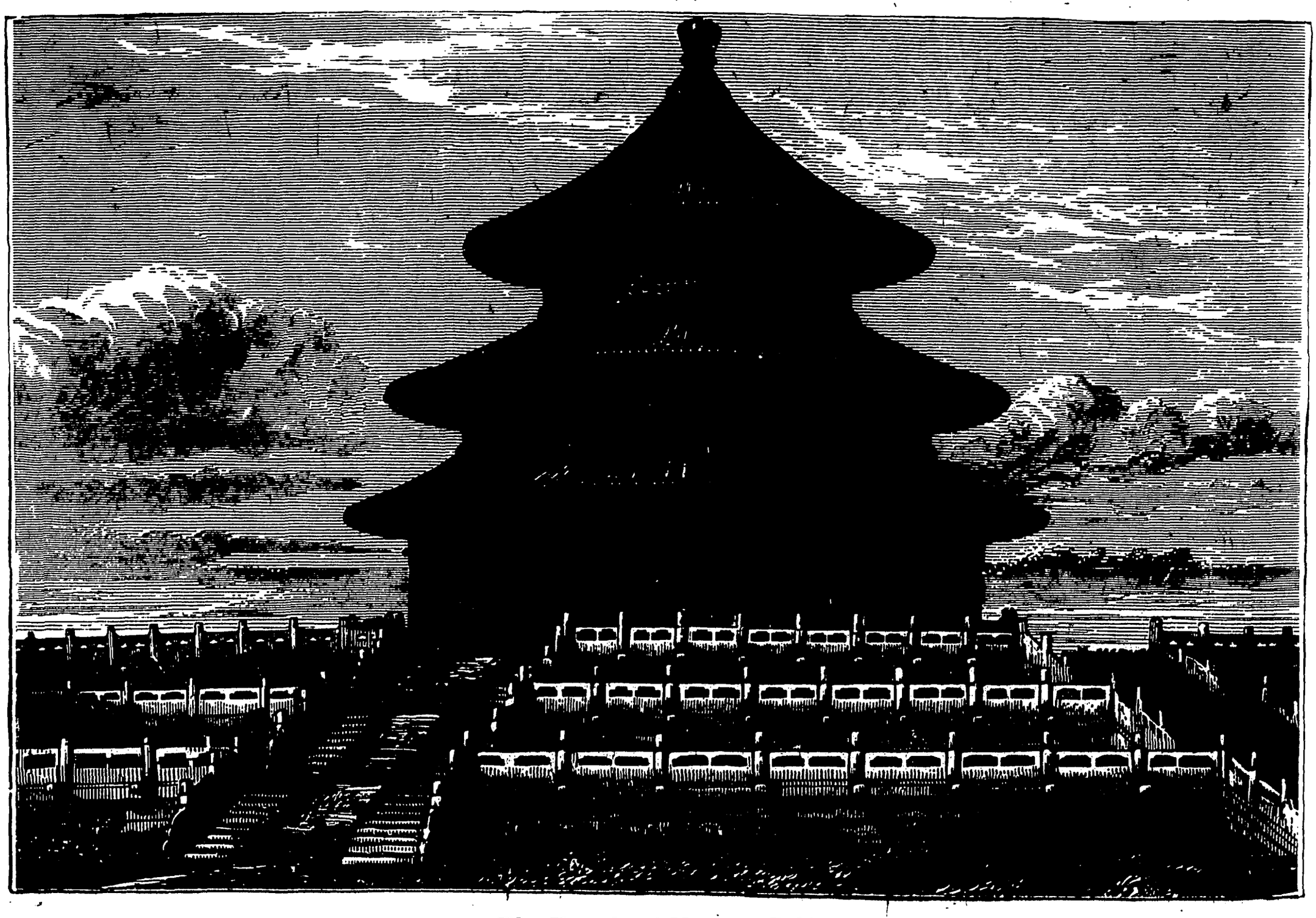

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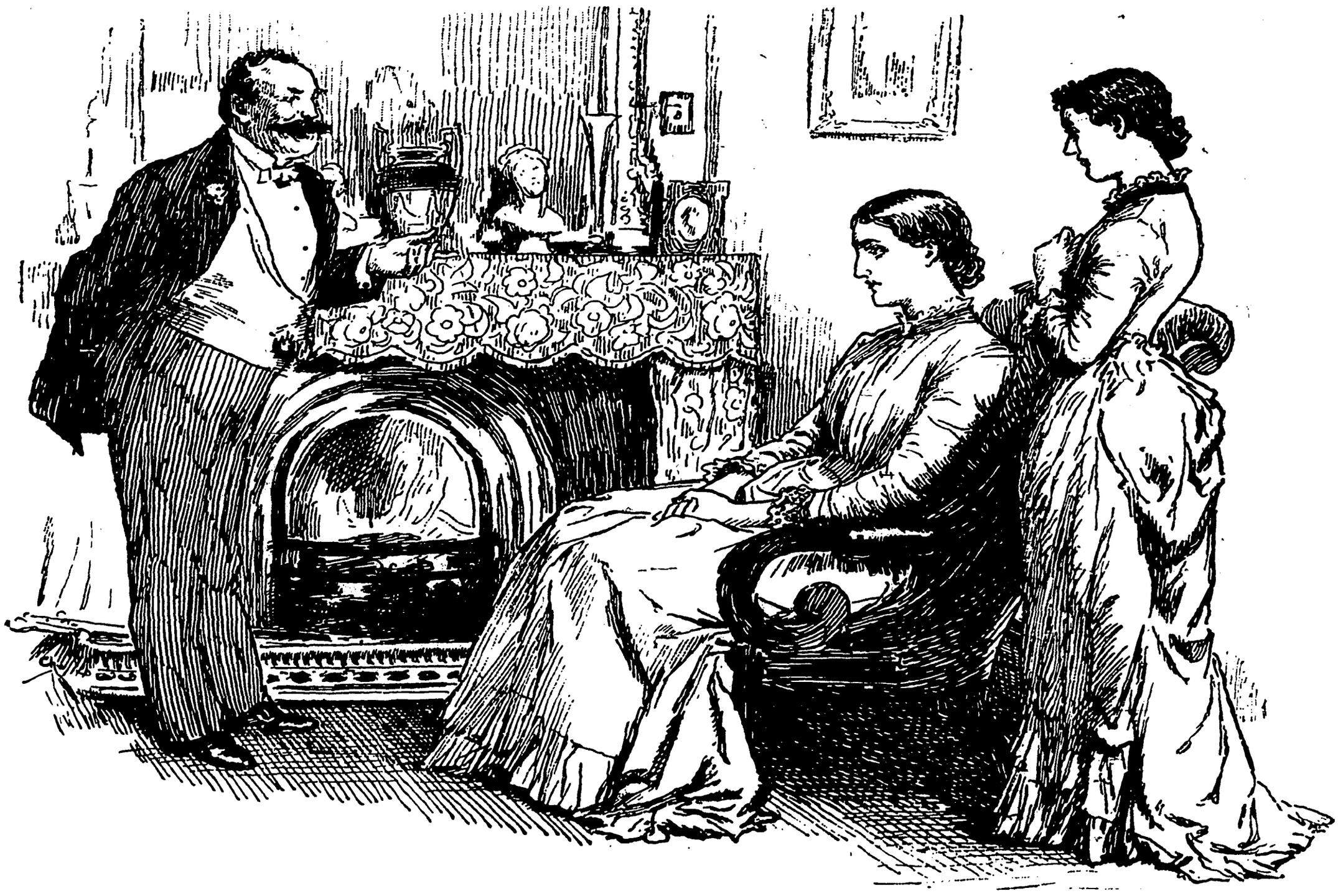

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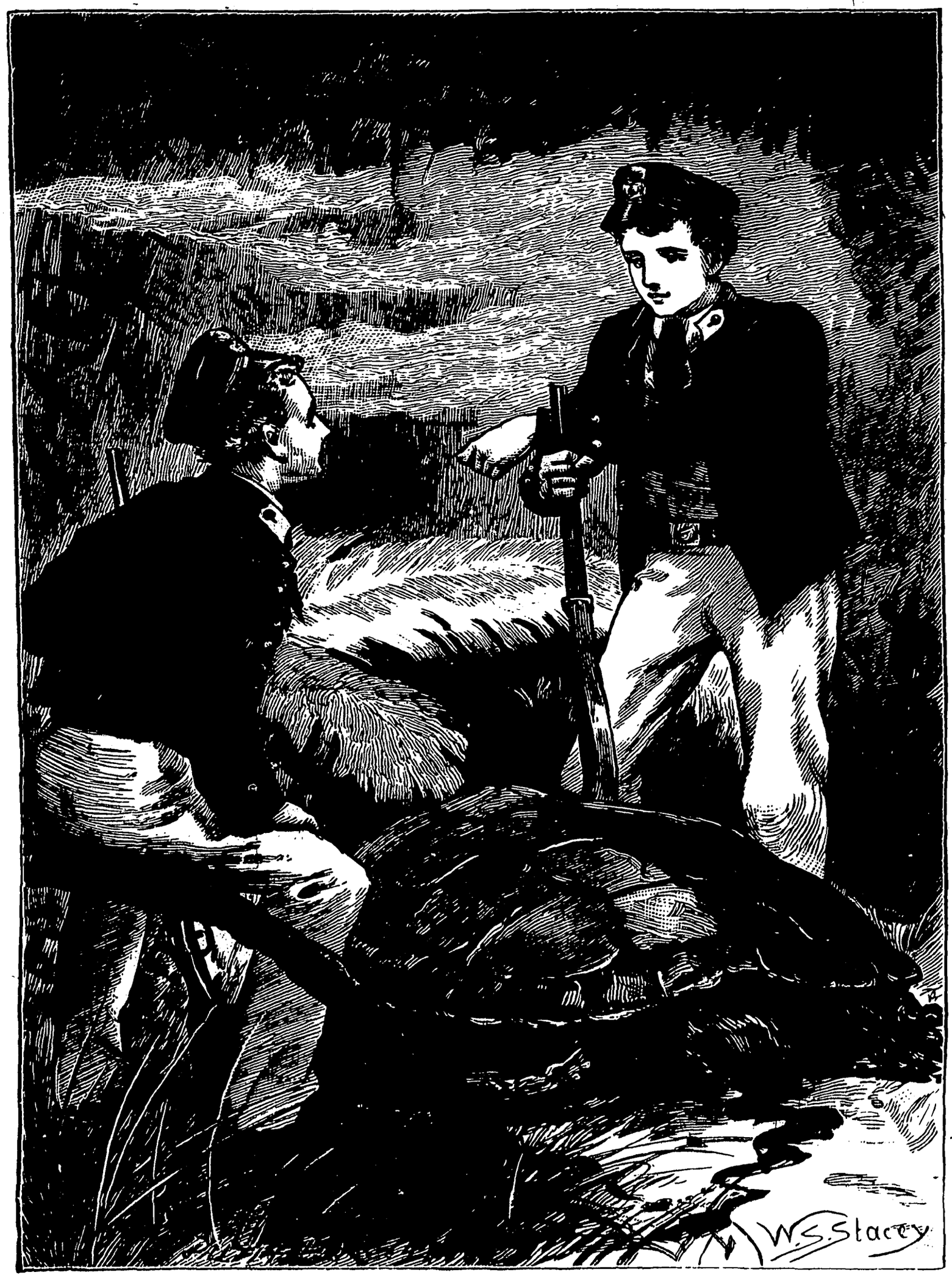

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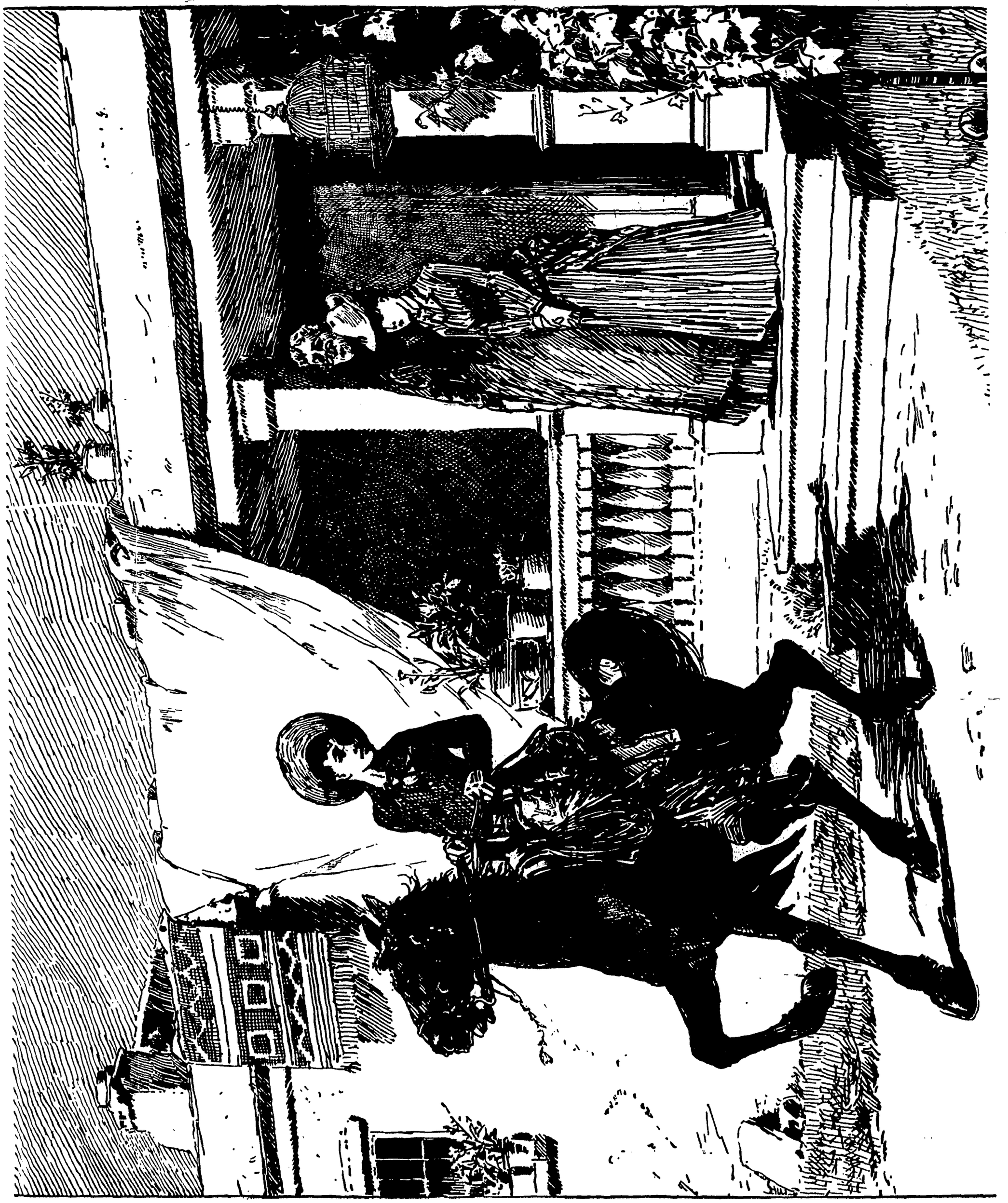

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Bleak blows the blast; —your Hat has got a hole in't,
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"Weary Knife-grinder! little think the proud ones,
Who in their coaches roll along the turnpike-
road what hard work 'tis crying all day "Knives and
"Scissars to grind O!"

"Tell me Knife-grinder, how came you to grind knives?
Did some rich man tyrannically use you?
Was it the Squire? or Parson of the Parish?
Or the Attorney?

"Was it the Squire for killing of his Game? or
Covetous Parson for his Tythes distraining?
Or roguish Lawyer made you lose your little
All in a law-suit?

"(Have you not read the Rights of Man, by Tom Paine?)
Drops of compassion tremble on my eye-lids,
Ready to fall, as soon as you have told your
Pitiful story."

Knife-grinder *—"Story! God bless you! I have none to tell, Sir.*
Only last night a-drinking at the Chequers,
This poor old Hat and Breeches, as you see, were
Torn in a scuffle.

"Constables came up for to take me into
Custody, they took me before the Justice;
Justice Oldmixon put me in the Parish-
-Stocks for a Vagrant;

"I should be glad to drink your Honour's health in
A Pot of Beer if you would give me Sixpence;
But for my part, I never love to meddle
With Politics, Sir."

Friend of Hum.ty *"I give thee Sixpence! I will see thee damn'd first.*
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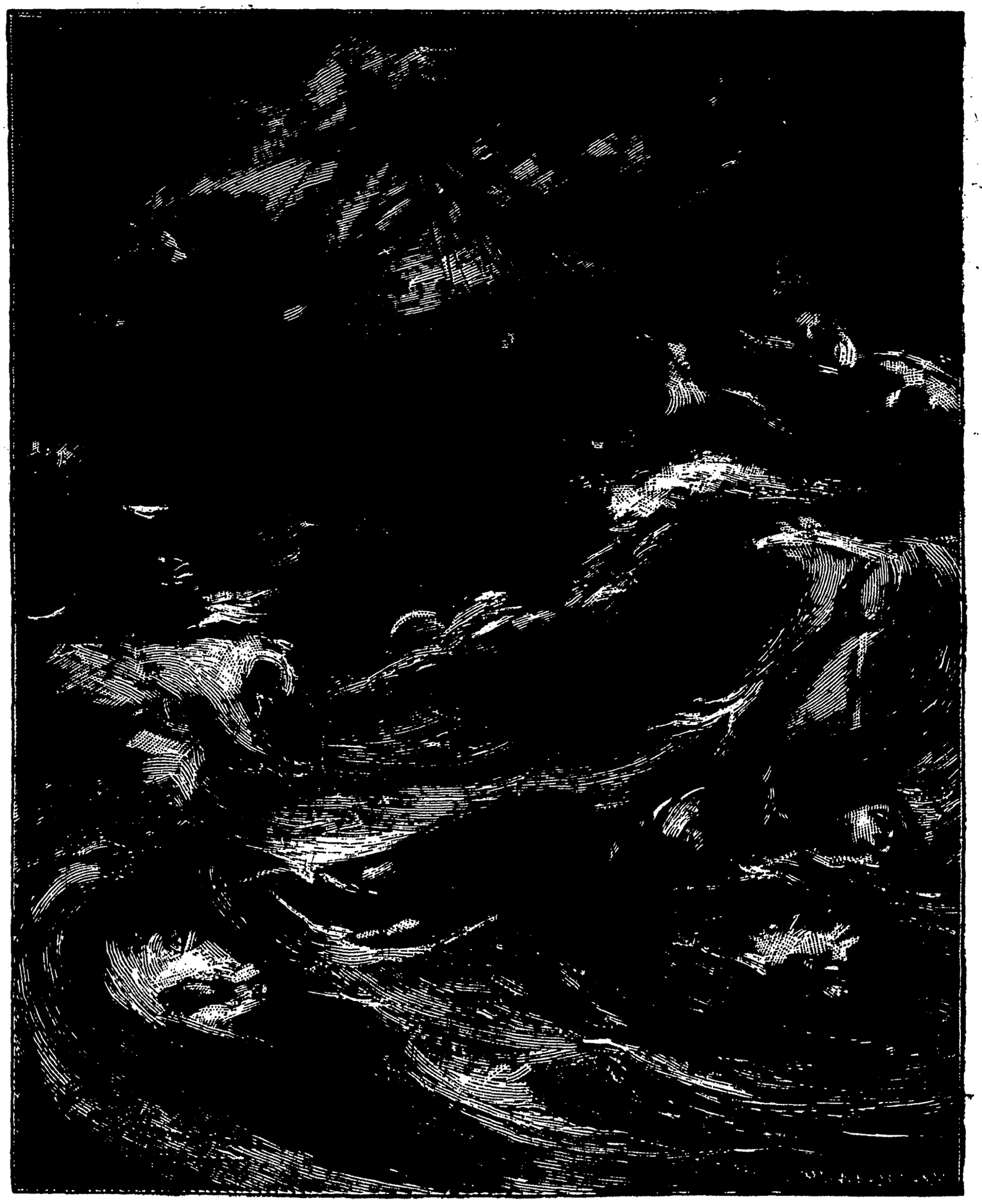

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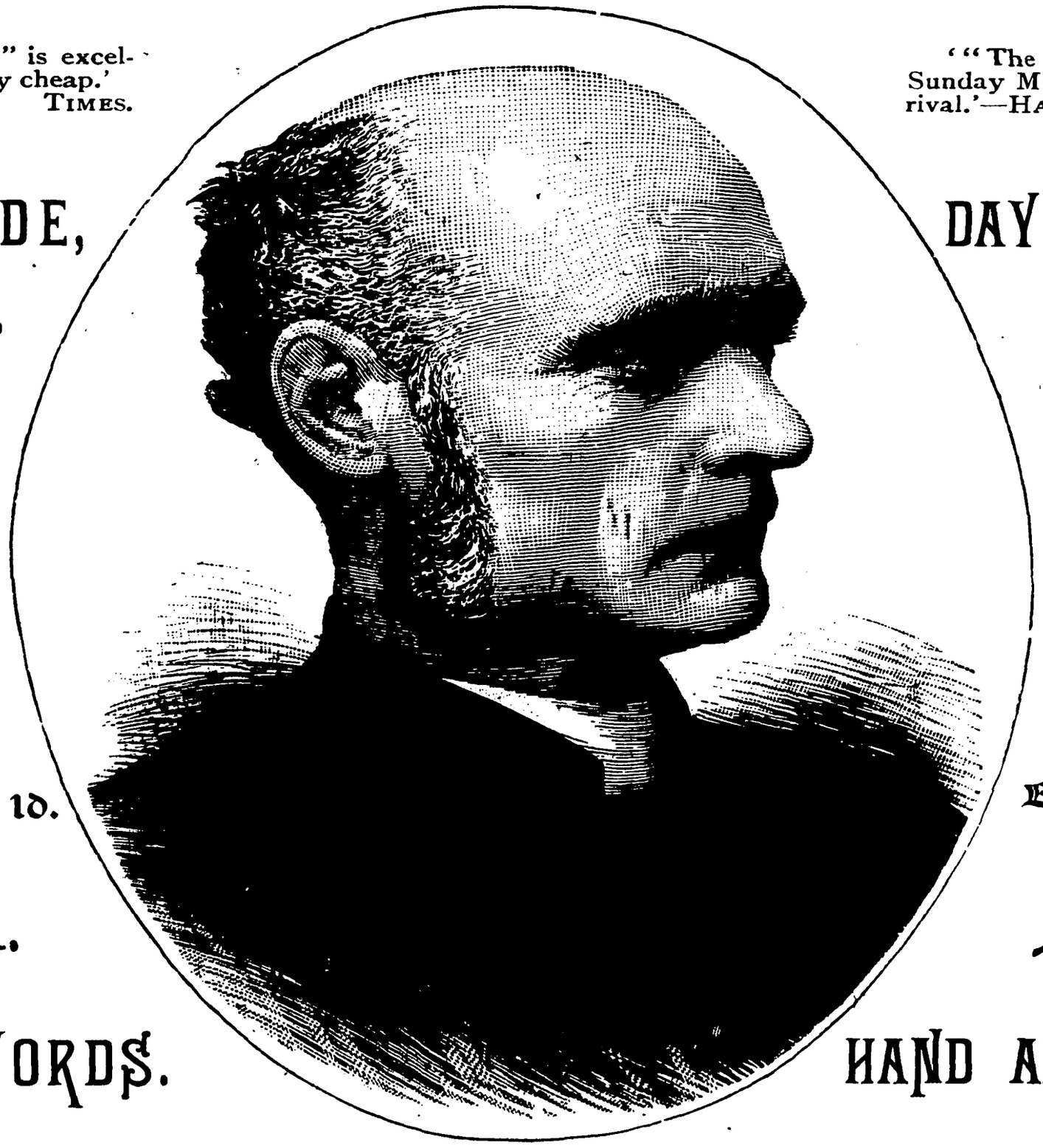

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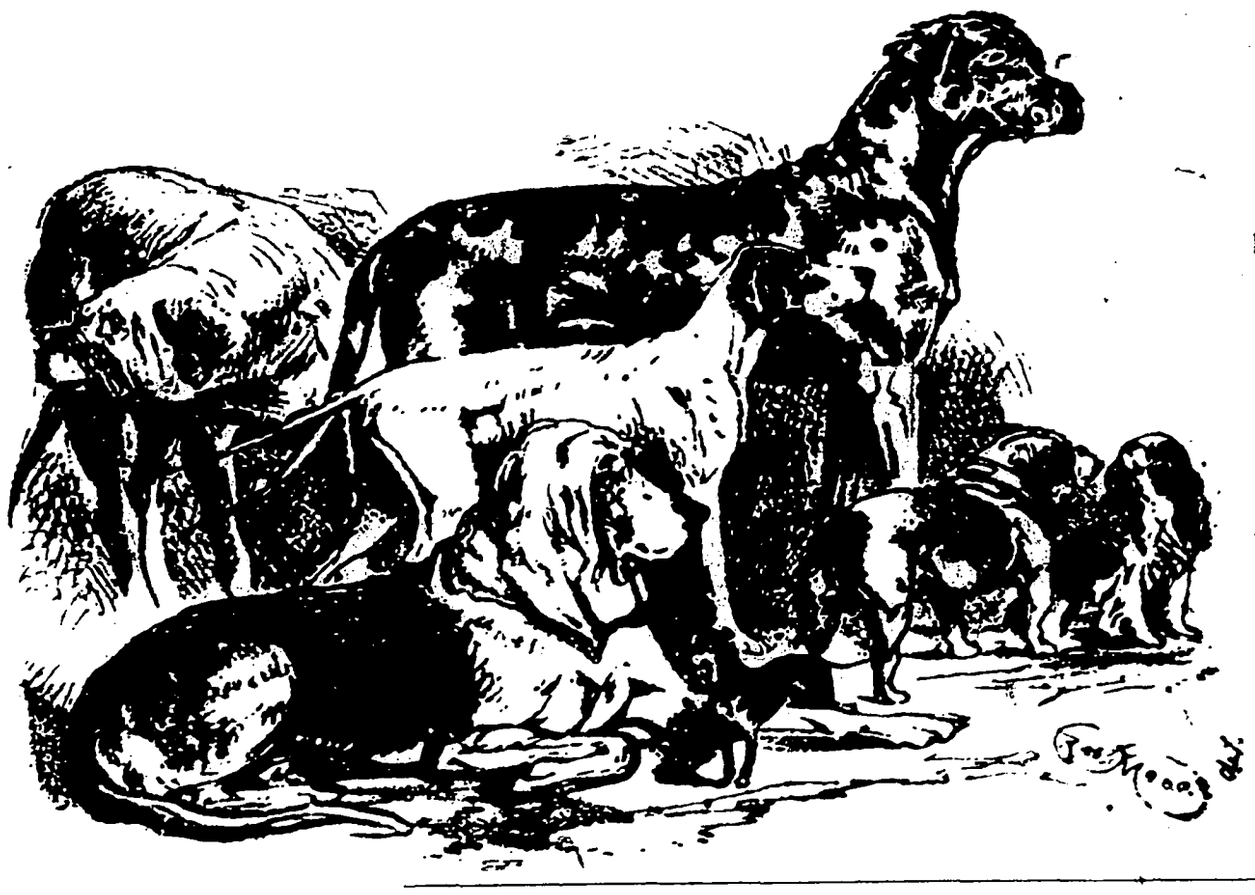

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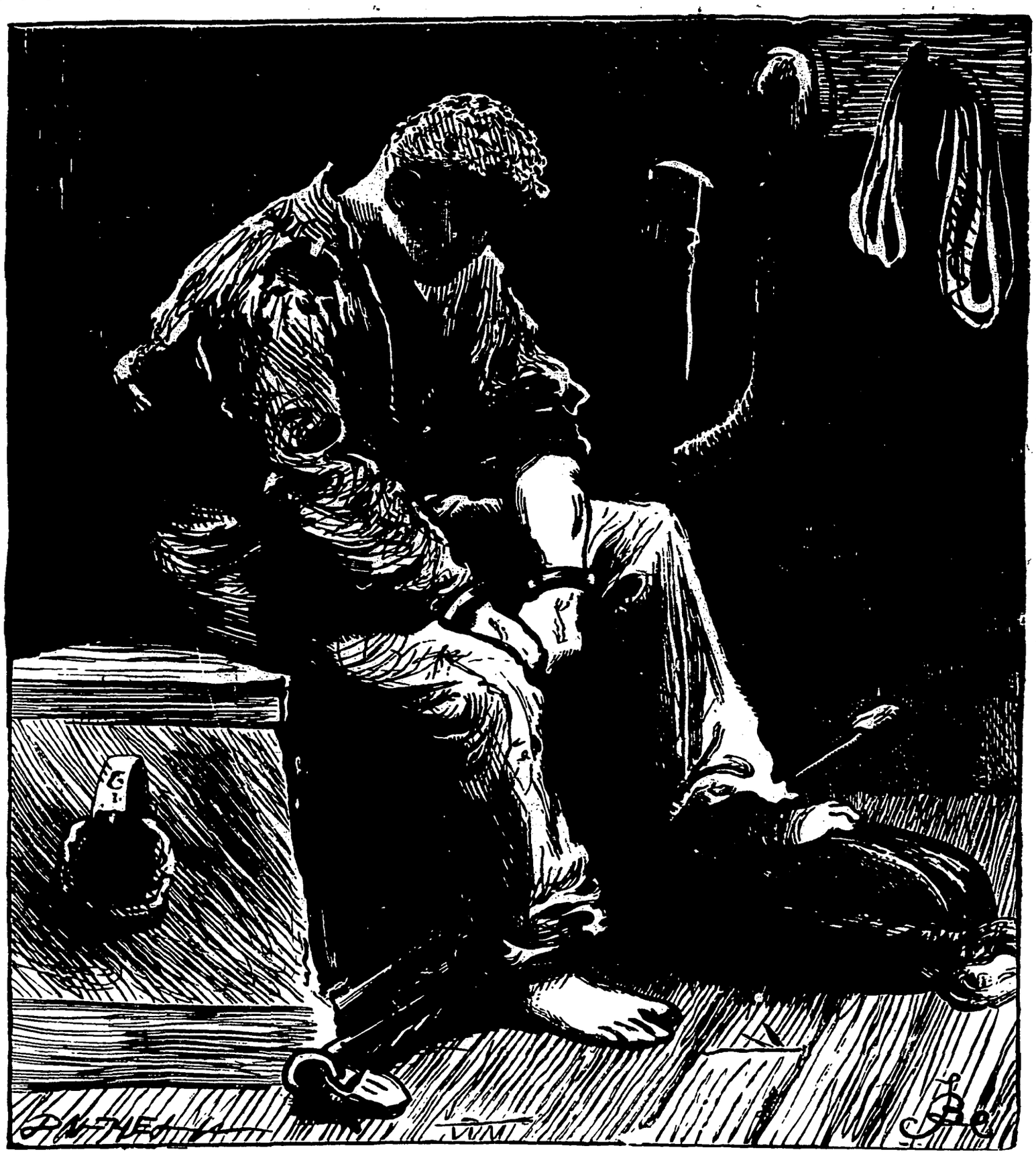

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Under this head may be primarily included the weekly contributions of Mrs. A. B. Marshall, of Marshall's School of Cookery—a collection of new, original, and high-class recipes of *recherché* dishes, specially written for THE TABLE, the copyright of which is vested in its proprietors. These average about 300 recipes in each volume, which represent alone the contents of a high-class cookery-book more than equal in value to the price of the entire volume. To this feature has been added a page of Answers to Correspondents on practical details connected with the cuisine, which are furnished by Mrs. Haines, a *diplomée* of Mrs. Marshall's School of Cookery and a recognised authority on the subject.

A practical illustration of modern gastronomical ideas is furnished by the publication of a collection of *menus* of recent public and private dinners of especial excellence, both French and English.

From time to time other collections of recipes by competent authors are published, and, for the guidance of housewives, a weekly Retail Market Table is given, with notes compiled from information furnished by the leading West-end retailers.

Articles on Food, both in its popular and scientific aspects, are furnished by writers of authority, and a notice is given of all Household Novelties which have been submitted to the management and severely tested.

Wines, spirits, and other beverages, being subjects cognate to food, articles on these are constantly given, and the authority with which these are written has been recognised by the inclusion of many of them, with due acknowledgment in recently published text-books.

TABLE AND HOUSEHOLD DECORATION.

This being a subject which of late years has acquired great importance, the proprietors of THE TABLE have enlisted the services of Mrs. Allen Simpson, a lady who combines great native taste with an intimate acquaintance with the fashion prevalent in the highest society, and a persevering pursuit of the latest novelties produced by the manufacturing houses.

Mrs. Allen Simpson also conducts a Correspondence Column for the benefit of her readers, and the success of her writings is attested by the support given to the paper by a large number of Transatlantic trade buyers of glass, china, and *objets d'art*, who find in her articles hints of greater value to them than are afforded by the regular trade journals.

DRESS AND FASHION.

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The social information published in THE TABLE is supplied by accomplished writers, who enjoy the exceptional advantage of mixing in the circles whose doings they chronicle.

MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, & LITERARY.

The musical criticism in THE TABLE was made an important feature in the paper by the late Dr. Francis Hueffer the first critic of his day, and has, since his lamented death, been conducted on lines not unworthy of his initiation. The literary and dramatic criticism has been submitted to competent hands, and is written from an entirely independent standpoint. Notes on subjects of current interest are included in the Table Talk.

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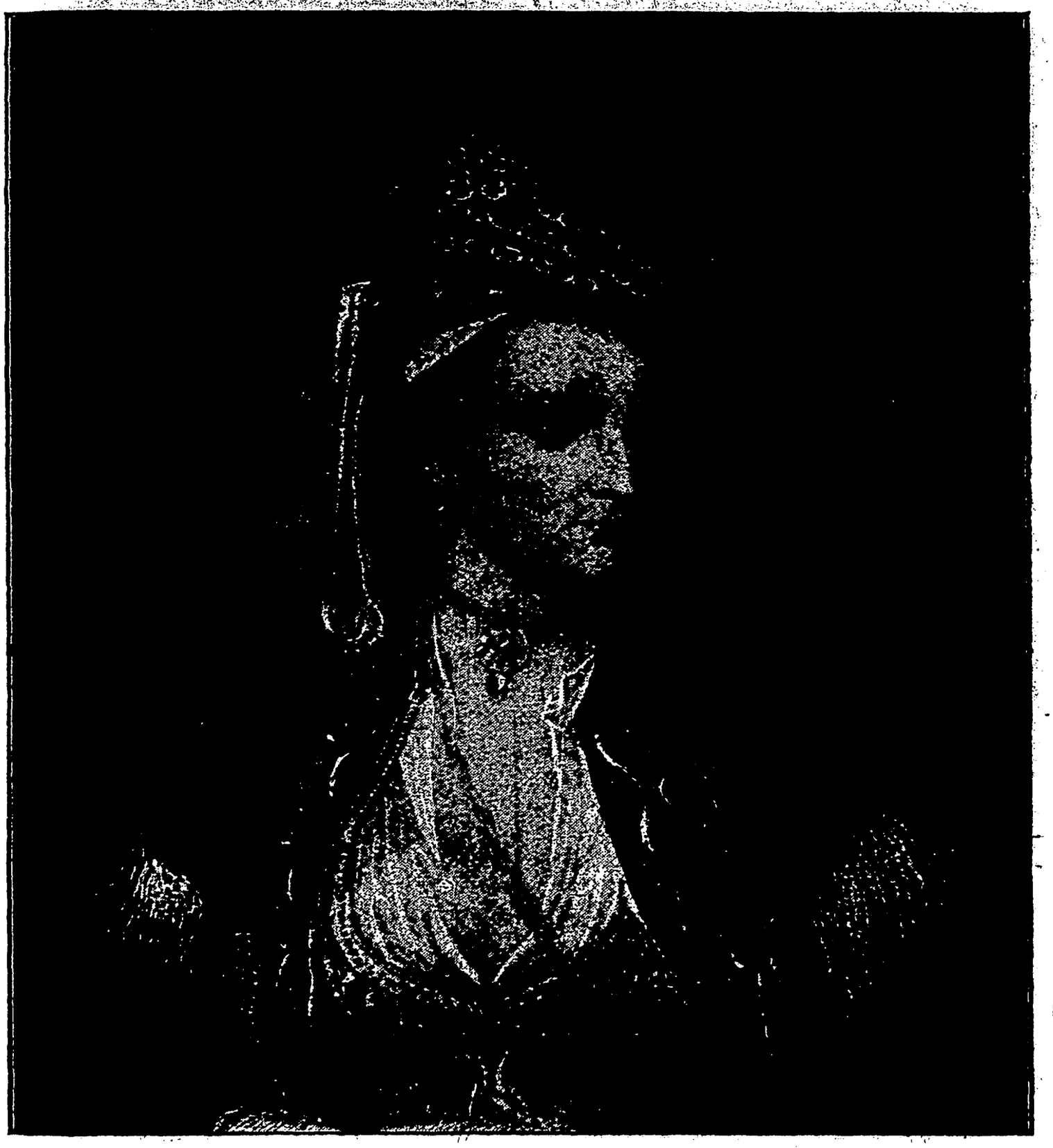

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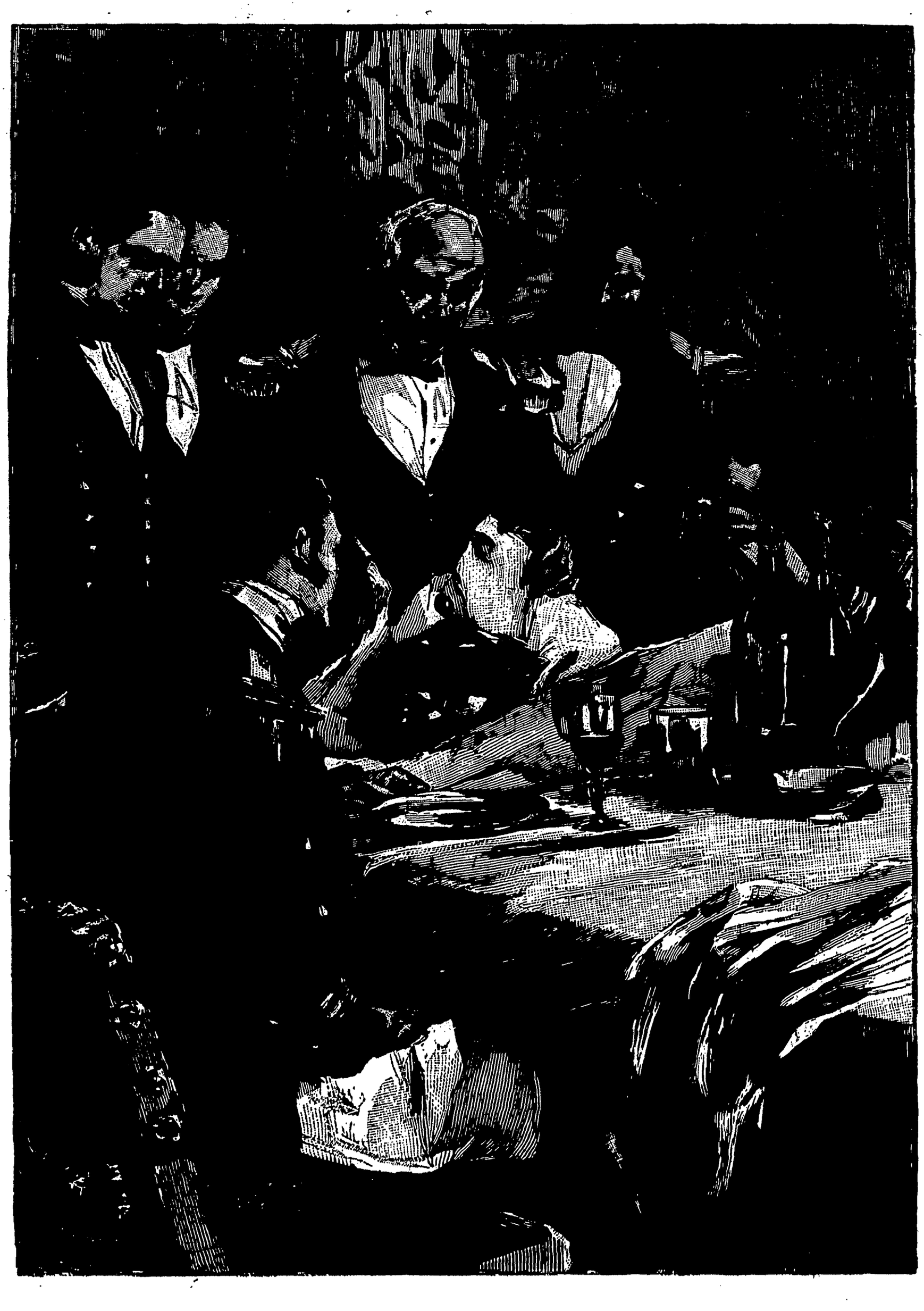

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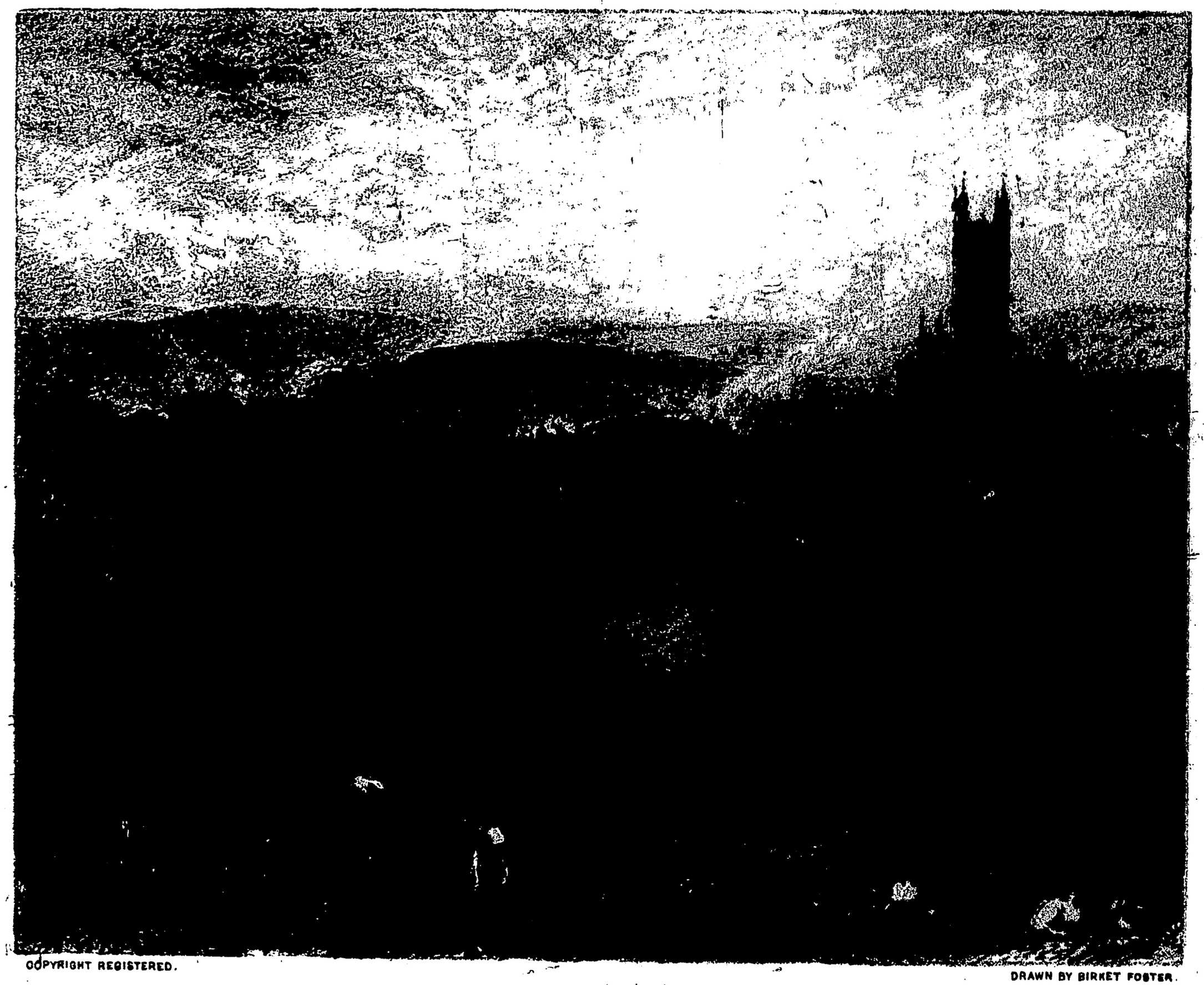

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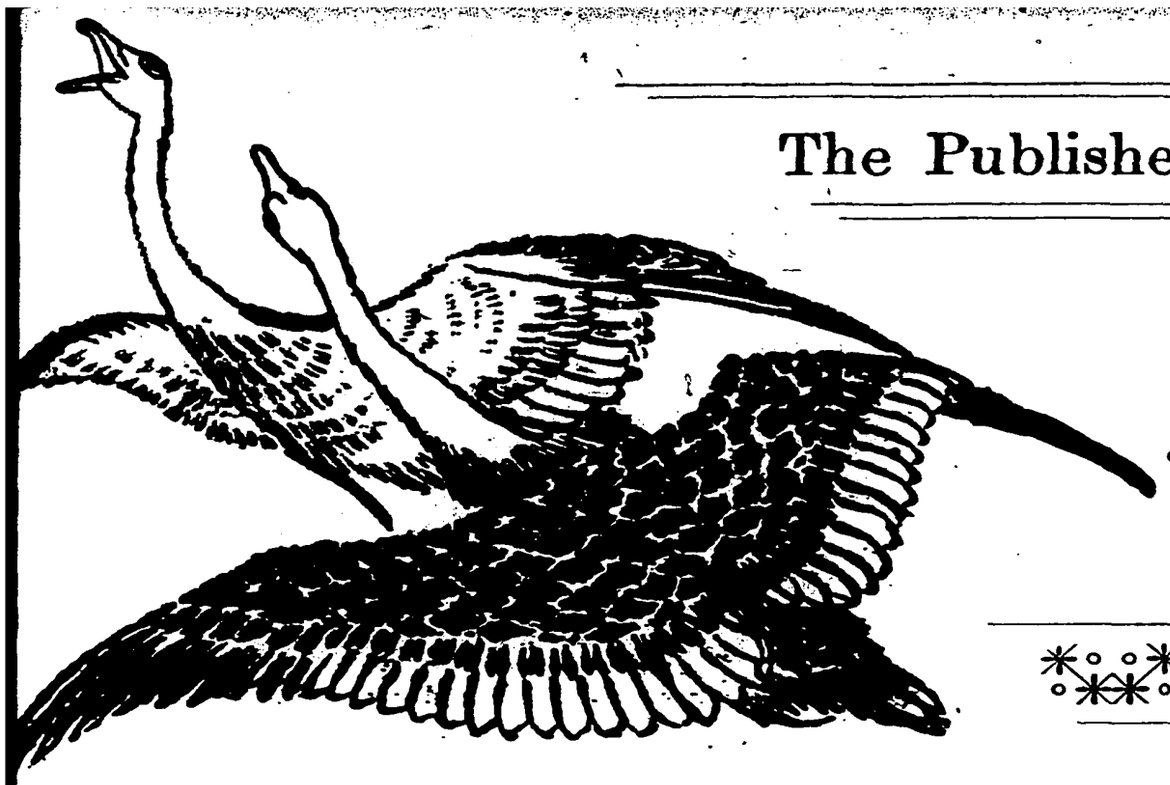

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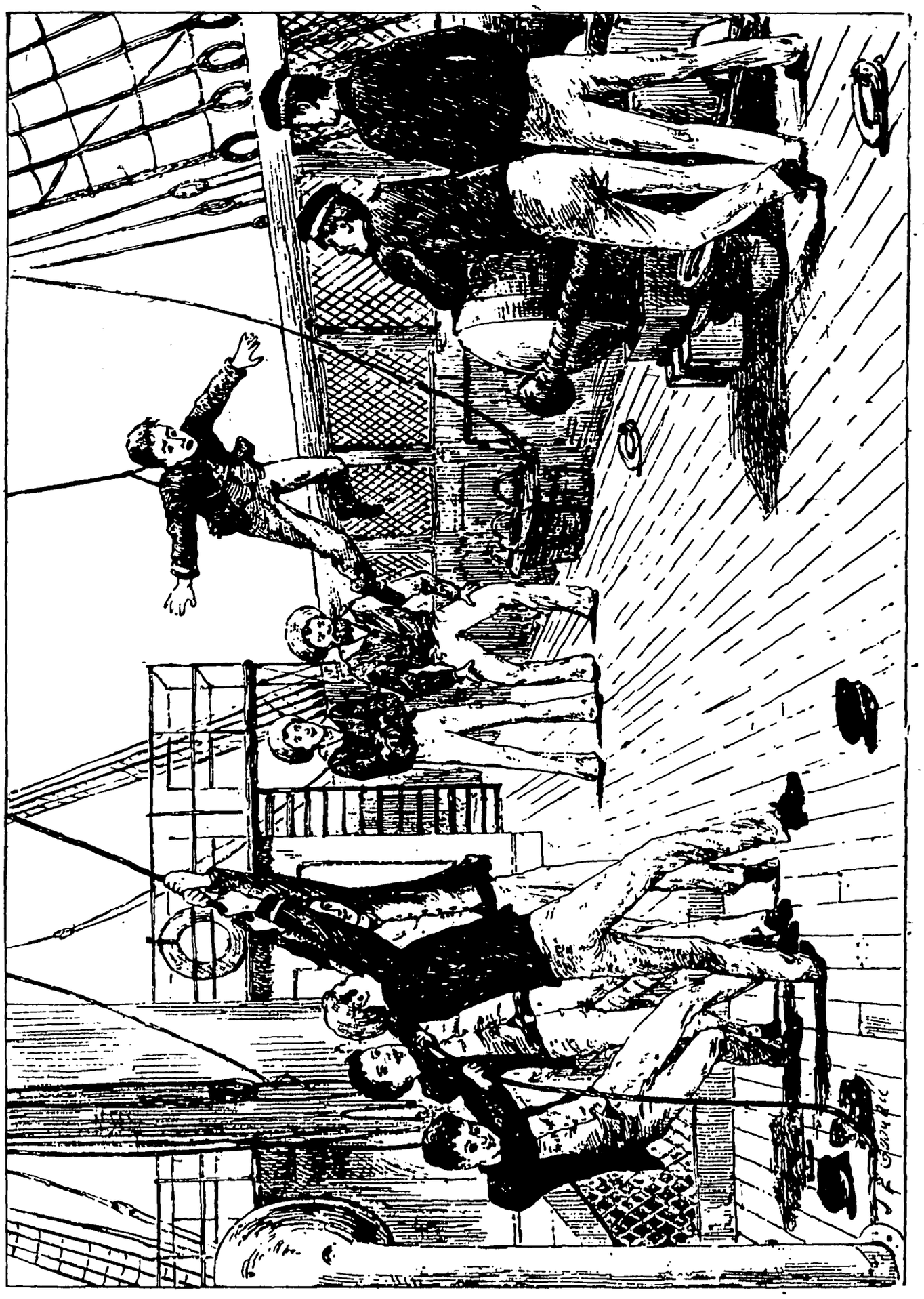

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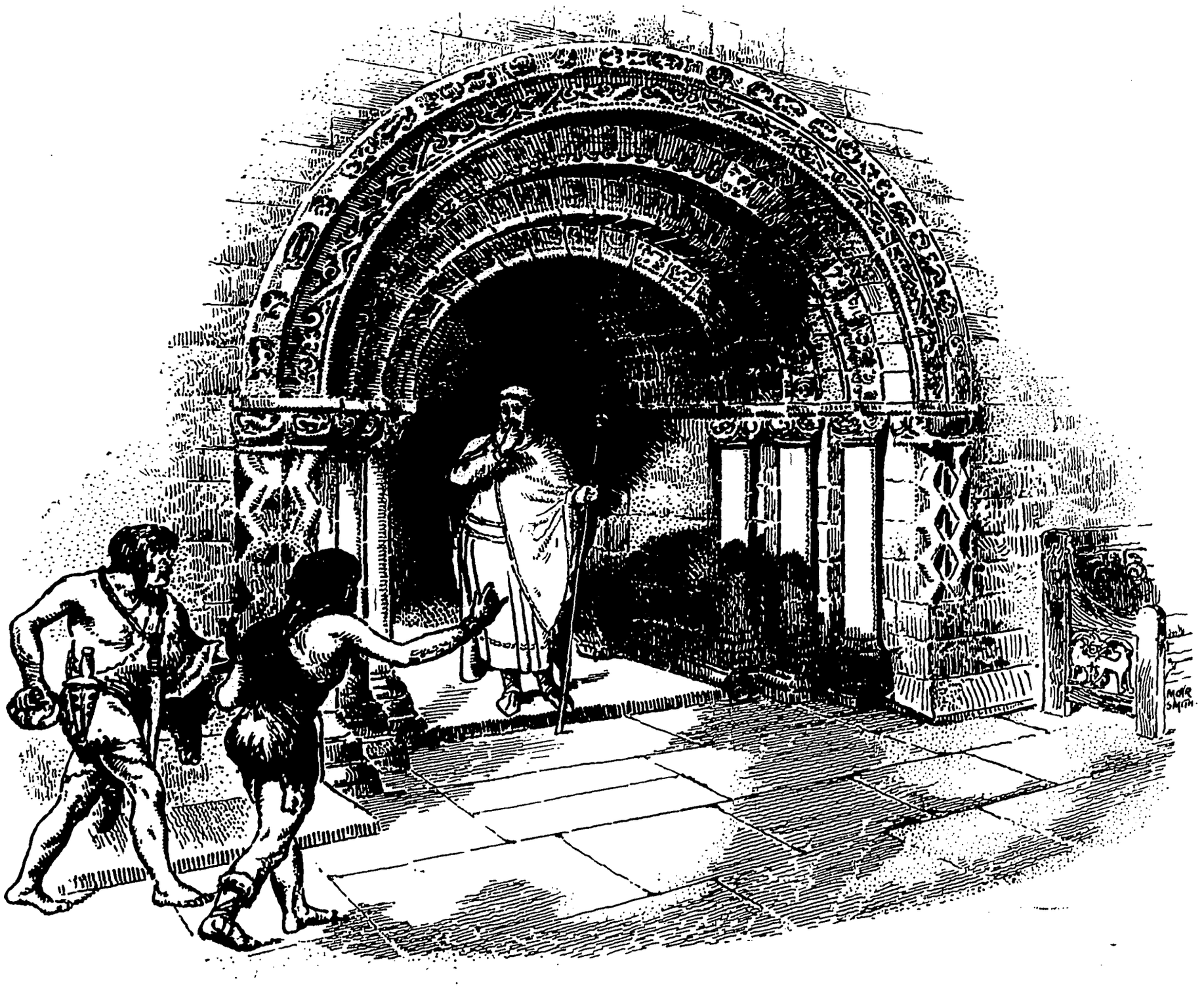

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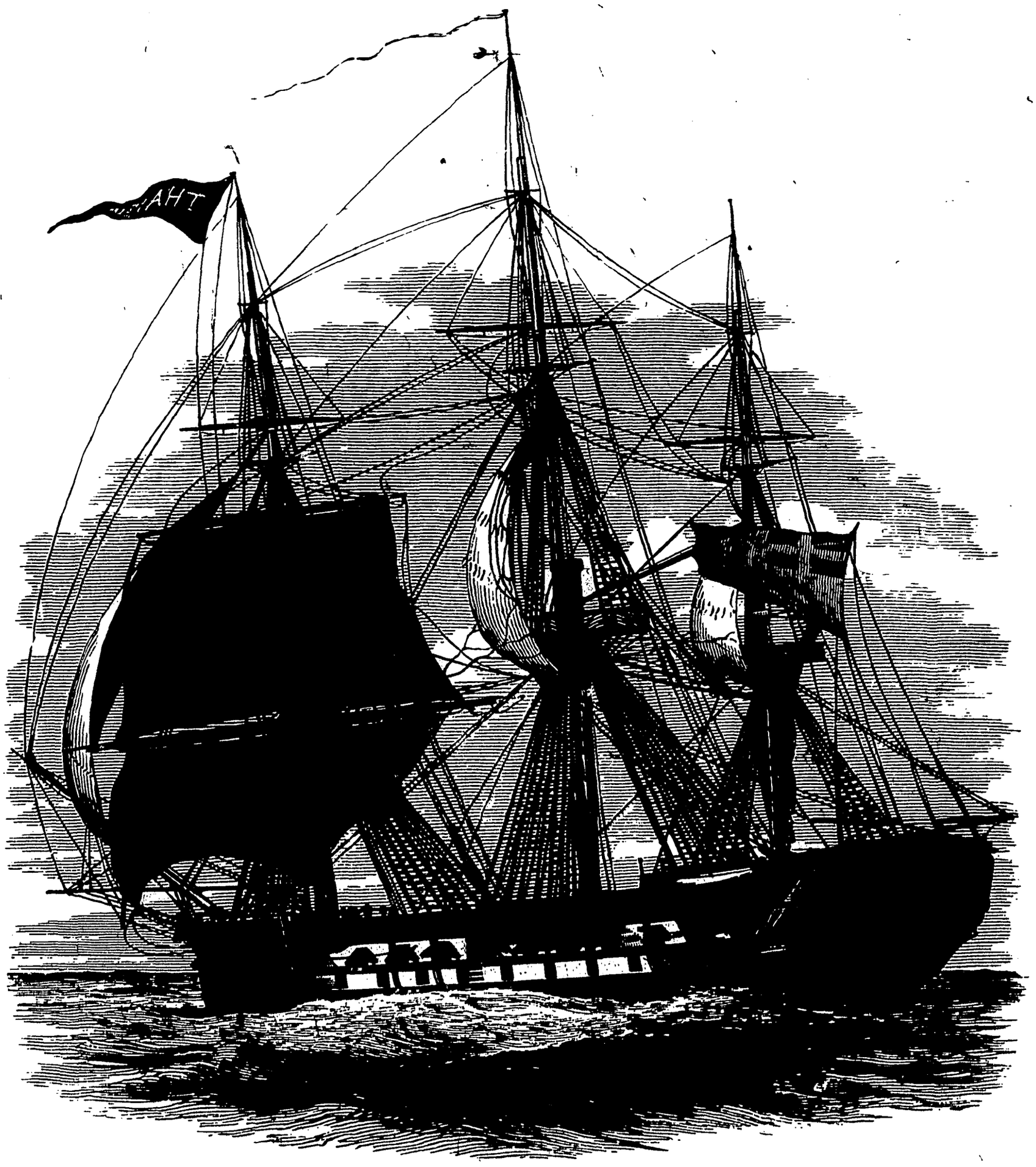

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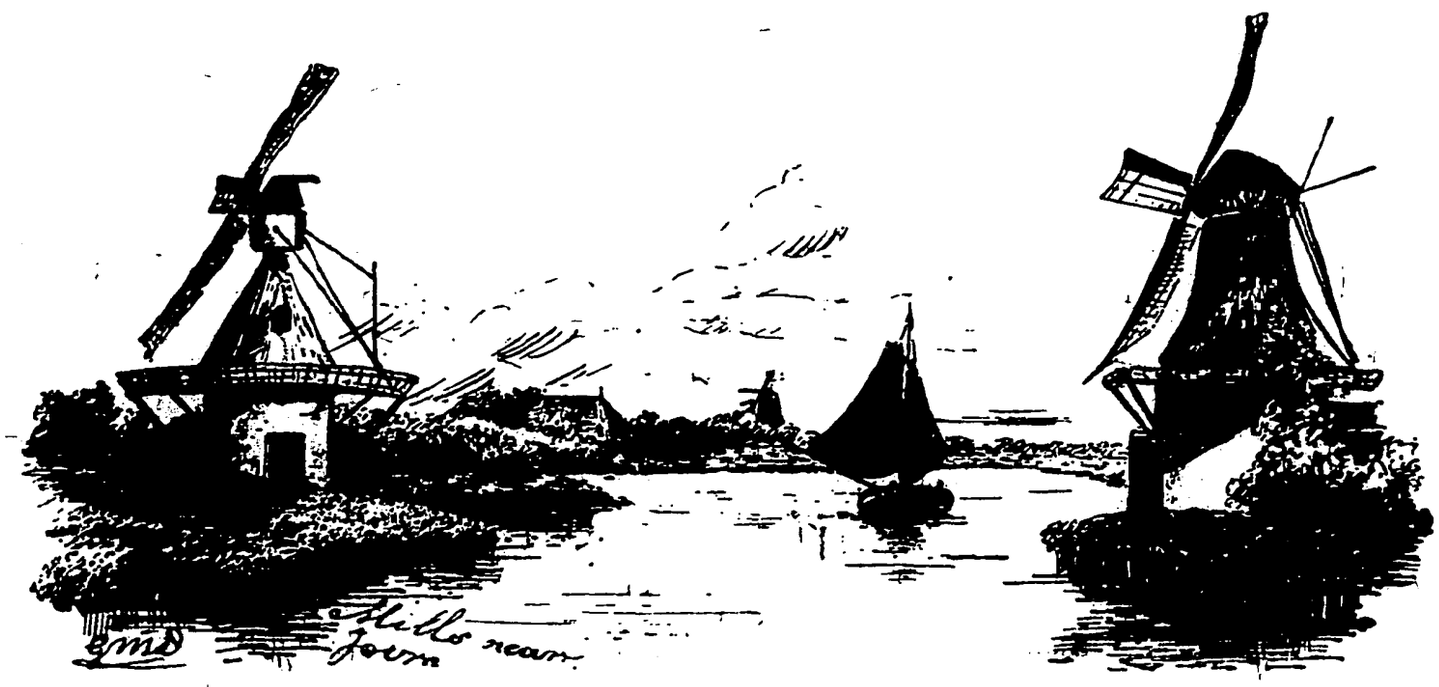

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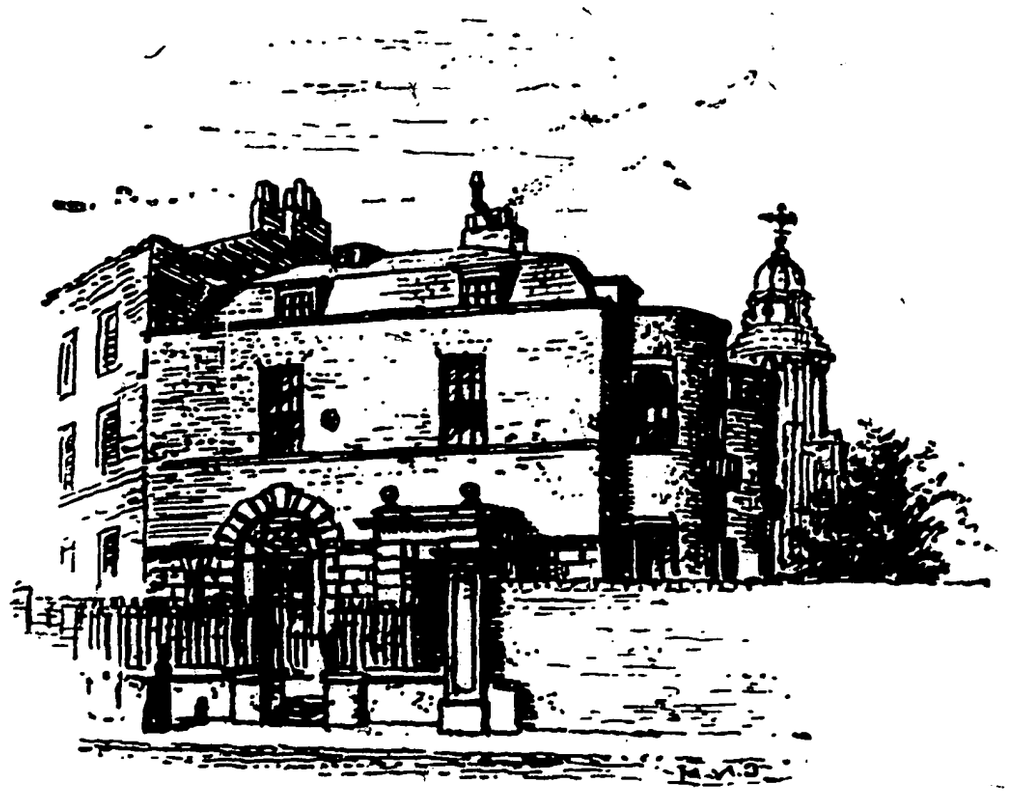

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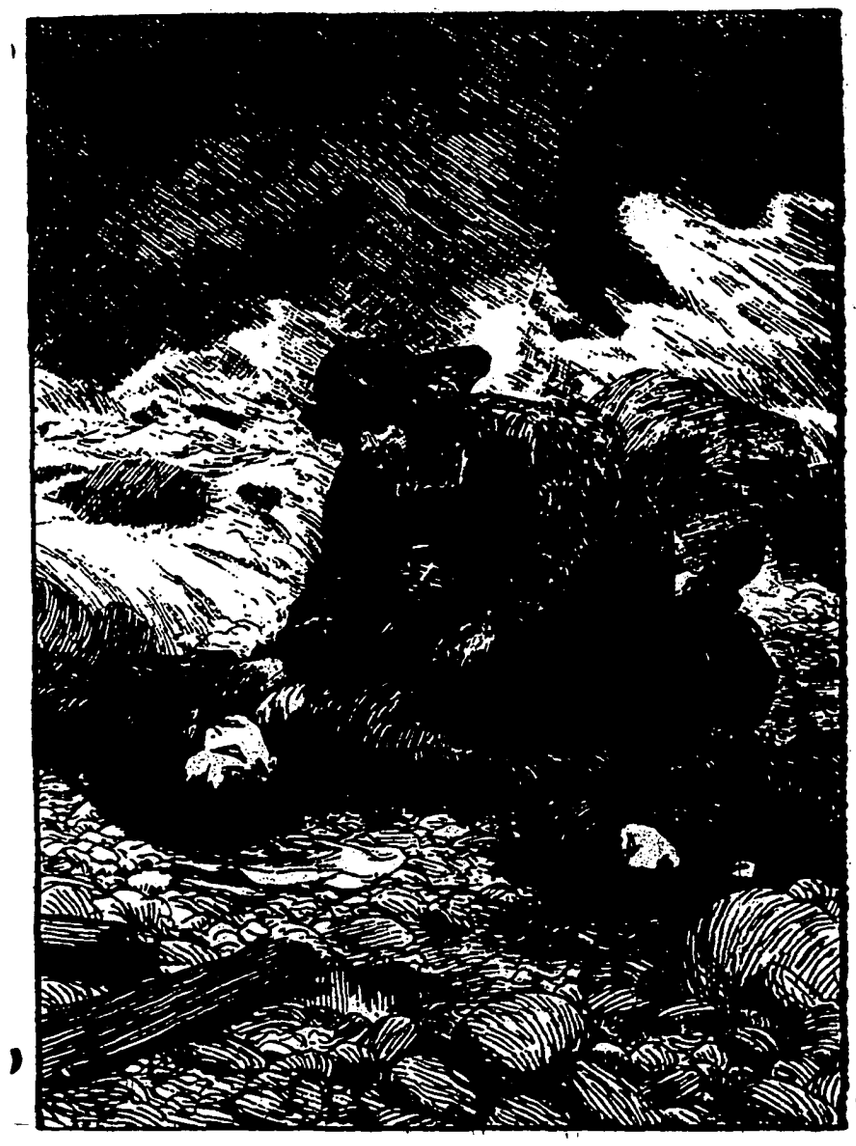

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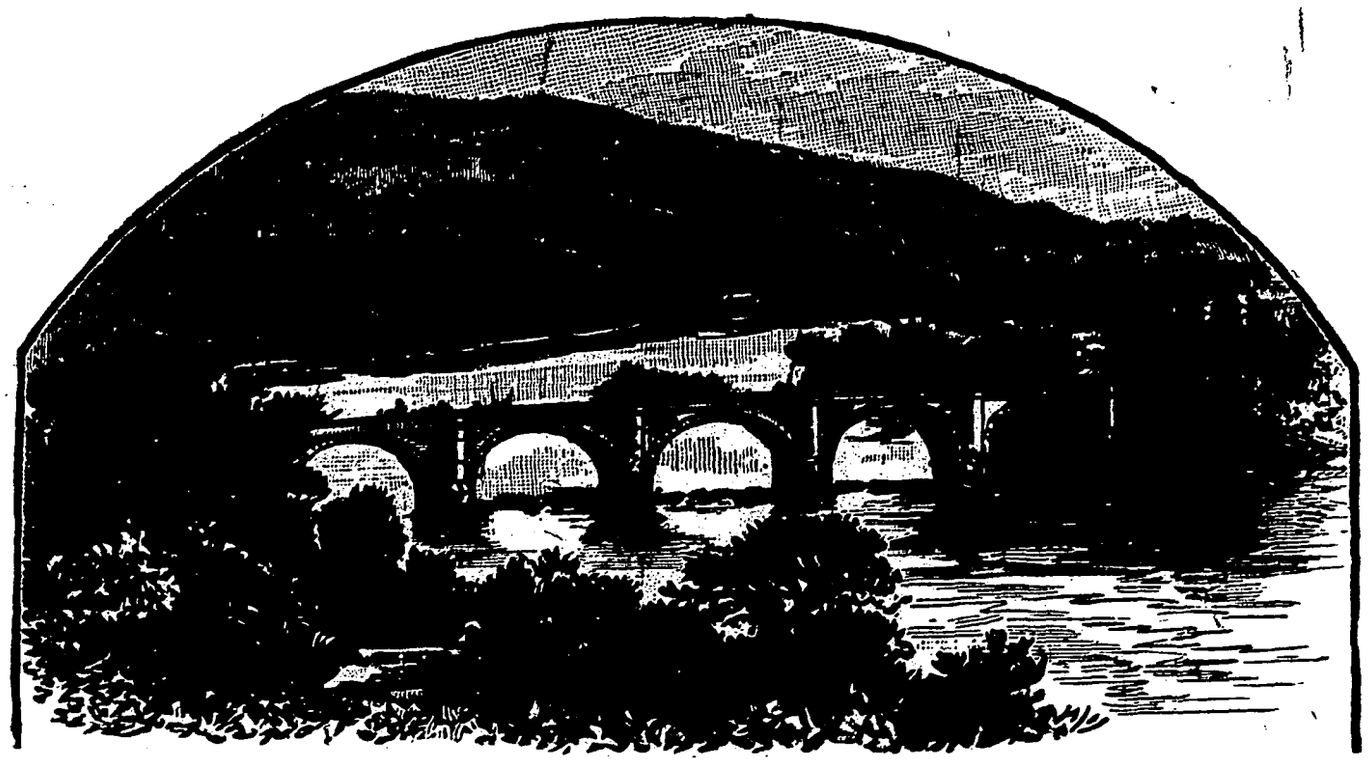

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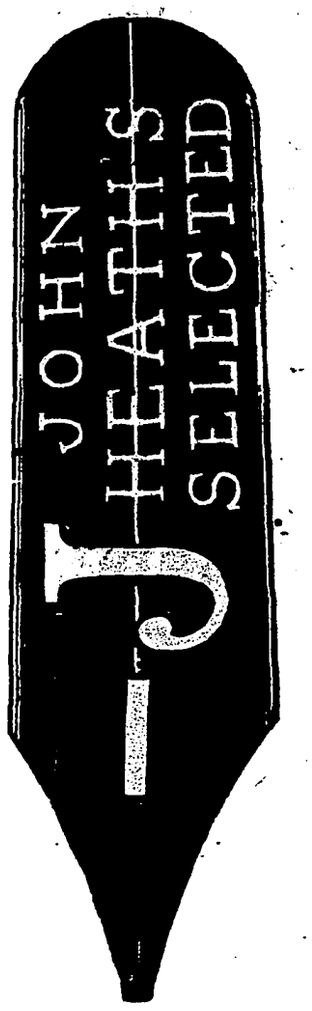

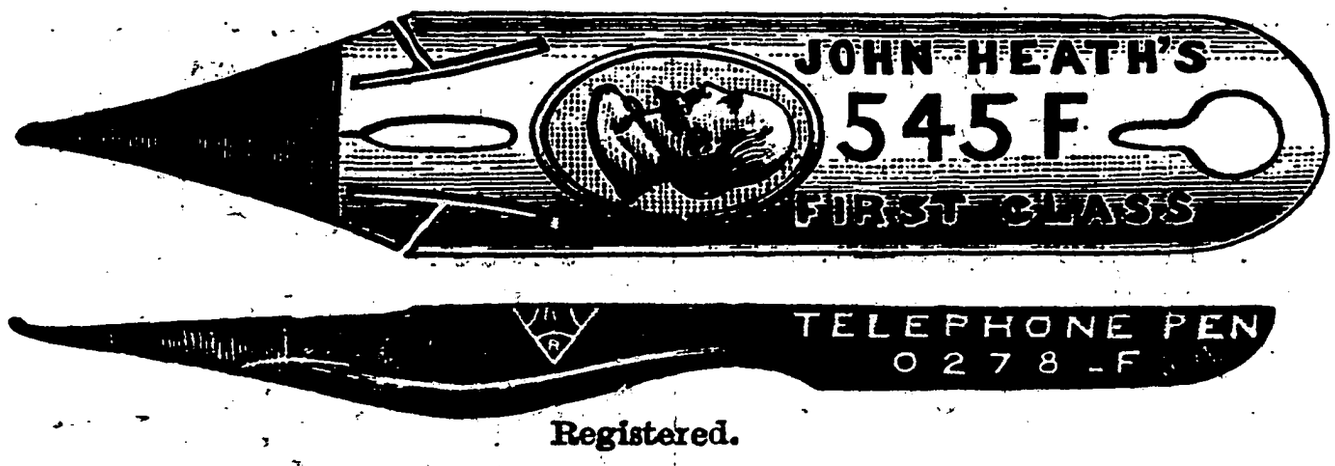

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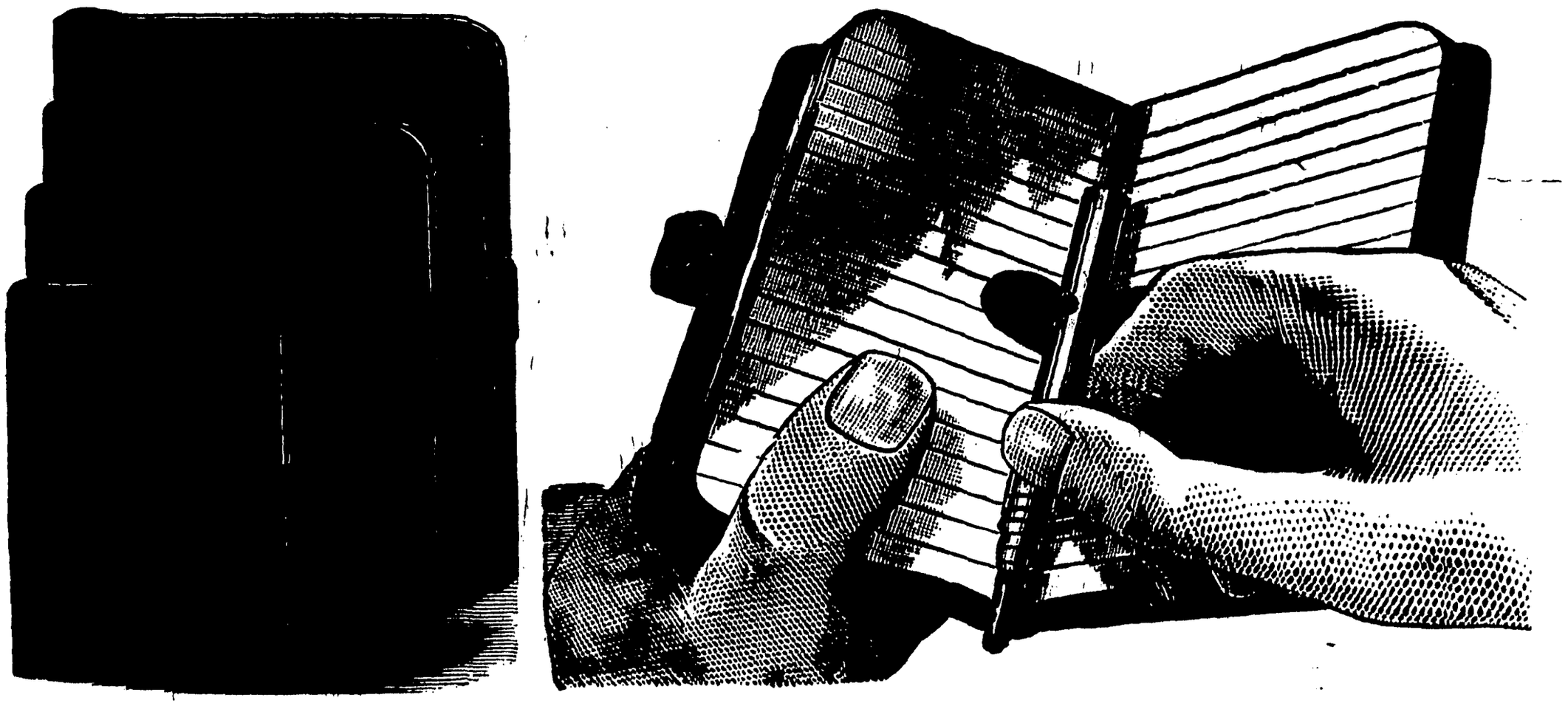

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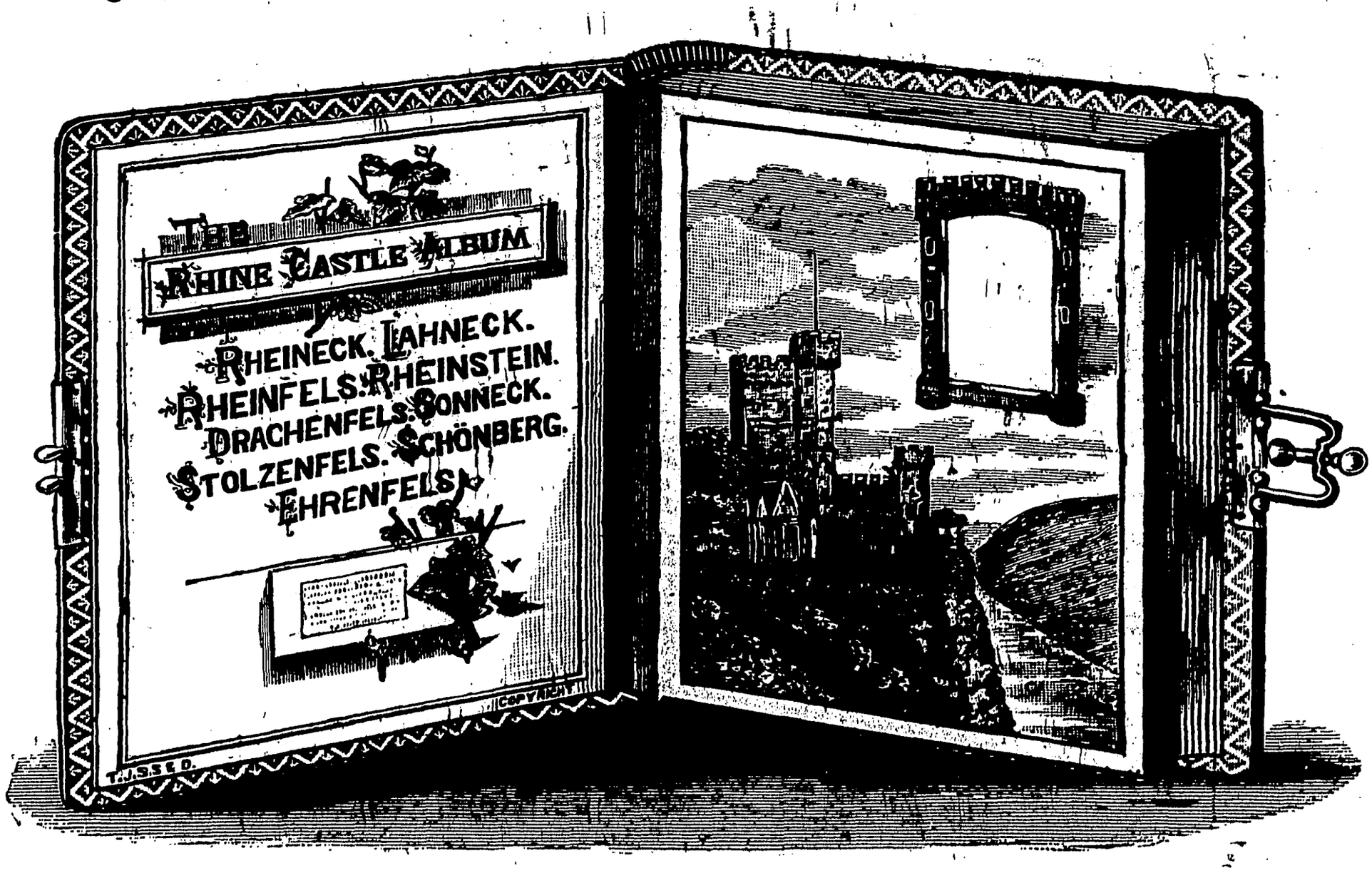

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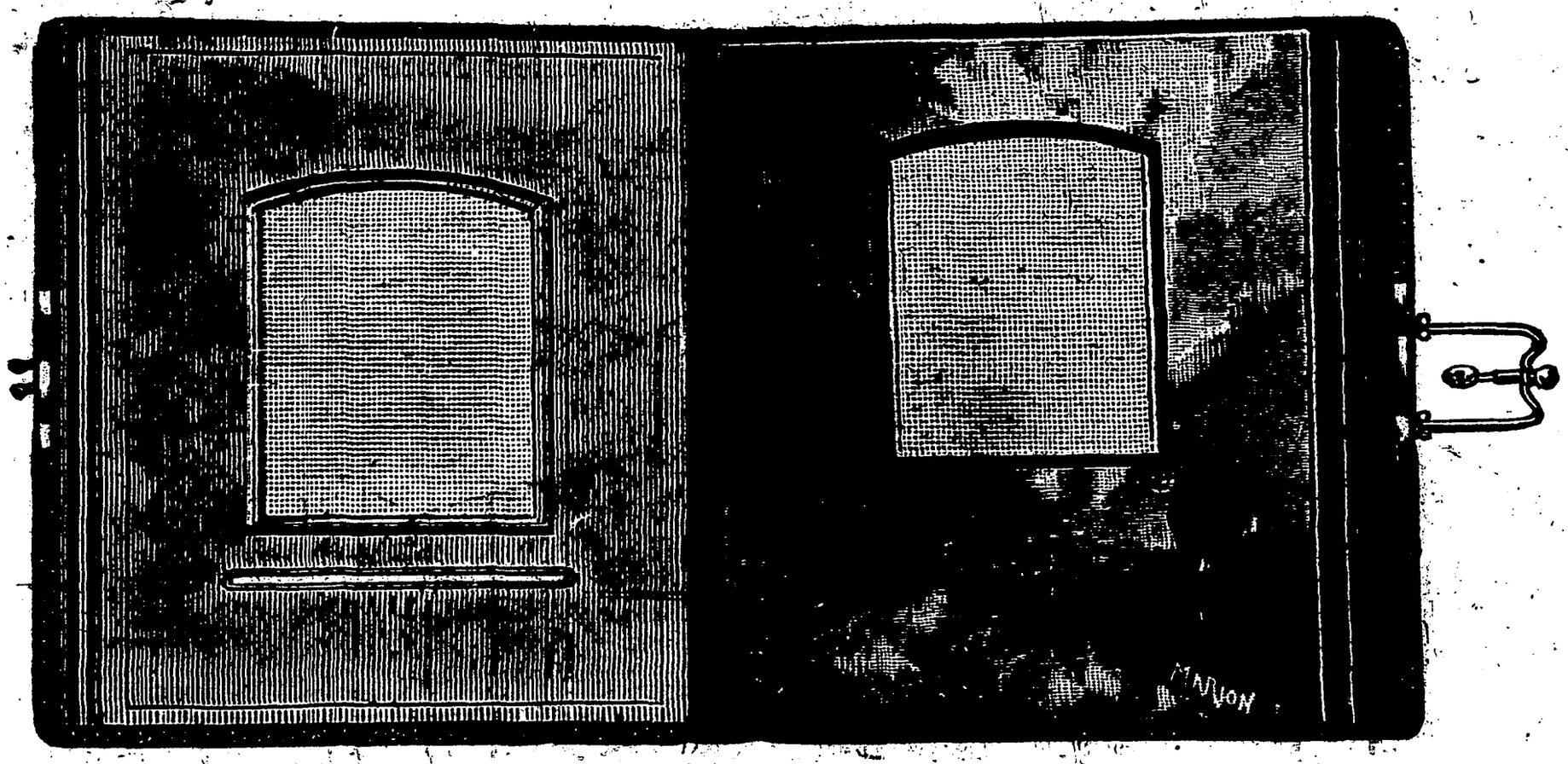

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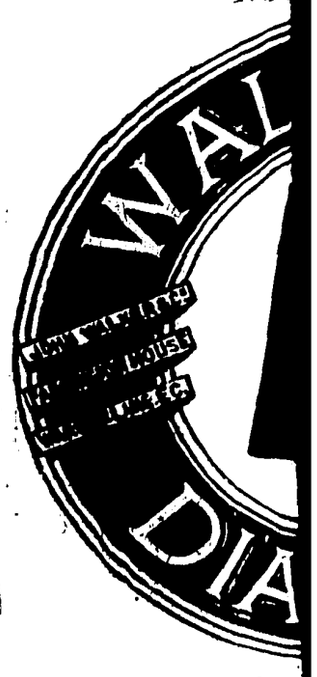

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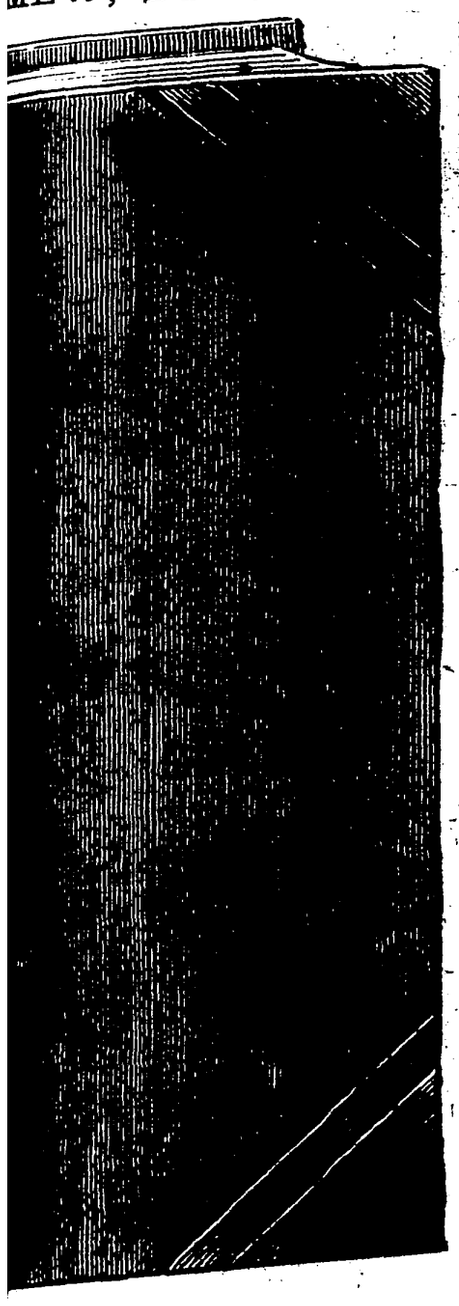

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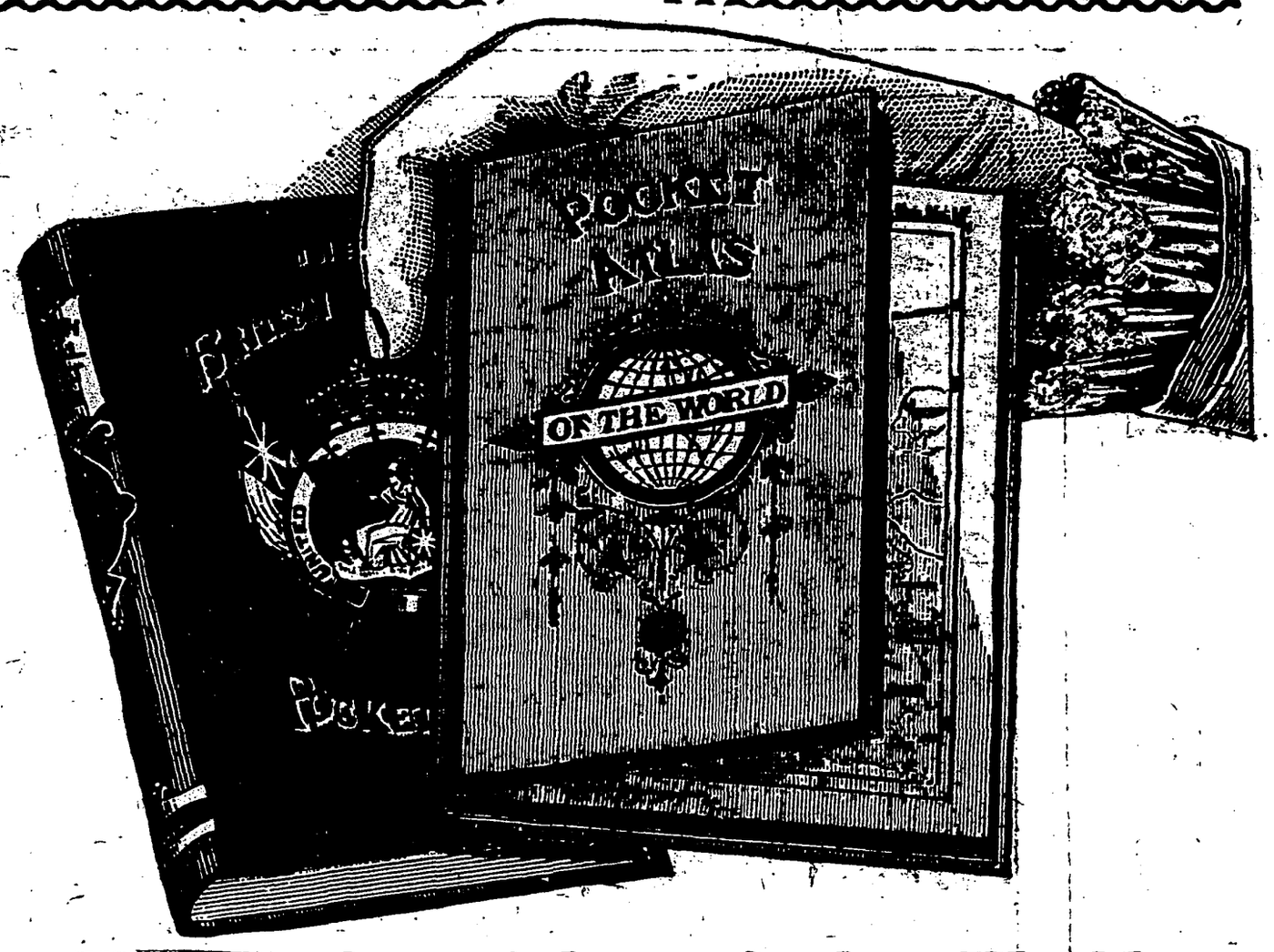

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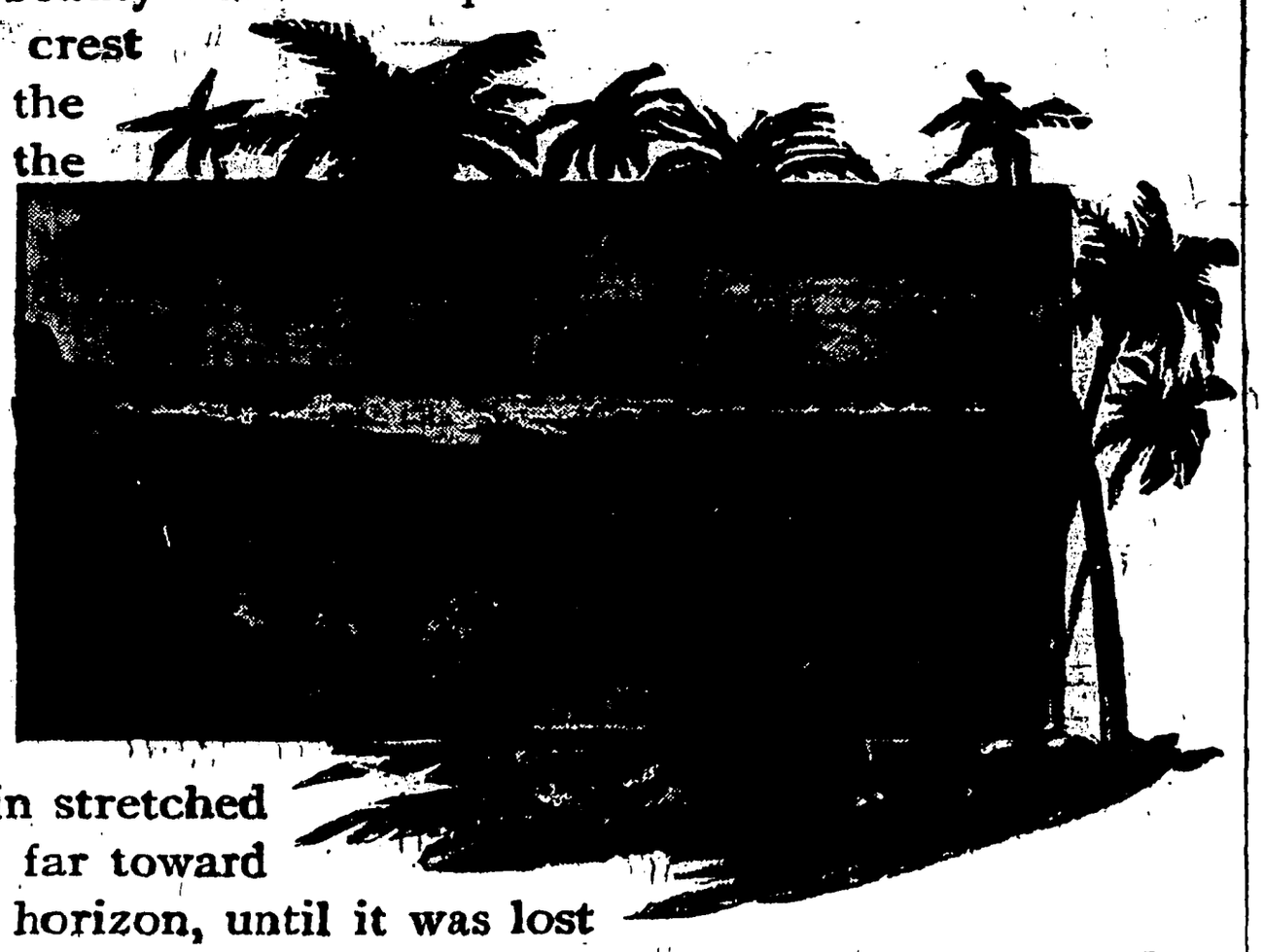
city which we had just left. A harder-hearted man than myself would have yielded to the influence of the beauty which was spread out before us. From the crest of the hill the



plain stretched out far toward the horizon, until it was lost in the mist of the distance. Below us was a sea of green, softly tinged with yellow from the early spring foliage, while white houses showed their tops above the trees. Here and there rose minarets and towers, ivory white in the sun. It was a wilderness of bloom, olive, apricot, plum, and walnut vying with each other, while roses and jasmin, babbling brooks and rivulets abounded. Close up to this forest of verdure came the yellow desert. Behind us rose the bleak sides of Lebanon, into whose recesses we

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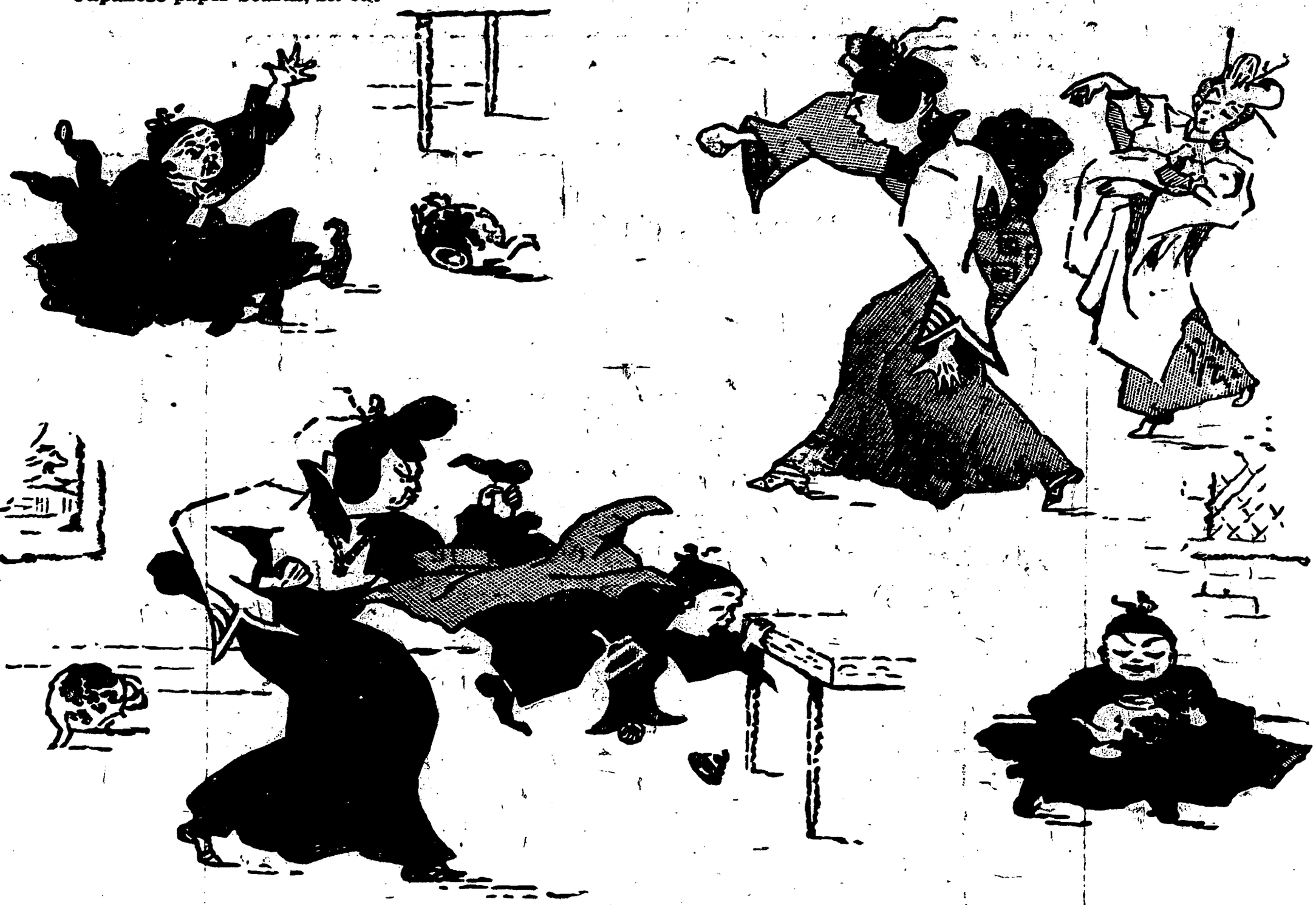

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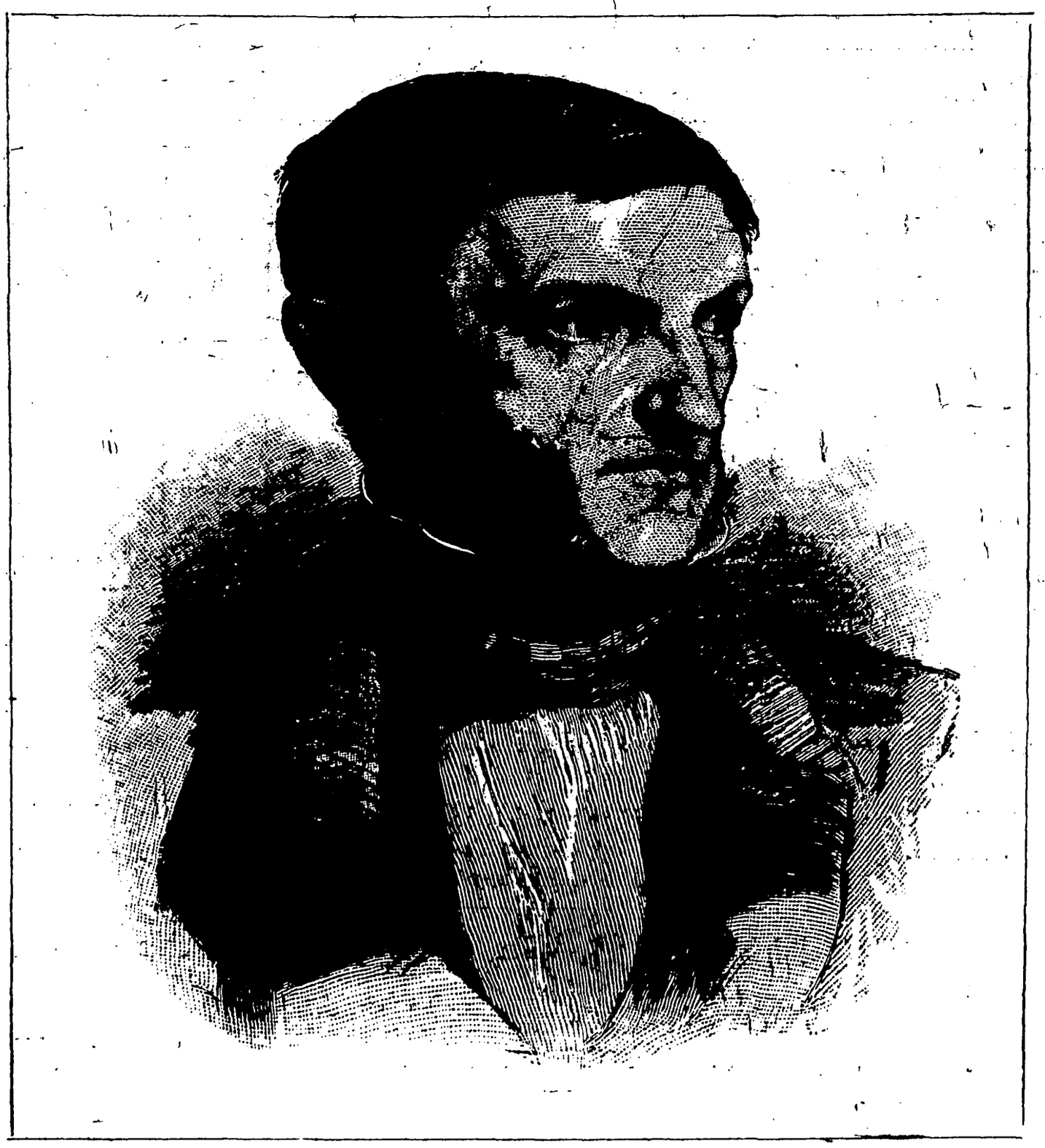

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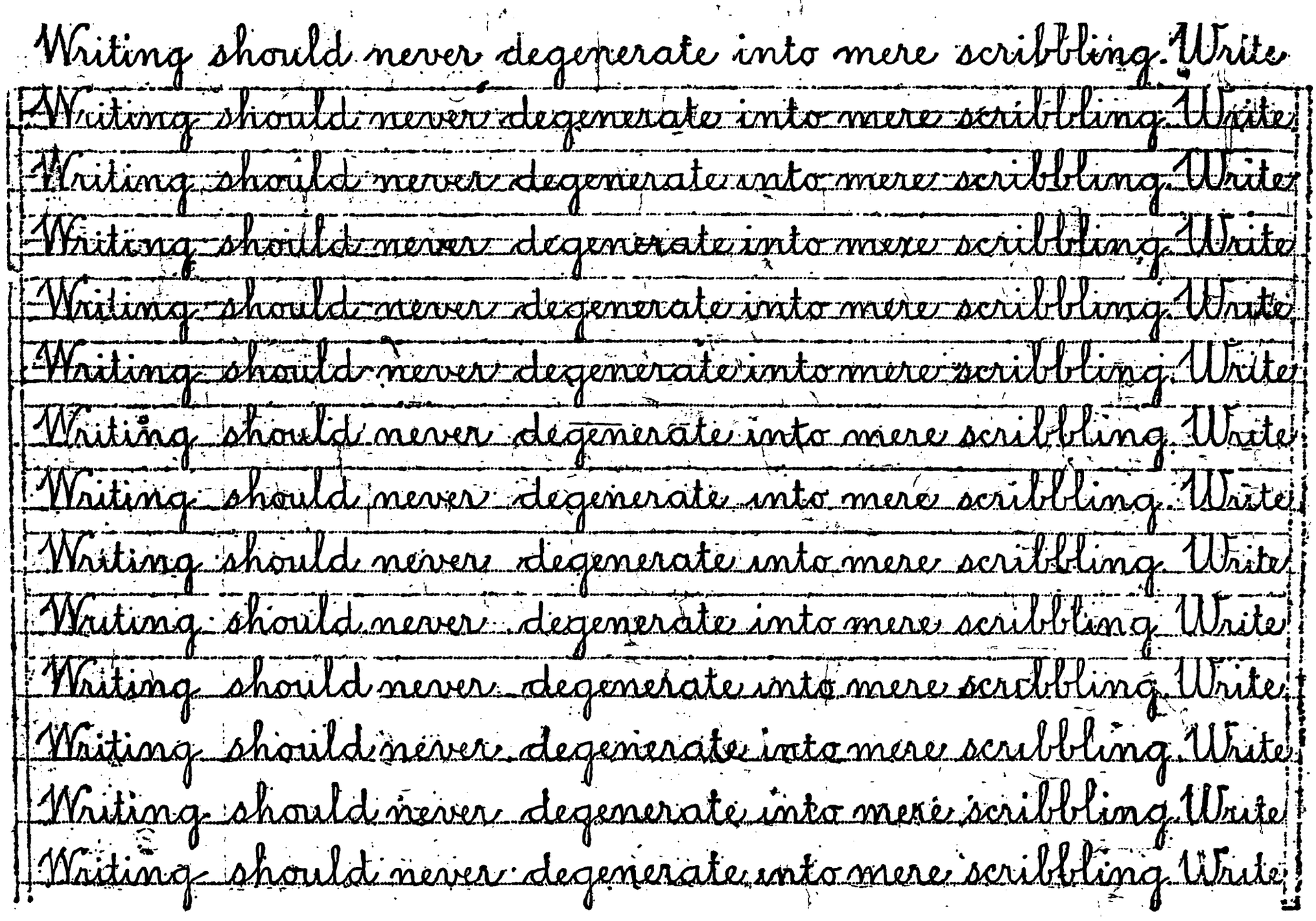

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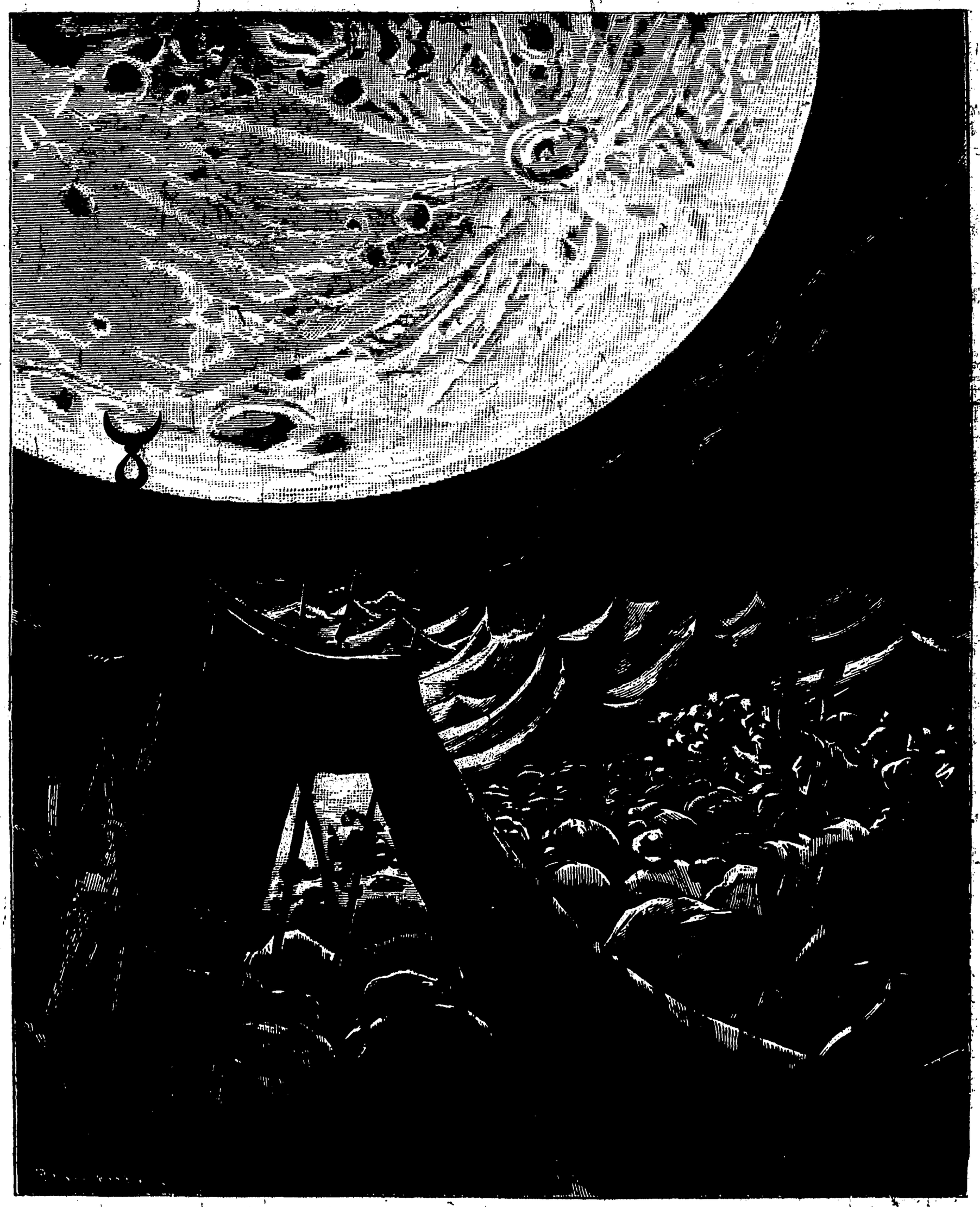

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Five	2	4	6	1	14	0	1	3	0	0	18	6	0	13	6
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——— Orient and West Siberia, 1 plate and map damaged, 6*s.* 6*d.* 1850

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Keppel's Expedition to Borneo (Dido), 2 vols. plates, 5*s.* 6*d.* 1846
——— Indian Archipelago (Neander), 2 vols. roy. 8vo. 10*s.* 1853
Hawk's American Expedition to China, roy. 8vo. half-calf, 6*s.* 6*d.* 1856
Glaisher's Travels in Air, roy. 8vo. cloth loose, 5*s.* 1871
Lloyd's Scandinavian Sporting Adventures, 2 vols. roy. 8vo. half-calf, plates, 19*s.* 1854
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Clarke's Travels in Europe, 6 vols. 4to. 335 plates, less 4, 16*s.* 1812
Thornhill's Shooting Directory, 4to. plates, 14*s.* 1804
Thornton's Sporting Tour, 2 vols. 4to. half-calf, plates, 12*s.* 1806
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Cumberland's Memoirs, 4to. half-russia, gilt, parts, 8*s.* 1806
Percival's Ceylon, 4to. half-calf, uncut, 7*s.* 6*d.* 1805
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The Tabernacle, by A. L. O. E.

Acock & Co., Oxford
Lathom's St. Peter
Stanley's Sermons in the East
Bradley's Ethical Studies
Halford's Life
Martineau's Types
Bullen's Speculum
——— Musa Prot.
Perry's St. Hugh of Lincoln
Hall's International Law

Annandale, R. C., 9 *Queen Street, Hull*
Critical Commentary by Brown, Fawcett, and Jameson
Smith's (Albert) Medical Student
Nichols' Practical Boiler Maker
Hadley's History of Hull

Ashworth, J. H. & A., 49 *Lands Lane, Leeds*
Andrew's American War, 4 vols. or odd
Murray's American War, 3 vols. or odd
Napoleon I. Any Books on
French Revolution. Any Books on
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Terminal Divinity Lecture in Durham University. 1834

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Chapman's (G.) Dramatic Works
Simcox's History of Latin Literature
Mahaffy's History of Classical Greek Literature

Attwood, J. S., & Co., Plymouth
Syntax's Tour, 12mo. 1823. Vol. 2. Imperfect
Valpy's Shakspeare. 1833. Vol. 15
Lyra Elegantiarum
Quarterly Journal of Geological Soc. of London. Vol. 1, Pt. 2
Journal of Dublin Geological Society. Vol. 5, Part 2
Ibis. Vol. 2

Bain, 1 *Haymarket, London, S.W.*
Poole's (Mrs.) Englishwoman in Egypt, 12mo.
Norman People and their existing Descendants, 8vo. 1874 (King)
Guhl and Koner's Life of Greeks and Romans, 2 v. 8vo. 1877
Rabbi Joshua (Redway)
Ranke's House of Brandenburg, 3 vols. 8vo. 1849
Björnsen's Through Fells and Fjords. 1879 (Strahan)
Butler's Lives of the Saints, 2 vols. roy. 8vo. 1836
Sigerson's History of Land Tenures in Ireland
Watson's (Forbes) Flowers and Gardens (Strahan)

Baker, E., Bookseller, 15 & 17 *John Bright Street, Birmingham*
Cecil's Stable Practice
Taylor's (Rev. Robert) Works
Book of Hall Marks (Hotten)
Memoirs of Mrs. Robinson
Hamer and Lloyd's History of the Parish of Hanging. 1875

Baker, J., & Son, Clifton
Palgrave's Treasury of Song. Large paper edit.

Baker, T., 1 *Soho Square, London, W.*
The Month. 1881, 1885
Frost's Tacitus

Bell, G., & Sons, York Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.
Hüber's (Pierre) Nat. Hist. of Ants, trans. by J. R. Johnson

Bemrose & Sons, 23 *Old Bailey, London, E.C.*
Church Congress Report, Manchester, 1888

Bennett, M. L., Caxton Head, 232 *High Holborn, London, W.C.*
Bible, in French, 4to. 1687 (Amsterdam)
Coming K—— (Beeton)
Pater's Renaissance. 1st edit.
Lewis' (Sir Geo. Cornewall) Disturbances in Ireland
Badminton Library: Shooting. L. P.
Surtees' Ask Mamma, cloth. 1st edit.
Great Expectations, 3 vols.
Spectator. Original Nos.

Benziger, Bros., 36 *Barclay Street, New York, U.S.A.*
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Pagani's (S.J.) Science of the Saints, 4 vols.
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Gay's (Abbé) Christian Life and Virtues, 3 vols.
Legrange (Abbé) Life of Dupanloup, 2 vols. English edit.
Garside's (Rev. J.) Prophet of Carmel
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Heaton's Concise History of Painting. Last edit.
Austen's (Jane) Novels. 1st edits.
Ellacombe's History of the Parish of Bitton, near Bristol

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Doré Bible (Cassell). Subscriber's edit. Parts 12, 37. 2s. each

Boyveau, Vve. J., 22 Rue de la Banque, Paris
Selous' Hunter's Wanderings in Africa
Bayes' Applied Homœopathy
Clausonthue's A B C Code. 3rd edit.
Parr's Abstract of the Laws of the Isle of Man
Praed's Australian Heroine
O'Sullivan's Irish Translation of Imitation of Christ

Branson, Mr. H. J., 61 *Hanover Street, Sheffield*
Defoe's Works, cloth. Talboys' edit. 1840–41. Vols. 7, 11
Swan's Lakes of Scotland. Pages 157 to 160
Strickland's Queens of Scotland. cloth. Vol. 7
Couch's British Fishes, cloth. 1st edit. Vols. 3, 4
Sowerby's Mineral Conchology of Great Britain. Vols. 5, 6
Bewick's British Birds, imp. 8vo. 1797–1804

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Charcot, Leçons sur les maladies nerveux
Büchner's Force and Matter

Brough, W., & Sons, 8 *Broad Street Corner, Birmingham*
Finden's Ports and Harbours. Part 22
Cassell's Popular Readings
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Dun's Interest Tables

Brown, T., & Co., 9 *Ray Street, Farringdon Road, London, E.C.*
Aquinas' (St. Thos.) Catena Aurea, SS. Mark and John
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Palmer's (W.) Treatise on the Church, 2 vols. 3rd ed. 1842
———————— Origines Liturgicæ, 2 vols. 4th edit. 1845

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Scott's Demonology and Witchcraft, with Cruikshank's plates
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Bumpus, E., 5 & 6 *Holborn Bars, London, E.C.*
Queen Elizabeth's Prayer Book
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Bumpus, T. B., 2 *George Yard, Lombard Street, London, E.C.*
Comte de Paris, Hist. de la Guerre Civile en Amérique, 6 v.
Dryden. Aldine edit. Vols. 4, 5
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Quiver. Nov. and Dec. 1883; Jan. 1884

Colwell, J., Devizes
Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society. 1850 to
Britton's Beauties of Wiltshire. Vols. 1, 2
Waylen's History of Devizes
Journal of the Chemical Society. Dec. 1886

Combridge, A. J., & Co., 31 Newgate Street, London, E.C.
Monthly Packet Christmas Numbers for 1875, 1877–80

Combridge, C., 5 New Street, Birmingham
Latham's Sanitary Engineering
Dugdale's Warwickshire
Mid England
Lockhart's History of the Conquest of Mexico, 2 vols. 1844

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Vanity Fair. 1869–74
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Salon. Part 5, 1887. 5*s.* (Goupil)
Journal of the Institute of Bankers. Part 1, Vol. 7
Schiebler's Theory and Practice of Tuning
Culpepper's Herbalist. Coloured plates. Original

Commin, J. G., 230 High Street, Exeter
Scott's Novels. 48-vol. edit. Vols. 16, 20, 28, 30, 38, 39
Symonds' Cellini, 2 vols. 1st edit.
Neale's Liturgiology
Burton's Arabian Nights, and Supplement
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Cornish, J., & Sons, Booksellers, 297 High Holborn, London
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Baital Pachisi, edited by Eastwick. 1855 (Hertford)
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Bacon and Shakspeare, an Inquiry touching Players, Playhouses, and Play Writers in the Days of Elizabeth, by Wm. H. Smith; to which is appended an Abstract of a Manuscript respecting Tobie Matthew. 1857 (London, J. R. Smith)
Authorship of Shakspeare, by N. Holmes. 1866. 3rd edit. 1876 (New York, Hurd & Houghton)
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