

THE JANUARY MAGAZINES.

"Lippincott's."

The third volume of Lippincott's Magazine opens with a holiday number, full of stories and sketches interesting and readable at any time, but particularly so about the Christmas and New Year season. To begin with, we have the first instalment of the new serial novel, "Beyond the Breakers," with a full-page illustration by Mr. E. B. Bessell. Messrs. R. H. Stoddard, George H. Baker, and Bayard Taylor contribute "Poems for a Golden Wedding." T. C. de Leon discourses about "Christmas Pantomimes." Here is a description of "Boxing-Night" at Drury Lane:—

As it is the blishest province of Fairy-Land, let us put on our magic cap, set back some dozen ticks of the year-hand that will run so fast round the dial of our life-clocks, and, presto! we are in the pit of "Drury Lane on Boxing-Night of '65." Lights are up, but no curtain is not; and the house is jammed—boxes, pits, and galleries—no not perhaps with an audience so select as on other nights, but with one of solid respectability. Stately dowagers are slowly fanning themselves, and settling comfortably in their seats for a long session; grave old gents wipe their specs carefully before adjusting them to study the bill; little Miss, with faxen plaits, has a sparkle in her eye and a bright spot in her cheek that forbids many a delicate trifle into the party; the young Oxford men rove blazes round the stalls, trying to look at the audience, but furiously eying the curtain; while still younger Master J. Bull eats lollipops with a furious, but, alas! vain resolve to dissolve the lump in his throat from anxiety for the overture.

The prompter's bell! The curtain rises, and the lollipop effort suspended, Master J. Bull may yet be reserved for the Chiltern Hundreds. As usual, a play precedes the pantomime—the descent of the greasy beast of fun set forth on Boxing-Night. This time we have Little Toddlers, given as only Charles Matthews can give it, and followed by his intensely funny Trying It On. The audience sits respectful and attentive—what audience would not to the King of Comedy?—but it is the attention that protests against being amused very much before the object of the evening appears. At last the comedies are over. Perhaps, not being as young as we were, for all our fair cap, we give a little quiet sigh to ourselves that they didn't last longer.

If we do, it is drowned in the first notes of the overture, founded on that popular air, "The Rat-catcher's Daughter," with a chorus of cat-calls, pleasant chaff and whistles from "the gods;" for Boxing-Night allows many liberties, even in Old Drury. The overture ends, a hushed stillness falls upon the house, and the curtain rolls up on the pantomime. It is a clever effort of Mr. Blanchard, bearing the comprehensive title of Hey-Diddle-Didde; or, Harlequin King Nonsense and the Seven Ages of Man.

The first age shows King Nonsense upon his throne, surrounded by Little Red Riding-Hood, Simple Simon, Mother Hubbard, Little Boy Blue—the whole Court of Nursery rhymes. The Spirit of Common Sense, petitioning the King for a little more sense in nursery literature, is interrupted by the sudden entrance of Routine and Red Tape—bureaucracy of official tardiness; the first with inkstand for cap and huge placards of salient abuses, and the latter made up like a giant bundle of his namesake. After some talk and more gestures, the influence of Common Sense banishes the unpleasant parties to Noddle-land for life. This prelude affords many capital bits at local abuses, especially the Circumlocution Office.

The second age, the School-boy, shows beautiful scenery of the village of Frothywell, with the traditional pedagogue, Dr. Syntax, mating out grim tasks to the disgust of audience and terror of recluses, until, playing at cricket with the latter, a well-directed ball sends him, with two pantomime justice, into the arena beyond.

With the third age—the Lover sighing like a furnace—the *mise-en-scène* improves in brilliancy, and the fourth—the parli-like Soldier—introduces much pantomime fun and trickery by a double troupe, with two Harlequins, two Clowns, and two Columbinas, aided by an admirable ballet corps. The other ages have each its appropriate scene, till, in the seventh, a change from the snowy winter of old age to the "realms of perpetual summer" gives a dazzling fairy transformation. The fairy becomes Columbine, and King Nonsense, Pantaloon, ready to grant all her desires; so in the midst of golden showers and red fire Virtue is—as ever—rewarded, and the curtain drops.

Throughout, the audience gives signs, by frequent laughter and loud applause, of its keen relish of the humor and delight at the brilliancy of the scenic pageant. At the last transformation, all rise to their feet with one impulse, and a perfect storm of applause and bravos follows the fall of the curtain, continuing till it slowly begins to hasten down. The good fairies and tired actors. Mr. Blanchard shows much experience in the dramatic construction of the piece, though it be but a thread of plot on which to string some admirable bits at the humors of the time, and the management of the machinery could scarcely be improved. Through its aid the production of illusion is complete; and nothing on the other side of the Atlantic can compare with the London theatre in this regard, and in that of transformation tinsel. Fairies fit, Clowns fly, and Harlequins disappear as if by their own volition, with never a click to tell of springs and trap-doors. Tinsels, zinc, and gauze are so artistically handled that the solid masses of varied light—crossing and recrossing, yet retaining each its individual color—blend the whole into a scene of almost real enchantment.

But the pantomime is over. Master Bull's eyes have already begun to draw water, and more than one chubby cheek rests quietly on the friendly shoulder near. The curtain rolls down again. Master Bull wakes, dizzy but still delighted; the gas is lowered, and we step out once more into the nipping, foggy air of Boxing-Night.

"The Blue Cabinet: a Christmas Story," is by Lucy Hamilton Hooper; "The Old Year and the New," a poem, is by Frank Wigglesworth Clarke; "The Secret Agent" is an interesting sketch of one of Napoleon the Third's familiars, which may be true or not; "Justice for Blue-Beard" is an attempt to relieve the memory of the nursery hero from some of the obloquy which rests upon it. "Cross and Crown" is a poem by Edgar Fawcett. Mrs. Rebecca Harding Davis concludes her short story entitled "The Pearl of Great Price." From "The Parisian's New Year," by George M. Towle, we make the following extract:—

verge from every direction to the capital, y and would not see troops of forlorn, crippled, blind, and aged creatures wending their difficult way to the city, which they almost think to be made of gold. The *Journal de Paris* is the only day of all the year when they may beg, dance, and sing without molestation. There are people with all sorts of misfortunes, visible and invisible: there are merry beggars, impudent beggars, melancholy beggars, young beggars and old, organizers and somnolent, singers, dancing beggars, and monk-like beggars. Here they are, lining the long streets as far as eye can reach, raising the veriest hubbub of pandemonium with their harps and their cracked voices, their ester-wauling and drumming. They have a mighty harvest, poor souls! for the people are all kindly on this day, and centime pieces rattle down generously from the windows of every story. And there are not a few contrasts on this day, which bear a romantic tinge and show in glaring colors how wonderful are the vicissitudes of life. That stout, gaudily-dressed old dame you saw dashing down the Rue de Rivoli in a coach and livery, on her way to call on the Comtesse de la Potenille, was twenty years ago a chesnut-woman on the corner of Rue Vivienne, and has made a goodly fortune out of that pebbles and paying trade. But here, under your window, as you gaze out upon the human New Year's kaleidoscope, totters an old, broken-down, shattered-to-pieces, decrepit, wretched-looking woman, her grey hair streaming disordered about her yellow and wrinkled face, her miserable bonnet awry, and her ragged garments covered with dust. She, too, once rode in her carriage and livery, and made fashionable calls on countesses, and had her lofty mansion in Faubourg St. Germain; nay, it was said she had even been presented at the court of the patriarchal Louis Philippe, and could show descent from some of the bluest blood in France. The poor shattered creature mumbles as she looks up to you, and stretches out her feeble hand, shaking with paralysis, eagerly clutching the two-son pieces which you throw down. She is a victim of Paris vice—deserted her husband, ran away with a soldier, hurried back to Paris when she was deserted in turn, went on the stage and grew crack-voiced there, and then was thrown upon resources far more horrible—the old, old story, yet new and touching with every heroine. Place these two women side by side—what a startling picture of human change! There is intelligence, descent in rags—vulgarity and coarseness in prosperous pamper!

Jane S. Austin contributes a story entitled "No Dead nor Living," and Karl Blind discusses the question, "Will Spain be a Republic?" A Christmas story entitled "Golden Dreams," by Albert Fabre, and "Our Monthly Gossip," and "Literature of the Day," conclude a number that has a sufficient variety to suit all tastes.

MODERN REAL-LIFE ROMANCE.

Another Version of the Meade-Landis Case—Lunacy of the Commodore—What Drove the Gallant Tar to Madness—Why and How He was Confined—Personal Explanation of Mr. Charles K. Landis.

The confinement of Commodore Meade in a lunatic asylum and his subsequent discharge and the peculiarities connected with the case, have naturally awakened a deep interest in the public mind, and several partial versions of the affair have from time to time appeared. The following clear and full statement of the whole case is from a gentleman most deeply interested, Charles K. Landis, Esq., of Vineland, the gentleman whom the Commodore threatened to put to death at all hazards:

"That I have taken away this old man's daughter is in my eyes the greatest crime of my life. The very head and front of my offending. Bath this extent, no more."—*Urbino*.

On the 27th of August, 1868, numerous reports have been published in the papers giving an incorrect statement of the case. Commodore Meade, and as my own name has been made more prominent than the truth of the circumstances justify—in short, that I had Commodore Meade arrested upon a criminal charge, and that when he could not be held upon that charge, I had him incarcerated in a lunatic asylum upon the certificate of two female physicians. I beg the liberty of setting the record right before the public. I have never been in any way connected with the case, either in history or fiction, of a man first confining his intended father-in-law in a lunatic asylum and then immediately marrying his daughter, and I am not ambitious to be the one to start such a precedent.

I first met my wife at the Commodore's old house, in Washington, last January. I was then told that it was worth as much as a man's life to pay any attention to his daughter. Of the number of persons who actually drove away by force of arms, upon further inquiry, I ascertained this to be a fact. When I had decided to propose to my wife I sent a formal notice to him, and request for his consent. His answer to this was a peremptory order to desist from all attentions to his daughter, reiterated by another letter threatening serious consequences in case I continued those attentions, and placing the grounds of his objection as follows:—First, my age, secondly my religion, third, being an out-caste stranger. Being at the time thirty-four years old, I was at a loss to know whether he meant that I was too young or too old. I did not care about adopting any new religion, and being fully educated, and having lived for eleven years upon my own estate in New Jersey, "with my banner on the outward wall," I could not possibly sympathize with the last objection.

In response to the last letter I consulted his son, Lieutenant-Commander R. W. Meade, Father Francis, of Brooklyn, formerly his priest, Admiral Hiram Paulding, the father-in-law of two of his sons, Charles A. Meigs, of New York, his brother-in-law, and other members of his family, and they all advised me to pay no attention to it, that the Commodore was suffering under aberration of mind, and had been in this state for some time. This I fully believed, as I knew that the Commodore had suffered great injustice from the Government, in being unjustly kept out of a claim, amounting, I believe, to millions of dollars, even after the legality and justice of the claim had been fully established, and they all advised me to pay no attention to it, that the Commodore was suffering under aberration of mind, and had been in this state for some time. 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