It turned his hair to spun silver, His robe into folds of pearl-Yet it was but a linen night-gown, A tangle of flaxen curl.

He was there at play, white nestling, A moment before he slept; And he patted and kissed the moonbeams, And, cooing, across them crept.

"Bring us the moonshine, baby !"
Quick sprang the little feet, Scooping it up by lapfals, Hurried the fiagers sweet,

To bring us invisible treasure: He saw it, bright and plain; Never doubted the baby Ours was a real gain. Firmly we also believed it. For, after he was asleep, We had his moonlit picture Always our own to keep. It has not grown old or faded, It will not, it never can; We shall have it still to look at

When he is a bearded man. If then he should win great riches, He cannot bestow a gift So rare as the one he brought us Out of the moonshine's drift.

May he never lose faith in moonshipe. The one that glimmers and streams From the mountain-clefts of beauty, Afar in the world of dreams!

Right royally may he scatter The wealth of the boundless skies The fine gold and sheeny silver From the mines of Paradise!

## LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

THE FISHER MAIDEN; a Norwegian tale. By Bjornstjerne Bjornson. Translatedby M. E. Niles. Published by Leypoldt & Holt. Philadelphia agents: J. P. Lippincott & Co. Messrs. Leypoldt & Holt have made for themselves an enviable reputation as publishers of good books that are permanent additions to our literature. They have shown excellent judgment in catering to the tastes of the better class of readers, and in introducing to the American public the new Norwegian prose-poet Bjornson they have rendered a genuine service, which, it is to be hoped, will be repaid by an extensive sale of the very attractive little volume before us. Bjornson has achieved the greatest popularity in his own country and in Germany, and one or two of his stories which were translated and published in England some months ago were greeted with the warmest praise by the leading literary journals. The story of "Arne," which made the author's reputation in England, is now in course of preparation by Messrs. Leypoldt & Holt, and will be published shortly. In the meantime they have issued "The Fisher Maiden," we believe in advance of its appearance in England, the translation having been made expressly for

Biornson reminds us of no one unless it be Fouque or Hans Andersen, and his resemair with which he surrounds his subject, and in his exquisite style, than in the form and substance of his work. "The Fisher Maiden" can be read through in an hour, but there are few who read it once who will not be tempted to go through it again, and it will be found to improve on the second perusal. As to plot, there can scarcely be said to be any; but there is human experience described with genuine poetical insight; the characters, sketched with a few decided, artistic touches, are lifelike, and the fisher maiden and her mother may almost be said to rise to the rank of dramatic creations. Bjornson has the eye of an artist for scenery and incidents, and his word pictures are bright and sparkling. The character of the heroine is as much of a puzzle to the reader as it was to her friends and acquaintances, and the manner in which it is developed indicates genius of no mean order. The account of Petra's first visit to the theatre is a delightful bit of description, and the defense of the drama and refined amusements generally which is elicited by Petra's determination to go upon the stage is one of the clearest, most impartial, and most conclusive that has ever come under our notice. "The Fisher Maiden," we are sure, will find a large circle of appreciative readers, who will extend to this new story-teller as cordial a welcome as he has received in Europe.

-From Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger, the Philadelphia agents, we have received the bound volumes of Harper's Magazine, Harper's Weekly, and Harper's Bazar for 1868. Harper's Magazine has had an uninterrupted career of prosperity from the issue of the first number in June, 1850. It is, with one exception, the oldest publication of its class in the United States; and from the commencement it has been edited with rare tact, and is to-day the most popular magazine in the country-Harper's Weekly was the first permanently successful illustrated papers issued in the United States. It forms a complete illustrated history of the times; while its pages are made attractive by stories, novels, and sketches by the best writers of the day. Harper's Bazar supplied a desideratum, and it was a brilliant success from the first number. As an illustrated chronicler of the fashions it has no rival. The bound volumes of these publications will form an attractive and useful addition to any library.

-From D. Ashmead we have received several of the publications of D. Appleton & Co. The second bound volume of their cheap edition of the Waverley Novels contains "A Legend of Montrose," "The Talisman," "The Antiquary," "Redgauntlet," and "St. Renan's Well." These novels are printed on good paper, are illustrated by wood and steel engravings, and are handsomely bound in green cloth, at the very low price of \$1.75 per volume.

The "Phantom Ship," by Captain Maryatt, is the tenth volume of Appleton's fiftycent edition of Maryatt's works. In this story the author gives a version of the famous legend of the "Flying Datchman," which to lovers of the marvellons will lose nething of its interest from his manner of

"Five Weeks in a Balloon" is de igned as a satire on English works of African travel, but while the mode of locomotion and the amusing adventures are of course imaginary, the descriptions of the geography, scenery, inhabitants, animals, and features of the countries travelled over are vouched for as being strictly accurate. The work is very entertaining, and many of its hits will be appreciated by those who have perused the tales of genuine travellers in the centre of Africa.

-From Turner Brothers & Co. we have reseived "Planchette; or, The Despair of Science," the third issue of the "Handy Volume" series in course of publication by Roberts Brothers. The mysterious little toy that created so much excitement in social circles some months ago scarcely does more than give a name to this treatise, which is a full and comprehensive account of modern spiritualism, its phenomena, and the various theories regarding it, with a survey of French spiritism. The author evidently has full faith in all that he sets forth, and his tone is rather querulous towards those whose bump of credulity is not as large as his own. The work is prepared with care, however, and it will be read with interest by those who have perplexed themselves over the why and wherefore of the so-called spiritual phenomena. The volume is nicely printed, and very prettily bound in green cloth.

-From the same house we have received "The Study of Languages Brought Back to its True Principles; or, The Art of Thinking in a Foreign Language," by C. Marcel. Published by D. Appleton & Co. This work is not a text-book, but a manual showing the author's method of learning foreign languages. It is generally conceded now that the oldfashioned method of teaching languages by the means of the grammar was a mistake, and that it is better to learn the language first and the science of it afterwards. The method of M. Marcel seems to be well adapted for the easy and thorough comprehension of foreign languages, both as printed and spoken, and we recommend the manual to those who are interested in the subject.

-Messrs. Turner Brothers & Co. also send us "Common Sense," the third issue of the library of select novels, and through them we have received the weekly numbers of Our Boys and Girls, Oliver Optic's magazine, from January 1, 1869. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. This magazine is filled with an attractive variety of stories, sketches, games, and other matters of interest to boys and girls. It is well illustrated, and is published at \$2 50 per year.

-From T. B. Peterson & Bros, we have received "Anne of Geierstein" and "The Fair Maid of Perth," two numbers of their twenty-cent edition of the Waverley Novels.

Literary and Art Items.

-Mr. Henry Huth has just printed in London, privately, fifty copies of a "Narrative of the Journey of an Irish Gentleman through England in the year 1752." It is a lively account of the Cork narrator's trip to London and back, sketching his companions in his coach rides, saying that the English women were handsome but not vivacious, that the stage coaches had no windows to look out of, that the roads were awful, Miss Burchell at Vauxhall inimitable, etc. The manuscript (says the Athenaum) was well worth putting into print. We suspect that it is by the same writer as the Additional Manuscript, 27,951, lately added to the British Museum collection, though this latter, consisting of four rough little note-books, is in the writer's own hand, while Mr. Huth's seems to be in that of a copier. The Museum Manuscript is called The Journal of an Irish Clergyman on his Visits to London in 1758-61-72;" and the first note-book in the packet begins with a visit to and description of Windsor and Eton. In London the writer met Sheridan and other persons of note.

-Mr. T. Duffus Hardy writes from the Rolls House to the London Athenaum, under date of

"During my official inspection, in the year 1865, of the Archives at Venice, made by the direction of the Master of the Rolls, my attention was called by Mr. Rawdon Brown, who is employed in compiling a calendar of Venetian papers relating to the history of this country, to a volume containing the despatches of Michiel, the Venetian ambassador at the Court of Queen Mary. These despatches appeared to me to be of such an important character, so jar as I was then able to judge of them, that I ventured to call the attention of the Master of the Rolls specially to the subject in my report, published by order of the Treasury in the year 1866. I take the liberty of sending you an extract from the report

in question:-Preserved in the Archives of the Frari is a volume containing the despatches of Michiel, the Venetian ambassador at the Court of Queen Mary. Of these, about one-sixth part is written in a cipher that has hitherto baffled the skill of every one who has attempted to explain it. Several of these letters are only partially written in these secret characters; the remaining portion is in the ordinary writing of the period. The context shows that many of the secret passages evidently relate to the release of the Earl of Devocahire from the Tower, and of the Princess E izabeth from Woodstock. I should recommend that copies or photographs of these letters be sent to England, in order that steps may be instantly taken to decipher them, which will, in all probability, threw light on the events of the reign of Queen Mary. That they are matters of great secrecy may be inferred from the fact that the despatches in cipher of the Venetian ambassador from England are of rare occur-

"Lord Romilly adopted my suggestion. Photographs of the despatches, made by Ponti, of Venice, were sent to the Public Record Office, and have been shown by me to various scholars, but without any successful result. I am happy to announce that I received this morning from Mr. Rawdon Brown a letter stating that, among discoveries lately made at Venice, part of the missing correspondence of Giscomo Soranzo, ambassador in London in 1553, has just been discovered. These letters are in cipher throughout, and they contain an inclusure of a contemporary decipher, de-

scribing Scranzo's introduction to Queen In consequence of the aid afforded by this decipher, Signor Luigi Pasini, of the Library of the Frari, has been enabled to com-pile the long-sought-for key of the cipher despatches referred to in my report. Mr. Raw-don Brown has communicated to me a specimen of Pasini's labors, and I hope to be in condition within a few days to submit to such of your readers as feel interested in these matters, Pasini's decipher of these important documents. I think English readers have reason to be grateful to Signor Pasini for his skill, ingenuity, and patience in accomplishing this difficult task.

"Your readers may possibly be aware that a German scholar, of the name of Friedmann, professes to have made a similar discovery, but he has not yet communicated to the publio the results of his labors or the method by which he arrived at them so fully as could be desired. It is due, however, to Mr. Friedmann, to say that an article appeared in Macmillan's Magazine about three months ago, in which he promises to publish his own deciphers of the Michiel despatches. Should it be shown that Mr. Friedmann has succeeded in deciphering the whole of these documents without the help thus happily afforded to Signor Pasini, he will deserve the greatest praise for his perseverance and ingenuity; and it will be curious to compare the results of two such able decipherers, working by separate and independent methods."

-The Paris correspondent of the Daily Telegraph gives the following comical account of a succession of theatrical mishaps: -

"On Friday evening the Emperor and Empress went to the opera to hear the Huguenots. The house was one blaze of diamonds and satins, the boxes being occupied by the fine fleur of Parisian society—the Duchess of Istria, the Marquise de Cadore, M. Schneider, Madame Troplong, etc. In one of the stage boxes sat the young Due de Huescar, son of the Duc d'Albe and nephew of the Empress. strange night it was. The Emperor had expressed a wish to hear Madame Tass and Faure, but, being confined by influenza, they were unable to obey the imperial command: so Mad'lle Julia Hisson had to perform the part of 'Valentine,' and Caron that of 'Nevers,' as Murel, who had taken Faure's place for the last two nights, was suddenly laid up. Caron, in donning the doublet of 'Nevers,' left his own character, that of the 'Seigneur de Thoré,' to be 'performed as it best might by the leader of the chorus.

"The Comedy of Errors was not yet complete. During the representation a draft from the side scenes suddenly set Messrs. Colin and Caron sneezing and coughing. This fresh mishap put the manager, M. Perrin, at his wit's end. What was to be done? First of all, the chief dresser was ordered to prepare another set of costumes, and urgent messages were despatched to different quarters. The tenor Morcre, and Castlemary, the baritone, kindly responded to the appeal, and soon appeared equipped as 'Raoul' and 'Nevers. The former had his trouble for nothing, for Colin managed somehow to come forward and get through his part without sneezing; but Caron, who was quite hors de combat, drove off home as quickly as he could."

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