THE MAGAZINES.

"THE GALAXY."

The December number of the Galaxy presents the following list of articles:-"Lady Judith-A Tale of Two Continents," by Justin McCarthy, chapters IX and X; "Love and Friendship," by L. F.; "My Friend the Feudal Baron," by T. A. Dodge; "A New Phase of Druidism," by J. Jackson

Jarves: "Katrina on the Porch-A Bit of Turner put into Words," by Alice Cary; "Overland," chapters XVIII, XIX, XX, and XXI; "Some of my Experiences—Extracts from the Autobiography of Mr. Thurlow Weed," by Thurlow Weed; "A Happy Woman," by M. R. W.; "International Copyright," by Charles Astor Bristed; "An Afternoon at Wilhelmshohe," by Alice Gray; "Loss," by Mary L. Ritter; "Told by an Octoroon," by Maria Louise Pool; "David, King of Israel," in Two Parts—Part I—by A. H. Guernsey; "Shakespeare as a Plagiarist," by Abby Sage Richardson; "Drift-Wood," by Philip Quilibet; "Current Literature;" "Memoranda," by Mark Twain; "Nebulæ," by the Editor.

We make the following extract from Mrs. Abby Sage McFarland-Richardson's paper on "Shakespeare as a Plagiarist:"-

At the time Shakespeare was manager of a theatre, there was a large stock of unprinted plays, many of them the usual ephemeral ornaments of the stage which were the property of the players or managers—sometimes also of the nobleman whose servants the company styled themselves. These plays were forbidden to be printed, lest they should become common and so pall on popular taste. Even the plays of Shakespeare were thus "stayed" from publication, and it is probable that to his own managerial thrift we owe this delay in preparing his works for the press. before his premature death made such a labor impossible. Of the MSS, which formed such a theatrical stock, Shakespeare became part owner when he purchased his share of the theatre; and it can never be ascertained how many such plays might have been indebted to a few rapid touches from his pen to keep the theatre running for a brief season, before they went into obscurity. Many of these have met the fate of waste paper long ago. Many were burned, perhaps in the fire in which perished so many plays of Heywood, Chapman, and numberless other writers (what treasures may have gone to ashes there, it makes the heart sick to think of). A few, in which here and there the lines glow with the familiar fire which has made them immortal, are still found in editiens of Shakespeare's works, and those of other poets of his age.

Take the old play of The Taming of the Shrew, for instance, of which we have an ancient original, and compare it with Shakespeare's own play. The two are exactly alike in conception, plot, and character. We can hardly tell, taking them scene by scene and line by line, where they differ, yet the difference is immeasurable. It is the miracle of transfusion from glewing life channels into dry and withered veins.

It has been conjectured that this old play

was wholly or partially the work of Marlowe; but I do not find any proof, except that in it occars some lines found in Marlowe's Faust. There is no internal evidence to support the hypothesis. Marlowe is purely a tragic poet. His attempts at comedy are weak and forced, generally coarse, while The Taming of the whrew, although a comedy of broad fun, is witty without grossness. Marlowe's verses, too, are more flowing and graceful than those of the old play. I should think it much more probable that Robert Greene might have written the whole of it. In it may be detected the frequency of foreign allusions, the singular, somewhat cramped style of versification, and the same type of characters which distinguish Greene's plays.

Whether or no this play was first written by some of the less fortunate group of playwrights to which Greene belonged, it is very likely that among those which Shakespeare had rewritten and brought out as his own, there may have been some pieces of his rivals. With what bitterness then would they behold their own bantlings basking in the sunlight of public favor, while they stood unrecognised out in the cold! What to them was the trick of genius by which the line so dead had been made to live? To them it was nothing but a line marred. It is said that Greene was the very first English poet who ever wrote for bread. If, in addition to his other miseries, he was obliged to sell his tragedy or comedy for the few shillings to pay for his dinner, and then see it adapted to the stage and brought out as the latest by Will Shakespeare, how his pickled herring must have choked him, and his Rhenish tasted bitter as gall, even while he tried to laugh it off in the brightest corner of the dingy tavern where his revels are held. Peele may have been a ragged philosopher, indifferent to fame or fortune if he could gull somebody out of a supper or a coat; but Greene and Marlowe suffered from other causes than empty cups and empty pockets.

as 1587. Very likely it had been performed before Shakespeare came up to London. Of all our losses in English literature, I most regret the loss of this old play. We have still the story of Hamlet on which both plays are founded; but to have been able to follow the construction of Hamlet step by step, beginning with the story, tracing it through the older play, and seeing it in its full symmetry in our own, Hamlet, seems to me the richest of lost pleasures.

Malone, I believe, has supposed that Thomas Kyd was the author of this old play of Hamlet. That cannot now be truly known, but certainly Shakespeare shows familiarity with Kyd's plays, especially the Spanish Tragedy, in which Burbage won his earlier laurels. In the last-named play occars the situation similar to that presented in Hamlet, of performing a play before the king, in which "Jeronimo" plots to kill some of the courtiers who take part in the play,

sweeps off as many characters as the last scene in Hamlet. The villain in the Spanish Tragedy, too, always suggests to me some of the smooth villainy of "Iago;" and there are a few lines spoken by Isabella in Kyd's play, which recall Macbeth's speech to the physician, "Canst thou minister to a mind diseased?" Isabella

Eays:-

So that, you say, will purge the eye, And this the head? Ah, but mone of them will purge the heart. And there's no medicine left for my disease.

There are two old plays of King John and King Lier, which must have been written soon after Shakespeare came to the metropy. lis, which he has liberally used in his own plays. It is not impossible that he himself may have had a hand in the King Lier, as it was first written. The ending of this differs from Shakespeare's version, and was of a sort to suit Mr. Thackeray, who avers that he always looks at the end of the novel he intends to read, to make sure it does not turn

out badly. In this old play the lives of "Lear" and "Cordelia" are spared, they are restored to their thrones, and poetical justice

is meted out to all the offenders. The other old play, John a Gaunt, Henslowe mentions as having been the work of three different authors, Haughton, Hathaway, and Day. Shakespeare has taken them both as his models, with the same coolness with which he has appropriated The Taming of the Shrew, and put them through the same wonderful transformation.

-From Mark Twain's "Memoranda" we

cull the following:-MY WATCH-AN INSTRUCTIVE LITTLE TALE. My beautiful new watch had run eighteen months without losing or gaining, and without breaking any part of its machinery or stopping. I had come to believe it infallible in its judgments about the time of day, and to consider its constitution and its anatomy imperishable. But at last, one night, I let it run down. I grieved about it as if it were a recognized messenger and forerunner of calamity. But by-and-by I cheered up, set the watch by guess, and commanded my bodings and superstitions to depart. Next day I stepped into the chief jeweller's to set it by the exact time, and the head of the establishment took it out of my hand and proceeded to set it for me. Then he said, "She is four minutes slow—regula-tor wants pushing up." I tried to stop him —tried to make him understand that the watch kept perfect time. But no; all this human cabbage could see was that the watch was four minutes slow, and the regulator must be pushed up a little; and so, while I danced around him in anguish, and beseeched him to let the watch alone, he calmly and cruelly did the shameful deed. My watch began to gain. It gained faster and faster day by day. Within the week it sickened to a raging fever; and its pulse went up to a hundred and fifty in the shade. At the end of two months it had left all the timepieces of the town far in the rear, and was a fraction over thirteen days ahead of the almanac. It was away into November enjoying the snow, while the October leaves were still turning. It hurried up house-rent, bills payable, and such things, in such s ruinous way that I could not abide it. I took it to the watchmaker to be regulated. He asked me if I had ever had it repaired. I said no, it had never needed any repairing. He looked a look of vicious happiness and eagerly pried the watch open, then put a small dice-box into his eye and peered into its machinery. He said it wanted cleaning and oiling, besides regulating; come in a week. After being cleaned and oiled and regulated, my watch slowed down to that degree that it ticked like a tolling bell. I began to be left by trains, I failed all appointments, I got to missing my dinner; my watch strung out three days grace to four and let me go to protest; I gradually drifted back into yesterday, then day before, then into last week, and by and by the comprehension came upon me that all solitary and alone I was lingering along in week before last, and the world was out of sight. I seemed to detect in myself a sort of sneaking fellowfeeling for the mummy in the museum, and a desire to swap news with him. I went to a watchmaker again. He took the watch all to pieces while I waited, and then said the barrel was "swelled." He said he could reduce it in three days. After this the watch averaged well, but nothing more. For half a day it would go like the very mischief, and keep up such a barking, and wheezing, and whopping, and sneezing, and snorting that I could not hear myself think for the disturbance; and as long as it held out, there was not a watch in the land that stood any chance against it. But the rest of the day it would keep on slowing down and fooling along until all the clocks it had left behind caught up again. So at last, at the end of twenty-four hours,

it would trot up to the judges' stand all right and just on time. It would show a fair and square average, and no man could say it had done more or less than its duty. But a correct average is only a mild virtue in a watch, and I took this instrument to another watchmaker. He said the kingbolt was broken. I said I was glad it was nothing more serious.

To tell the plain truth, I had no idea what the kingbolt was, but I did not choose to appear ignorant to a stran-He repaired the kingbolt, but what the watch gained in one way it lost in another. It would run awhile and then stop awhile, and then run awhile again, and so on, using its own discretion about the intervals. And every time it went off it kicked back like a musket. I padded my breast for a few days, but finally took the watch to another watchmaker. He picked it all to pieces and turned the ruin over and ever under his glass; and then he said there appeared to be something the matter with the hair-trigger. He fixed it, and gave it a fresh start. It did well now, except that always at ten minutes to ten the hands would shut together like a pair of scissors, and from that time forth they would travel

There are one or two mentions of an old play of Hamlet, which was written as early together. The oldest man in the world could not make head or tail of the time of day by such a watch, and so I went again to have the thing repaired. This person said that the crystal had got bent and that the mainspring was not straight. He also remarked that part of the works needed half-soling. He made these things all right, and then my timepiece performed unex ceptionably, save that now and then, after working along quietly for nearly eight hours, everything inside would let go all of a sudden and begin to buzz like a bee, and the hands would straight way begin to spin round and round so fast that their individuality was lost completely, and they simply seemed a delicate spider's web over the face of the watch. She would reel off the next twenty-four hours in six or seven minutes, and then stop with a bang. I went with a heavy heart to one more watchmaker, and looked on while he took her to pieces. Then I prepared to cross-question him rigidly, for this thing was getting serious. The watch had cost two hundred originally, and I seemed to have that he may avenge his son's murder. The piece ends with a general slaughter, which

> While I waited and looked on, I presently recognized in this watchmaker an old acquaintance-a steamboat engineer of other days, and not a good engineer either. He examined all the parts carefully, just as the other watchmakers had done, and then delivered his verdict with the same confidence of manner.

He said:-"She makes too much steam-you want to bang the monkey-wrench on the safetyvalve! I brained him on the spot, and had him

paid out two or three thousand for repairs.

buried at my own expense. My uncle William (now deceased, alas! used to say that a good horse was a good borse until it had run away once, and that a good watch was a good watch until the repairers got a chance at it. And he used to wonder what became of all the unsuccessful tinkers, and gunsmiths, and shoemakers, and

-From Turner & Co. we have received the following magazines:-

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THE HAPPY LAND FOR UNHAPPY MARRIED COUPLES.

The Indianapolis Journal of November 10 The divorce laws of our State, and the manner in which they have been administered by our courts, have brought lasting disgrace upon Indiana. It is useless for us to say that we are imposed upon by unscrupulous parties from other States. It is a notorious fact that our laws invite people of all nations to come to Indiana and rid themselves of irksome marital bonds. From Russia, France, England, Germany, the Canadas, and from every State in the Union, discontented husbands and wives have flocked to Indiana to procure divorces. As the law stood for some years, an applicant for divorce could file a petition the day he came to the State, and in few weeks have a decree releasing him from his marriage vows. Divorce seekers hunted in couples. It frequently happened that a lady would arrive in Indianapolis with a male travelling companion, file her petition for divorce from an absent husband the same day, procure a decree dissolving the marriage contract, based upon the evidence of the gentleman friend, and marry her witness before leaving town-all of which was accomplished within a period of five or six weeks. A celebrated actress filed a petition asking a divorce from her husband on the ground of alleged cruelty. The charge was sustained by proof that, while coming from San Francisco to New York on an ocean steamer, the lady found her affinity in a gay and festive young gentleman who was in the habit of quoting Byron to her on deck while her husband was in his lonely state-room. A sharp reprimand from her cruel husband brought tears to the little woman's eyes, and for this an Indiana Judge gave her a decree hich released her from the insupportable tyranny of her liege lord. Another case: -A lady travelling to Indiana in company with her second choice in pursuit of divorce and a second marriage, had testified her faith in the liberality of our laws and in the honor of her future husband in a very unequivocal manner. The judge in whose court the case was pending had a fit of judicial stubbornness, and under the depressing influences of an indigestible dinner had denied the application. The poor woman was in a dilemma, and the plan of escape by "swallowing both horns" had not yet been promulgated by the Sentinel. She appealed to her attorney, who informed her that justice and divorces could be dispensed by the judicial fiat alone. She left her attorney in tears. The next morning his Honor came upon the bench and, before the reading of the minutes, said he had disposed of an important case the evening previous in a hasty manner, and that, after considering the case more fully, he was satisfied that the petitioner was en-titled to a divorce. It was decreed ac-cordingly. The lady and her witness were married in haste and the happy pair left the city with an exalted opinion of Iudiana justice. Nearly every court house in Indiana has been the scene of such farces. Our Legislature attempted to modify these evils by an enactment requiring applicants for divorces to be bona fide residents of the State one year before petitioning for divorce. This has lessened, though it has not fully met, the evil. Our laws allow divorces for too many and too slight causes. The list of specified causes are: -1. Adultery; 2. Impotency; Abandonment; 4. Cruelty; 5. Drunkenness; 6. Failure of husband to make reasonable provision for his family; 7. The conviction of either party after marriage of an infamous crime; 8. Any other cause for which the court shall deem it proper that a divorce should be granted. This last, we take it, is "coming it strong" for even this time of free love, free religion, and general social disenthrelment. Some legislation is needed to make our State less attractive to divorce hunters. Some one has suggested an amendment to our laws which would go far toward bringing about the desired change. It is this:-Let the law provide that no Indiana Court shall decree a divorce for any cause that has originated beyond the limits of our own State. We are aware that such an enactment would impose hardships in some cases, but these would be greatly overbalanced by the good results which would

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