

THE DECEMBER MAGAZINES.

The contents of the December number of Old and New are as follows:—"Old and New," "Wanted, a Statesman," by J. F. Clarke; "Athens and Her Enemies," by William Everett; "Tarryat Home Travels," "The Holy Gospels," by C. A. St. Berne; "The Improvisator and the Healer," by F. W. Loring; "The Last Week," A. A. Wood-bull; "Jefferson's Rip Van Winkle," "Sparrows," by Mrs. A. T. D. Whitney; "Ah Ying," by Julius A. Palmer, Jr.; "Pink and White Tyranny," chaps. xi, xii, by Mrs. H. B. Stowe; "December," by William Morris; "Natural and Revealed Religion," by H. W. Bellows; "Vintage," by H. H.; "The Dying Gladiator," by Theodore Lyman; "Forms," by Mrs. Emily Ellsworth Ford; "The Examiner," and "Record of Progress."

From "Wanted, a Statesman," by J. F. Clarke, we take the following:—"Our difficulty, in this country, is that most persons begin public life as politicians, and so acquire a habit of looking only to party success, which is fatal to all breadth of view. Yet we had men who studied principles, and rose above party; such were Jefferson and Hamilton, however much opposed they were in their time; such men were Jay and John Adams, and others whom I need not name. Nor do I think that it can be denied that Mr. Webster was a statesman. Perhaps he became too much of a politician in his latter days; but, during most of his career, he kept his eye fixed upon principles. Charles Sumner is also a statesman. He satisfies all the tests we have laid down; he has always wished to steer, and has never been willing to drift; he has always thought less of the next election than of the future of the nation, and has always seen farther into the future than his contemporaries. That politicians have disliked him, while the people have sustained him, is another evidence of the same fact, and a most encouraging sign that statesmanship is valued by the mass of the people. The people can understand ideas and principles better than measures. This, indeed, gives a temporary power to the demagogue; but it also helps the true statesman, who fixed his eye on the everlasting stars, while steering the ship of state upon the sea of human history and temporal circumstance. The great mass of the nation are willing to tolerate transient errors and mistakes in those who evidently believe in principles. As long as the Democratic party seemed true to its ideas of equal justice for all men, the nation sustained it; but when, to gain political advantage, it allied itself to slaveholders and slaveholding, it lost its hold on the national mind.

So the Republican party, which has saved the Union and abolished slavery, has secured a long lease of power by that splendid record; but it will lose its hold at last on the public heart if it allows itself to be corrupted by venal politicians, and permits the greed of office to supplant faith in principles. As long as it is led by statesmen it is safe. When it is governed by politicians, no matter how adroit and able, its power will be gone.

The object of this paper is to call attention to the fact, that in this country it is not enough to have great politicians; we also need, and are always needing, great statesmen. When this want is widely seen and felt, and public opinion recognizes it and demands men of that quality, the demand will produce the supply. As long as the people are satisfied with mere politicians, they will have them. When they call for something better, that better something will arrive.

From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received the December number of The Sunday Magazine, Good Words, and Good Words for the Young. These three magazines, more than any we are acquainted with, maintain their high standard of excellence from month to month, and combine, in as perfect a manner as is possible, sound instruction with excellent entertainment. Some of the best English writers of the day contribute regularly to their pages, and they are illustrated by the designs of eminent artists, so that they are doubly attractive. The numbers before us, besides the continued stories, contain many short papers and poems of much interest that will be appreciated by both old and young readers.

The December number of Our Schoolday Visitor concludes the fourteenth volume with an excellent series of stories, sketches, and poems, and a number of clever designs by Messrs. Schell, Bensell, and other Philadelphia artists. This magazine is well printed upon good paper, and it is undoubtedly one of the cheapest and best of the periodicals for young people published.

The Philadelphia Photographer for December gives us its "specimen," a "composition photograph" by Notman, of Montreal, representing the skating carnival given last winter in honor of Prince Arthur. This picture has unusual artistic merits, and is one of the best of its class we have seen. The magazine contains a great number of practical and artistic hints that will be appreciated by photographers and all who are interested in the art of photography.

The December number of The Penn Monthly contains a number of well-written prose and poetical contributions.

The Coach Makers' International Journal for December presents a series of articles that deserve the attention of the coach-making fraternity.

BISMARCK'S OPINION OF THE JEWS.—"I am no enemy of the Jews," he said, "and if you are my enemies I forgive them. Under some circumstances I even like them. I willingly accord them every right, only not that of an important official power in a Christian State. For me, the words 'by the grace of God' are no mere empty sound; and I call that a Christian State which makes the end and aim of its teachings the realization of the truths of Christianity. Many speakers have again in this, as in other questions, called attention to the example which France and England set us. The question is one of less importance there, since the Jewish community is much smaller than with us. But I would call the attention of those gentlemen who are so fond of seeking their ideal *outre-Rhin* and *outre-mer* to one distinguishing trait in the character of the Frenchman and the Englishman. That is, to the proud feeling of national honor, which does not so easily fall down in admiration of foreign institutions, as unfortunately is the case with us. If I should see a Jew a representative of the King's most sacred majesty, I should feel deeply humiliated."—Belgravia.

A merchant in Memphis has received an order for 14000 sterling worth of cotton from a manufacturer in Germany.

THE IRISH PEASANT AND HIS CABIN.

The words "holding," with as much land as he and his family can cultivate, is the Irishman's ambition. He instinctively clings to it even at the rack-rent which absorbs his savings, and in spite of the frequent notice to quit by which his plans for improvement are snubbed. Loud lamentations on sanitary and other grounds are made over these primitive habitations, which too often have but one room, yet the elements of national strength are perhaps better developed in Paddy's cabin than in Sir Sydney Waterlow's London "blocks." The "small farmer's" hut has been a citadel which has been impregnable to every power but the growlar, and from that, too, often defended to the extreme of bloodshed. However little "civilized" in its aspect, it represents a main cause of Irish elasticity under the many woes that have come on the nation, for it is home in the old sense, and in its family life is healthy. We have yet to discover the system that will equal that prevailing order which the family in developing the good and controlling the folly of mankind. We can excuse much that is unpleasant to the eye, and even to the nose, when we find the father dressed in homespun frieze and half-a-dozen children learning to "mind" the pig and the poultry under the eyes of their parents. Shoesless, and fresh from dirt-pies, their training somehow produces a notoriously intelligent youth. We think them miserable, yet in all Ireland there could not be a Gin's Baby. It is curious how little Irish peasants are ashamed of their poverty. They understand that they are not to blame for the precarious tenure which checks the natural improvement of the home they would fain love. Faith and imagination, no less than a fine common sense, support them in the belief that respectability is not entirely dependent on well-lacquered boots, slated roofs, and heavy feeding. As it appears likely that the nation will remain agricultural, Papist, and poor, we may as well recognize the good that is in its customs, and encourage them. The union of complaint, the uniformity of Irish life, testify that Paddy, after centuries of probation, has arrived at certain social conclusions which, if not exactly ours, have a distinct value of their own. He will not accept our advanced ideas, and he persists in his faith, hopes, and charities which, however obsolete, have done good work in their time. They have at least kept him patient under trials that are hardly yet over. To discover good under the roof of a cabin in Fenia certainly requires an effort; nor do we find gratification to any but the moral sense as we drive through her ruinous scenery. No pomps and vanities of culture flatter our taste, and if there is little Philistinism, there is less sweetness and light. In the most fertile districts it is evident that land is not, as in England, a luxury for the rich, but a necessity struggled for by the poor. It is depressing to spend many days in a land of "remains, and lean the lesson, which the Irish have perhaps laid to heart, no more, that all is vanity. Each invading race has left its crop of ruins, but the hearthfire still glows in the cabins undestroyed, and is pleasant to contemplate than prehistoric crannogues, or raths, or even round towers and Norman keeps.—Saturday Review.

HOW DID THEY GET THERE? Perilous Position of Two Gunaways—Vain Attempts at Rescue. Two men have been for about six weeks on a desolate and inaccessible island, called the Bird Rocks, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and a Government steamer has gone to make an attempt to rescue them. The Quebec Chronicle says:—"The rocks are over seventy feet high, and to reach the summit the visitor must climb two perpendicular ladders, over thirty feet each—an operation attended with considerable risk and trouble. At the base of the island, large, sharply cut boulders of black stone are scattered at irregular distances, against which and the rock itself the waves, when the sea is running high, lash with tremendous violence and force. In launching a boat from the rocks a calm day must be selected, and even then the greatest caution must be observed, owing to the great unswell which is almost as dangerous as the high running sea. One of the Government schooners in the fishery protection service made several attempts last week to reach the unfortunate occupants of this Robinson Crusoe island, but failed, and, in addition, the commander—to save his vessel—ordered his crew to throw all the provisions overboard, with which it was intended to replenish the exhausted stock on the island. The steamer Lady Head also made an attempt but was not successful in reaching the charmed spot. It is decided now that a final effort will be made to reach the rock, and for that purpose a first-class outfit of boats, gear, and other required appliances have been provided; and in the event of the attempt proving a failure, it is decided to pull the men away from it through water, by means of ropes tied around their bodies. Three of the boats of the Lady Head were smashed to pieces, and the occupants with the greatest trouble escaped with their lives. As a last attempt, Mr. Robertson will throw a small line from the ship by means of a rocket.

Officiousness in Sickness. Officious people can never leave things alone. No one can possess his soul in peace or go his own way unhindered of them. They stand at the cross-roads of all men's lives, pointing out to them the path they ought to take, and, whether in religious faith or in house-furnishing, the choice of a wife or the pattern of a boot, have their word to say, whatever may be the pie that is making. Illness is one of their strong points, and if they hear that you are indisposed, whether slightly or gravely, they rush off to proffer advice which you do not want and will not accept, and which probably would turn out to a mistake if you did accept. Your disquietant is not equal to theirs, and they have brought you the name and address of the chemist where you can get theirs. Your nurse does not know her business; let them send for one of their own choosing to-night. Your medical man says you are suffering from a certain form of illness. Well, of course he ought to know; but to the officious it seems very much like something else; or if they do not go quite so far, they inquire, with the air of knowing all about it, whether he had not ordered such and such things to be done; and if you say no, they urge you to have their own medical man without delay, as they are so sure yours is making a mistake. And so on till they have worried you into a fever, when they take leave and bewail your obstinacy to the next comer. Any calamity is a godsend to them, for they have their innuendos when their neighbors are so prostrate by distress that they can baffle about them at their will. They are self-naturalized Samaritans, physicians without diplomas, ministers indepen-

dent of orders or the apostolic succession; and the unlucky ones whom it is their pleasure to assist must either keep them off with a strong arm, which may lead to a quarrel, or yield themselves helplessly into their active and officious hands.

FINANCIAL.

THE STRONGEST AND BEST SECURED, AS WELL AS MOST PROFITABLE INVESTMENT NOW OFFERED IN THE MARKET. **7 PER CENT. GOLD** **First Mortgage Bonds,** Coupon or Registered, and free of U. S. Tax, PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYABLE IN GOLD, ISSUED BY THE **Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Minnesota R. R. Co.**

The small remaining balance of the loan for sale **At 90 and Accrued Interest in Currency.** Interest payable May and November. J. EDGAR THOMSON, CHARLES L. FROST, Trustees.

The bonds are issued at \$200 per mile against the portion only of the line fully completed and equipped. The greater part of the road is already in operation, and the present earnings are largely in excess of the operating expenses and interest on the bonds. The balance of the work necessary to establish through connections, thereby shortening the distance between St. Paul and Chicago 45 miles, and 30 miles to St. Louis, is rapidly progressing, in time for the movement of the coming grain crops, which, it is estimated, will double the present income of the road. The established character of this road, running as it does through the heart of the most thickly-settled and richest portion of the great State of Iowa, together with its present advanced condition and large earnings, warrant us in unhesitatingly recommending these bonds to investors as, in every respect, an unobscured security. A small quantity of the issue only remains unsold, and when the enterprise is completed, which will be this fall, an immediate advance over subscription price may be looked for. The bonds have fifty years to run, are convertible at the option of the holder into the stock of the Company at par, and the payment of the principal is provided for by a sinking fund. The convertibility privilege attached to these bonds cannot fail to cause them, at an early day, to command a market price considerably above par. U. S. Five-twenties at present prices return only 4 1/2 per cent. currency interest, while these bonds pay 7 per cent, and we regard them to be as safe and fully equal as a security to any railroad bond issued; and until they are placed upon the New York Stock Exchange, the rules of which require the road to be completed, we obligate ourselves to rebuy at any time any of these bonds sold by us after this date at the same price as realized by us on their sale. All marketable securities taken in payment free of commission and express charges.

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For the convenience of investors these Bonds issued in denominations of **\$1000s., \$500s., and 100s.** The money is required for the purchase of additional Rolling Stock and the full equipment of the Road.

The road is now finished, and doing a business largely in excess of the anticipations of its officers.

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