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# APPROACH OF CHRISTMAS BRINGS OUT HOST OF SEASONAL GIFT

## "LITTLE PEPPER BOOK" ADDED TO LONG LIST

This Time It Is "Our Davie Pepper"-Stories for the Girls

Hurrah! There is another Little Pepper book fresh from the press. This one is 'Our Davie Pepper' (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company, Boston), and it makes the little fellow the hero. But Phromsie and Polly and Joel and Ben and the rest of the characters with whom the more than 1,000,000 families which have bought the preceding volumes in the series are familiar move through the pages in their accustomed manager. It would be unfair to the children to tell them what happens.

The third volume of the Friendly Terrace series. "Peggy Raymond's School Days" (The Page Company, Boston), will be wel-comed by girl readers of Harriet Lummis Smith's two earlier stories. Like the other Peggy books the story is narrated with charm and the interest is unflagging to the

"The Independence of Nan," Nina Rhoader's latest volume (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company, Boston), is a story for girls between twelve and sixteen years old. The heroine is a girl of fifteen who goes from her father's home in Ohlo to that of an uncle in a Boston suburb. Nan, carefully trained by her grandfather, a stern old Judge, would have been an added burden to the unfortunate household which she entered had it not been for her vigor and intered had it not been for her vigor and intered had it not been for her vigor and in-dependence, which enabled her to meet all trials successfully and bring happiness to

From the Scandinavian languages Emilie Poulsson and Laura Poulsson have trans-lated a series of delightful stories of magic inted a series of delightful stories of magic and adventure, which is now issued under the fitle "Top-of-the-World Stories" (Loth-rop, Lee & Shepard Company, Boston). The tales will be prized by children old enough to delight in stories of Lapps and reindeer, knights and wolves and trolls, and of a boy who could be merry and thous, and of a boy who could be merry and hungry at the same time. Most of the stories were written by Z. Topelius, the Finnish author, who wrote in Swedish about fifty years ago.

In the latest story by Ruth Sawyer there s an abundance of fairles. During the ab-ence of his parents little David is taken to live in the mountains of his Irish nurse. To help the youngster forget his loneliness she tells him stories of fairles and Christmas. Among his new neighbors there is a German, a negro and a gypsy, and they tell him many beautiful stories of Christmas, colored by their racial imaginations. This determines David to find the way to Christmas, and when he succeeds in finding it he brings all his new-found friends with him. "This Way to Christmas" (Harper & Bros., New York) is described as "a Christmas book for any age—provided that you have kept the heart of a child"

THE CHRISTMAS MAGAZINES

The Christmas December Scribner contains nine abort stories, among them a beautiful little story of old age, "Grandfather," by the late James Whitcomb Riley. The colored cover, with its symbolical tree brilliant with lights is a cheerful reminder of the season, and the num-ber is profusely illustrated. It opens with Henry Van Dyke's stirring and impressive poem, "War Music," an additional strophe to his widely read and quoted ode called "Music." The last stanza, in the measure of, the "Star Spangled Banner," voices the day of freedom for all "the lands of the

brave."

Ridgley Torrence's "Eye-Witness" is a poem of high spiritual quality, the exporession of the very note and significance of the Christmas season. There are eight pages of pictures by W. T. Benda, linustrating "The Dance" of various nations, with descriptive text by the artist, They are charming in their decorative arrangement and in the suggestion of the rhythmals motion of the figures.

The eight other short stories of the num-er include Ellen Glasgow's "The Shadowy Third," a story of mystery, of the border-land between the real and the unreal, the world of fact and the world of the imagination, of strange psychological experiences.

Ambulance No. 10

Personal Letters from the Front by LESLIE BISWELL, of the Visid evice of the American Ambulance. The reader follows to the end these mrascous adventures of mercy, committees, absorbed and constantly aved."—Owen Wister. H. H. 55 net.

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One of Cesare's masterly cartoons from "One Hundred Cartoons'

## AMERICAN TASTE CENSURED BY CRITICS

Best of American Satire," Says Jesse Lynch Williams, "Found in Vulgar Newspapers"

NEW YORK, Dec. 2. - The American sublic's literary taste and some of the writers who have been indorsed by the general public were castigated by authors and critics who spoke at a recent session of the National Institute of Arts and Letters at the Ritz-Carlton. William Brownell, the critic, spoke on "standards" and was caustic about American taste.

"Every one is clever nowadays," he said.

ot read his paper on "American solemnity because of the lateness of the hour, in it

"The best of our American safire—you may imagine how I besitate to admit this belief here and now—is to be found in the columns of our 'vulgar newspapers' adjacent to articles dealing with the common history of the day, mingling with advertisements of breakfast food."

Edwin Howland Blashfield, president of the institute, presided and presented the institute's medal to John Burroughs.

WOMAN WRITER ENGAGED

Simultaneously with the a of the second printing of her book, "War Letters of an American Woman," the news comes to us from Paris of the engagement of the author, Miss Marie Van Vorst, to Signora Gaetano Caglati, of Rome. Among the most delightful chapters in her book "Every one is clever nowadays," he said.
"We are perhaps suffering from a surfet of cleverness, since being merely clever it is impossible to be clever enough."

Jesse Lynch Williams submitted but did made en route.

## New Edition Ready December Seventh

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## SOME GOSSIP ABOUT MAKERS OF BOOKS

O. Henry's Drug Store Experience Made Him as a Cartoonist

O Henry's five years in his nocie's drug store meant much to him as a carbonist. His feeling for the ludicious, for the odd, for the distinctive in speech, tone, appearance, conduct or character responded instantly to the appeal made by the drug store constituency. This store was the rendezvous of all clauses, though the rear room was reserved for the more elect. The two rooms constituted in fact, the rocial, political and anecdo:al clearing house of the town.

The parentage of the grocery stores and dry goods stores was controlled in part by denominational lines, but everybody patronized the drug store. It was also a sort of physical confessional. The man who would expend only a few words in purchasing a ham or a hat would talk half an hour of his aches and ills, or those of his family, before buying twenty-five cents' worth of pills or a tencent bottle of himment.

When the home or the hat was paid for and talon away there was usually an end of it. Not so with the pills or the limment. The rustient usually came back to continue his personal or family history and to add a elect of the character and conduct of the sills or limment. All this was grist to O lienry's mill.—The World's Work.

Louis Haemaekern, cratwhile Dutch land-

Louis Rhemackers, cratwhile Dutch land-scape painter, and now the most important arteonist of the Great War, will stand out for all time as one of the supreme igures which the present war has called into being. His drawings have been called the greatest sermon for universal peace, and a collection of them has been printed in book form by Doubleday, Page & Co.

Mr. Raemaekers who is short, fair and of a ruddy countenance, looks at least ten yours younger than his age. He took up pointing and drawing when quite young and acquired his art in Holland and Brus-

Until unpleasant situations arose in his country over his cartoons—situations arose in his own country over his cartoons—situations created by (terman spies, who accused him of endangering his country's neutrality—he had lived always in the land of his birth. After being acquitted of the charges made against him. Raemackers went to London where he now lives and continued his cartoon-making. on-makime.

It is said that his ideas come to him naturally and without effort. Suggestions do not asolat him; they hinder him when he endeavors to not upon them. Crities de-clare him an artist to his finger tips, and s. Teuton paper (Germany ha\(\mathbf{q}\)ng set a price upon his head) has declared that Rae-mackers' cartoons are worth at least two krmy corps to the Allies.

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YES, IT'S GIBSON Part of the interesting display in "Gibson New Cartoons" (Scrib-

#### SIENKIEWICZ'S FAME

His Enduring Fame Rests on Other Works Than "Quo Vadia"

Although Henryk Slenklewicz, who recently died in Switzerland at the age of seventy, is best known as the suther of "Quo Vadis?" his enduring literary reputation rests on his Pollsh historical novels, "With Fire and Sword," "The Deluge" and "Fan Michael," known as the Zagloba romances because of the name of the central character. These stories of old Poland and Russia, translated by the late Jeremiah Curtin and published by Little, Brows a Co., were highly praised by the critics, whe discovered in Slenkiewicz a new novelist of the caliber of Dumas; but it was not until "Que Vadis?" appeared in 1896 that Slenkiewicz became popular with the general reaging public. More than 1,000,000 copies of "Quo Vadis?" were sold. His last published book was "in Dezert and Wilderness," containing the story of the adventures in Africa book was "in Desert and Wilderness," con-taining the story of the adventures in Africa of two kidnaped children. Mr. Sienkiewicz was at work on a new novel at his home in Warsaw. Russia, when the war broke out, but soon went to Switzerland to devote htm-self entirely to the work of Pollah relief.

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Books will solve half your Christmas problems. Nothing is better suited for gifts than books. In addition to the items of convenience in sending and ease of purchase, books carry an implied gracious compliment from the giver to the receiver. Below is a selected list of new Century books to suit every taste. Tear out this list, put an X opposite the books you want, and get it to your bookseller.



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