Inter to inaugurate the gay season, by issuing cards for receptions every Friday night. Other members of the Cabinet are expected to hold weekly receptions also, but on other than Friday. The President's public reception will be given on New Year's Day, and weekly after that day until the commencement of the Lenten season. Vice President Colfax and Speaker Blaine will both entertain in a very handsome manner during the season. SCOTT.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Old Testament Shadows of New Testament Truths. By Lyman Abbott.—The earnest and suggestive author whose essays on Christianity (Jesus of Nazareth: His Life and Teachings) we had occasion to praise last winter, confines his attention in this volume to the stories of the Old Testament, and by treating them under their typical aspect contrives to keep up a constant reference between their lessons and the theory of the later gospel. Each chapter, whether treating of the destruction of Sodom, or of Issacnde Rebecca, or Jephthah's Daughter, or Absalom, or Esther, describes some central event of antique story by the light of Christian opinion, and with the aids of collateral history or modern research. The book is printed on tinted paper, quarty, and has an ornamental appearance. There are numerous full-page illustrations, many being reductions from Dore's Bible; for instance, the "Jephthah's Daughter Bewailing her Virginity" is a reduction of the large painting on exhibition at the Somerville Gallery, New York, among the Dore pictures. Delaroche's well-known "Infant Moses," with designs by other artists, is included.—Harper & Brothers publish this handsome keepsake volume.

Loring, of Boston, who has proved his taste by selecting for publication some of the most captivating stories of the day, issues simultaneously with the English edition a new tale by the author of "Faith Gartney's Girlhood," Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney. It has the rather cumbrous title of "Hitherto: a Story of Yesterdays." Mrs. Whitney has the rare power of infusing the moral of Christian truth into the homelest, most realistic and most trivial incidents of everyday life. The reader is kept amused with her familiar fidelity to humble experience, while imbibing the best lessons of vital, thinking Christianity. The hero of the present novel is a soul manly, tender and generous, "Richard Hathaway," corresponding to him is the feminine ideal, expressed in "Hope Devine," the true, bright, spiritual creature who carries strength and sympathy wherever she goes; while on a lower grade, but more lifelike and fascinating still, we find the impulsive, "choatic," struggling nature of "Anstiss." The imaginary career of these beings justifies the dignity of life, and clears away some of the moral clouds that perplex existence.

Loring is also the American publisher of "David Elginbrod,"—a grand *granitic* formation of Scotch worth and dignity, by that true poet the author of "Annals of a Quiet Neighborhood." Mr McDonald has succeeded in delineating a hardy Scotch peasant with much of the skill and love displayed by Scott. A contrasting character is the young Englishman who, after crossing David's path and becoming one of his family, travels South and sees his pure North British friend no more. With his after-experience is interwoven, along with the teaching, influential and seminal recollection of the noble peasant, a vein of biology and mystery, very Scotch and *renkonnable* in character, which gives a peculiar, half uncanny power to these passages of the book.

"Luck and Pluck," a boys' story which had success in *Robin's Hyperion* during the year just expiring, is collected by its talented author, Horatio Alger, Jr., into a volume, and issued by Loring as the first of a series of six volumes, designed to illustrate the theme of which the spirit is superior to the favors of fortune. The hero of the present tale, John Oakley, passes through an adventurous career with a patient fortitude, and a determination to conquer, very valuable as an example.

"The Soprano" is the title of a musical story published in brochure by Loring. The author, whose true name is Barnard, unsexes himself on the title-page and adopts the nom of "Jane Kingsford." Enthusiasts in music will find a real charm in this melodiously; and, if they happen to know many Bostonians, can hardly fail to recognize several of the characters, which are speaking likenesses of live citizens of the Hub.

"Lamps, Pitchers and Trumpets." Second series. By Edwin Paxton Hood. This series consists of five lectures: On the Pulpit of our Age and Time; on Arrangements of Texts by Division; on Written and Extemporary Sermons; on Effective Preaching and the Foundation of Legitimate Success, and on the Mental Tools and Apparatus needful for the Pulpit. The above precepts are further exemplified in a series of "Pulpit Monographs," wherein the author analyzes with considerable acuteness and generally with good taste, the distinguishing merits of famous preachers, and it will sufficiently indicate the eathelicity of his spirit to say that the names he has chosen for commendation are these of Robertson, Pusey, Manning, Newman, Spurgeon, Lacordaire, and Thomas Binney. Out of this list of names the author chooses one for his own guiding star. Spurgeon's practical and wide-awake style is the style admired by Mr. Hood, and the lectures and sketches are consequently readable and entertaining. It is rare to find religious sketches so enjoyably detailed. The pictures of Lacordaire and of Spurgeon are most vivacious kit-cats, full of likeness and animation. Published by M. W. Dodd, and for sale by Porter & Coates and Lippincott & Co.

The same publisher issues the American edition of "The Spanish Barber," a work just written by the author of "Mary Powell" and "The Household of Sir Thomas More" now known to be Miss Anne Manning. This work, in the opinion of a not very respectful English critic, is spoiled by its goodness, or goody-goodness:

"Miss Manning's story (says the *Athenæum* book review, she evidently comes to his task with a special indignation) is apparently written for the purpose of what is termed in the Exeter Hall vernacular, 'doing good.' In this certain by figure is set for the converted sinner, who goes on converting other sinners in a style of simple addition quite delightful to contemplate. Given a Spanish Barber, locality Gibraltar, who shaves a Spanish