

Literary Notes.

Not the least interesting feature of Lieutenant Hobson's account of the sinking of the Merrimac in the January Century will be its unconscious revelation of the author's personality. A distinguished naval officer recently remarked that Hobson was almost the only man he had ever known, no matter how dauntless, who did not feel any unusual sensation on going into battle. This confidence does not seem to have deserted him for a moment. Once, when the ship was sinking, he thought that the firmness of his tongue brought about right, but on feeling his pulse, he was surprised to find it normal. The roar of heavy guns, the rapid fire of automatic artillery, the crack of rifles, the explosion of mines and torpedoes, the rending of the metal sides of the collier and her final submergence were insufficient to cloud his recollection of the minutest details of the maneuver.

Captain Sturdee ought to have a watch made especially to resist the action of salt water. The one he now carries has been submerged three times. It went down in Japanese waters many years ago. At Bahia Honda, in 1878, when a Spanish pirate grounded his vessel, the British had another salt-water bath, the vessel being flooded to prevent her pounding by pieces on the rocks. At Havana it went down with the Maine, but was recovered by a diver. When the war broke out and Captain Sturdee took command of the Essex, he wisely left this watch at home, thinking it ill-advised to risk it again in Cuban waters. These facts will be recounted in the last of the captain's papers on the explosion of the Maine, in the January Century. Although it covers only the events following the explosion, this is likely to prove no less readable than the two articles that preceded it.

As an evidence of the vitality of the Living Age, it may be noted that on Jan. 1 next, when it will begin its 54th year, it will appear its only real competitor, the Electric Magazine, which will be a bi-weekly, and as the monthly edition of the Living Age, issued weekly and giving about three and a half thousand large pages of reading matter a year, the Living Age is enabled to present, with a freshness and satisfactory completeness unattainable by any other publication, the ablest essays and reviews, the choicest serials and short stories, the most interesting sketches of travel and discovery, the best poetry, and the most valuable biographical, historical, scientific and political information, from the only body of British and continental periodical literature, and from the pens of the foremost writers.

Nothing that Mrs. Barton Harrison has written in recent years has so much to recommend it to lovers of good fiction as her latest novel to be published serially in the Woman's Home Companion, beginning with the January number. It is entitled "The Carolinian Emerald" and is a romance of New York society.

When Stephen Crane wrote "The Red Badge of Courage" he had never been in a field of battle and knew nothing of military affairs. His work evinced great admiration, but later on he went to Cuba and was in the front at San Juan Hill, and in the December Century we have another story, this time from a real field of battle, entitled "The Wolf of Thin Red Throat." It will be interesting to those who are familiar with his previous work to compare the two—the imaginary and the real. Apropos of the name Colonel-

pan it is rather curious to note that the December issue of that magazine contains one article having to do with Spain, another with India, another with Japan, another with Cuba, another with Jamaica, another with England, another with Rome and still another with France.

The complete story of the sinking of the Merrimac and the capture and imprisonment of her crew at Santiago, will be graphically told in an article by Osborn Deignan, U. S. Navy, late Lieutenant of the Merrimac, in the January Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly. The story will be fully and richly illustrated with authentic portraits of Trobson and the crew, besides many drawings specially prepared under Mr. Deignan's personal supervision. Other features promised for the January Frank Leslie's are: Bret Harte's new story, "Jack Hamilton's Mediation," Joaquin's Miller's "In a Klondike Cabin" and Thomas H. Dawley's "Cambridge in the Gonzales."

The Christmas number of Town Topics appears like a veritable thing of beauty in an illuminated cover of artistic design. Its contents are also embellished with quaint illustrations which enhance the attractions of the publication from a typographical standpoint. In addition to the regular portion of light and interesting material the Christmas Town Topics contains exhaustive reviews of the events of the past year in society, politics, art, music and drama, together with fascinating sketches and poems. Town Topics has an individuality that has never been successfully imitated, and the Christmas issue is characteristically unique and entertaining.

Colonel Roosevelt's account of "The Rough Riders," which begins in the January Scribner's, although prepared in the heat of the campaign for the governorship, shows no signs of hurry or fatigue. It is filled with humorous characterizations of the strange assortment of company of all types of Americans that went into the making of that unique regiment. The clear-cut idea which Colonel Roosevelt had in mind in getting up the regiment is revealed in this article and accounts in great measure for the successes achieved.

The Christmas issue of Collier's Weekly is the first of the American weeklies to enter the field occupied by the famous Christmas numbers of London and Paris. It is beautifully and profusely illustrated, both in color and in black and white, by well-known artists, and is filled with Christmas stories, poems and essays by popular writers.

Frederick Spencer has recently completed an important revision of his Biology, and the first volume of the new edition, which is much enlarged, will be published immediately by D. Appleton and company.

SPIES AND THEIR WORK.

Do Their Duty and Some Not Half-Bad Fellows.

From the Buenos Ayres Herald.

Spy is an ugly word, but, according to Lieutenant Colonel W. N. Klendowzky, of the Russian Imperial general staff, the men and women who engage in the business of spying are not "half bad," business? Yes, Klendowzky's book on spies, about to be issued in France, bluntly states that military and political authorities the world over look

upon espionage as a recognized profession. "Without espionage their work would be sadly lacking in direct purpose," says the author, and continues: "Spies, or, as they are politely designated, secret agents, are no less a necessity in times of peace than in war. If it were not for spies one country would know very little about the mobilization of another, about onward movements to the frontiers, about the spirit of foreign troops and the intentions of the commanding generals."

"The employment of spies is usually entrusted to a high officer of long and honorable standing. Above all, he must try to find out whether the persons offering their services are in financial straits or want to become spies to satisfy envy, hatred or political ambition. The first are liable to sell themselves to the highest bidder among the powers; those in the other category are always liable to alter their minds sooner or later, and when they do so it is usually to the detriment of the government which engaged them."

"A spy, to be useful, must be a good actor, must be courageous, a linguist, well versed in technical science, always on the alert, true to his master. Women make excellent spies; honest women as well as bad women. With many female spies the minister of war deals directly, sending them out on precarious business. Others are spies without knowing it. We employ some good-looking chaps to make love to them and ascertain their husbands' official secrets. A foreign military person in active service makes an ideal spy. If I were minister of war I would not hesitate to pay a million of roubles to a foreign general staff officer who consented to betray his country."

"Above all, pay your spies well. Frederick the Great used to say a fellow who risks his head for your sake ought to be well treated. In the late war with Germany the French chose to disregard this axiom, with disastrous results. It was shown at Bazaine's trial that this marshal paid dispatch carriers, who had passed through the enemy's lines, from four to twenty francs for their services. That was bad business."

Two Pointed Questions Answered.

What is the use of making a better article than your competitor if you can not get a better price for it?—Ans.—As there is no difference in the price the public will buy only the better, so that while our profits may be smaller on a single sale they will be much greater in the aggregate.

How can you get the public to know your make is the best?—If both articles are brought prominently before the public both are certain to be tried and the public will very quickly pass judgment on them and use only the better one.

This explains the large sale on Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. The people have been using it for years and found that it can always be depended upon. They may occasionally take up with some fashionable novelty put forth with exaggerated claims, but are certain to return to the one remedy that they know to be reliable, and for coughs, colds and croup there is nothing equal to Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. For sale by all druggists, Matthews Bros., wholesale and retail agents.

A VENERABLE QUARTETTE.

Four Illinois Sisters Whose Ages Aggregate 343 Years.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Among the hills of Johnson county, Ill., there live four sisters who claim the title for longevity. The aggregate ages of this remarkable quartette foot up to 343 years, or an average of over eighty-five years each, and they bid fair to remain here for some time yet. Among their kindreds, who number half of Johnson county, they are known as Aunt Peggy McEstridge, aged ninety-three years; Aunt Polly Gore, aged eighty-six years; Aunt Sally Thacker, aged eighty-four years, and

Aunt Fannie Reynolds, aged eighty years. All of these ladies are widows, and three of them have outlived their husbands thirty or forty years. They are devoted Christians and faithful members of the Methodist church. The family moved to Johnson county from Hopkinsville, Ky., in 1819, and have made their home there ever since. They are remarkably well preserved, both in mind and body, and many are the interesting stories they can tell of the exciting times during the early history of Illinois and of succeeding years. Although living in the same county for twenty years, these sisters never all met together until during the past summer, when a family reunion was held. The event was celebrated with a big dinner, at which a host of relatives were seated, a number of others being what would ordinarily be called old people, as the ages of ten of those present, including these ladies, aggregated 528 years. Aunt Peggy, the eldest, is still very active, and shows every appearance of being able to reach the century mark. She spends most of her time reading her Bible, and reads without glasses, as she has obtained her second sight. Mrs. Warden, wife of Senator Walter Warden, and Mrs. Harker, wife of Judge C. A. Harker, of the Illinois appellate court, are pieces of these ladies, their father having been a brother of the venerable quartette. County Clerk Thomas Gore, of Johnson county, is also a connection.

New York Announcement.

Horner's Furniture.

Reasons why you should buy it in preference to any other.

(1) Because it is the best Furniture that can be produced, both in medium and finest grades; (2) Because our assortments are unequalled; (3) Because our prices are the lowest at which goods of standard quality can be sold.

Novelties for the Holidays.

These comprise thousands of articles, from the inexpensive Booklet, Easy Chair or Writing Desk, to the most exquisite Dressing Table or Cabinet. Those desirous of selecting useful, handsome and ever welcome Holiday Gifts, will find ample choice in our vast stock, and at all prices, plainly marked.

R. J. Horner & Co.,

Furniture Makers and Importers, 61-65 W. 23d St., New York (Adjoining Eden Musee).

Horner & Co.'s establishment is one of the sights of New York.—Newspaper Comment.

Steam and Hot Water HEATING

Gas, Electric And Combination

FIXTURES

Electric Light . . .

WIRING

Chas. B. Scott,

119 Franklin Ave.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY SALE

—OF—

WINES AND LIQUORS

I will, for the holidays, give to the purchaser of goods to the amount of two dollars at my store, one large bottle of Fine Old California Wine, guaranteed to be seven years old, and to every purchaser during the Holiday week a present in proportion to the amount of his purchase. We make this liberal offer in order to establish ourselves at 504 Lackawanna avenue, and let the people know that we are prepared to wait on family trade. This Wine, which we are going to give away, is no Cheap John stuff but is a Fine Old California Wine for which all wholesale dealers get 75 cents a bottle, and if it is not just as we represent it, you may bring it back, and we will give you cash for it. Here are a few of our cut prices on standard goods:

- Cabinet Whiskey at \$1.30 per gallon.
- Orient Kentucky Rye at \$1.50 per gallon
- Penwick Pennsylvania Rye at \$1.80 per gallon.
- Maryland 4-Star Rye at \$2.00 per gallon.
- Gibson-made Spring, 1891, eight years old, at \$2.40 per gallon.
- Guckenheimer-made Spring, 1892, seven years old, at \$2.30 per gallon.
- Carlisle Kentucky Whiskey, Spring, 1892, seven years old, at \$2.35 per gallon.
- O. F. C., finest of all Kentucky Whiskies, all ages, made from Spring, 1889 to 1896, from \$2.50 to \$4.85 per gallon, according to age.

We also have a complete line of Brandies, Wines, Cordials, Cocktails, Etc., at reduced prices. Remember, this Special Sale begins this morning, Dec. 17th, and continues only for one week—-one week only, Christmas Eve included.

E. J. WALSH,

504 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, Pa.

Second Door from Washington Avenue.

Telephone 723.

Mail orders given prompt attention. Don't forget the store, because we want you to remember that we make this Special Offering of Fine Wines and Liquors.

Mercereau & Connell

130 Wyoming Avenue, Coal Exchange.

We are Now Showing the Largest, Finest and Best Stock

Ever before shown in this city. We have spared no pains to collect the most attractive and most artistic goods that could be had. We have a grand display of DIAMONDS, Mounted in Rings or Brooches, Studs, Scarf Pins, Cuff Buttons, Ear Rings, Watches, etc. We handle only Perfect Stones of Good Color. Stone Rings of all kinds, a big variety, especially a nice line of Opal Rings.

A Mammoth Stock of Fine Jewelry

STERLING SILVER we have it in everything—Novelties, Toilet Articles, Brushes, Desk Fitting, Pocket Cutlery, Table Ware, etc., etc. We have just introduced a beautiful line of 14K Gold Filled Toilet Articles, warranted to wear ten years and will not tarnish. Brilliant Cut Glass—best that can be had.

Watches Are Our Hobby

We have all the new things out. All the new styles and all the new improvements, from the cheapest to the best American or imported. We can not mention a fraction of all we have. A visit and inspection of our store and stock will convince you we are "no seconds."

Agents for the Regina Music Boxes.

Buy Something Useful

More sense in it. Gives just as much pleasure to the recipient. Best of all useful presents is something for the house—something the whole household will enjoy. That's the kind we advise—and sell. We give a little present with every present you buy—a present of part of the price, for Christmas goods Were never priced so low before.

Rocking Chairs Everything that's odd, pretty and comfortable. (must be all three), is here at the lowest of prices. Reed Rockers and Upholstered Rockers at \$1.40, \$2.50, \$3.50 \$5.00 and \$7.50.	Mounted Skin Rugs We have some handsome Mounted Skin Rugs that are reasonable in price. These are all genuine skins, carefully mounted and lined, and with care will last a lifetime.	Ladies' Writing Desks We have a number of handsome styles that are not priced anywhere near as high as you'd expect after seeing them. Have them in Oak, Mahogany, Bird's Eye Maple and Curly Birch, \$3.90, \$6, \$7 and \$8.
Fancy Baskets Work Baskets, Stands and Waste Baskets, in great variety; also a few handsome clothes hampers. All priced right.	Fox Rugs Full skin with head all complete, heavy fur. A truly handsome rug, only \$7.50.	Jardiniere Stands Nice line of these in Bamboo, Mahogany, Oak and Pearl inlaid. Prices run—\$1, \$1.25, \$2, \$2.25 and \$3. Some higher.
Bamboo Music Racks A variety to choose from at \$1.25, \$1.65, \$3.50 and \$10.00.	Wolf Skin Rugs Heavy silken fur, handsome head with open jaws. One of the prettiest pets made up into rugs, \$11.00.	Brass Tables Onyx Top—a good selection at modest prices, \$4 to \$15.
Divan Pillows Oriental effects, leather-filled; very toney; only \$1.75. Oriental Embroidered Satin Down-Filled Pillows, embroidered in gold. \$5.00 cash.	Tiger Cat This rug is fully as handsome as any you've ever seen. Superbly mounted with open jaws, only \$11.00.	Table Covers Tapestry Table Covers, 1, 1 1/2 and 2 yards square at 50c, 75c, 85c, \$1, \$1.25 and \$2. Some finer grades in silk effect, \$3, \$3.50 and \$4. Velours and Velvet Covers at \$3, \$3.50, \$4 and \$5.
Rugs. Reversible Fringed Smyrna Rugs, 30 x 60 inches, for \$1.35. Better grade, worth \$3.00, for \$2.00 each. Variety of patterns to pick from. All new and pretty. MOQUETTE RUGS—Regular \$2.50 Rugs for \$1.75. Larger ones, 3 feet wide by 6 feet long, worth \$4.50, for \$3.25.	Couch Covers Oriental effects, Reversible and fringed all round. \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$5.00 and \$6.00 each.	Carpet Sweepers Can't keep house without one of these. We handle all first-class makes, Bissell's, Sweeper City Co., and Goshen Sweeper Co., \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00. Toy Sweepers—25 and 50c.
Rugs. Sheepskin Rugs are always desirable. We have them in a variety of colors, while, red, olive, canary, orange and pea green, at \$2.00, \$2.75, \$4.00 and \$6.00. ANGORA RUGS—Large size Angoras at \$10.00 each, extra quality, soft and silky.	Japanese Screens 4-Panel Japanese Screens in Gold Embroidered black and Hand-Painted Delft Blue. \$4.00 to \$10.00.	Tapestry Curtains Good line at \$2.25, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$5.00, \$5.50, \$8.00 and \$10.00.

Siebecker & Watkins,

406—Lackawanna Avenue—406.