

THE BOOK SHELF.

(Conducted by ALBERT LEE, '91.)

If Mr. E. W. Townsend had never given us "Chimmie Fadden", it is probable that Mr. George Ade would not have written for a Chicago newspaper the sketches which have been published in book form under the title of "Artie," (Chicago: H. S. Stone & Co.) As newspaper stories, set off among reports of murders, riots, highway robberies and other incidents of Chicago life, these details of the private life of a Chicago clerk who cannot speak English might have passed; but twenty such sketches, fired forth all together under one cover, constitute somewhat of an overdose.

I would not have any one understand from the mention of "Chimmie Fadden" that "Artie" is anything like Mr. Townsend's Bowery boy. The latter, while perhaps not elegant and refined, had some strong characteristics, and his dialect was individual and, in many respects, striking. Artie speaks no dialect; he merely mouths bad grammar. Mr. Ade has sought for his effects in an accumulation of slang, and not infrequently of vulgarity; and while there is no doubt that one must occasionally smile at some of Artie's expressions, it is also true that one tires of this constant harping on the same note. It is amusing sometimes to hear two hackmen cursing one another on the street, but who, for that reason, would care to dwell for a day with the hackmen? There is no art in a description of common people and vulgar incidents for their own sake. I cannot get myself interested in the feelings of this Chicago clerk, Artie, after he has been intoxicated the night before, nor in his recital of his drinking bout with a music hall woman. It verily makes a book-lover heave a sigh of regret to see such poor material set forth in so very graceful a cover.

But, to paraphrase a comedy sentiment, "there are other books upon the shelf"; and not the least interesting is Mr. Coulson Kernahan's story of "Captain Shannon" (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.). One of the highest compliments that a reader can pay to an author is to feel that he would like to sit right down at his desk and write a story like the one he has just finished reading. I confess to an incipient itch of that kind when I laid aside "Captain Shannon." It is a detective story, and grown up boys, I think, are always attracted to a well-told detective story where men fight one another with their wits, just as a healthy boy is always eager for a tale of adventure in which the characters are constantly opposed in physical strife. "Captain Shannon" includes somewhat of both of these elements, and ought therefore to be popular with both classes of readers. The one weakness in the yarn is Mr. Kernahan's failure to explain how the agent, Green, got on the track of Captain Shannon; but I dare say this was a very hard nut to crack. Dr. Conan Doyle could have cracked it; but then Dr. Doyle knows all about cigar ashes and thumb nails. Perhaps, after all, this is hypercriticism. We should be grateful for so breezy a narrative. Mr. Kernahan makes no attempt at literary style, but he carries his readers right along through the pages without any halts for sunsets.

Turning now from fiction to fact, I must admit that if there is one thing above all others that the average bookman knows less about than any other (unless it be his own faults), it is finance. For that reason I conscientiously refrain from attempting to pass any kind of judgment upon Mr. Horace White's "Money and Banking" (Boston: Ginn & Co.) The new edition we have received, in paper covers, is well printed on good paper, and is well supplied with marginal references—which are always a joy to the soul. Furthermore the frontispiece represents a small fortune, showing many more kinds of gold coins than I ever saw in my life,

or ever hope to own; but it is pleasing to know that they exist, even if the other fellows have them. In spite, however, of my regrettable inability to advance an opinion concerning the excellence of this volume,—especially now that we have given up caring anything at all about 16 to 1,—I can nevertheless steal a little thunder from a very good man, whom we all know, who says in so many words that he has read Mr. White's book. This makes it unnecessary for me to do so, as I can unhesitatingly depend upon his sound judgment. Prof. Sumner asserts that there is much history and theory in this compact presentation, and adds that the book meets in a most admirable manner the greatest literary need of the time. I am tempted to dispute with him about the "literary need"; but I won't risk it, because in any argument with Prof. Sumner I know very well who would come out ahead.

The literary monthlies are, as might be expected, full of Du Maurier articles this month. Take them all together they offer a good deal of information about the brilliant author of "Trilby," and those who care to collect material relating to various men and subjects as such material appear will do well to look into the "Book Buyer," "Book News" and the "Review of Reviews."

We have also received: "The Fatal Gift of Beauty, and Other Stories," by C. E. Raimond, Chicago: H. S. Stone & Co.; "The End of the Beginning," Boston: Little, Brown & Co.; "Gold and Silver as Currency," by James G. Batterson, Hartford: The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co.

A new building called the "Armstrong and Slater Trade School Building" will be opened at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., on Wednesday and Thursday, November 18 and 19. Addresses will be made by President Gilman of Johns Hopkins University; Booker T. Washington, Principal of Tuskegee Institute; Bishop Henry C. Potter and Hamilton W. Mabie.

Tighe, Lane, Wheeler & Farnham,
Attorneys at Law,
109-112 Manhattan Building,
St. Paul, Minn.
AMBROSE TIGHE. JOHN W. LANE.
HOWARD WHEELER. CHARLES W. FARNHAM.

Enrollment in the Various Departments.

The appended table gives a comparison of the number of students in the various departments of the University for this year and last:

	1896-'97	1895-'96
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT.		
Seniors.....	280	279
Juniors.....	298	278
Sophomores.....	317	305
Freshmen.....	357	322
Total.....	1,252	1,184
SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.		
Graduates.....	55	49
Seniors.....	183	162
Juniors.....	131	201
Freshmen.....	170	138
Special Students..	12	14
Total.....	551	564
THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.		
Res't licentiates...	3	1
Grad. students....	10	17
Senior class.....	33	27
Middle class.....	28	30
Junior class.....	28	32
Total.....	102	107
LAW SCHOOL.		
Graduates.....	21	24
Seniors.....	62	77
Juniors.....	117	115
Special students....	10	14
Total.....	210	230
MEDICAL SCHOOL.		
Seniors.....	37	28
Juniors.....	41	31
Second Year.....	8	—
First Year.....	48	63
Special students....	1	14
Total.....	134	124
Grad. students....	220	169
Art School.....	47	48
Grand Totals....	2,516	2,383

KING NOANETT.

A Story of Old Virginia and the Massachusetts Bay

A NEW HISTORICAL NOVEL.

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"A book which it is hard to put down until the end is reached. The climax is a triumph of clever manipulation. It is a credit to American letters to have produced such a book. We trust that no one will miss the opportunity of making the acquaintance of 'King Noanett.'"—N. Y. *Examiner*.

"We have read few fictions whose interest was so steady, so continuous and so absorbing. 'King Noanett' must, however, be read in full to be justly appreciated. We sincerely commend the story to our readers."—N. Y. *Independent*.

"It is interesting. It is spirited. It has movement and life. The young Irish cavalier is a delightful acquaintance. 'King Noanett' possesses positive merits."—*Literary World*.

"A stirring and delightful romance."—*Congregationalist*.

"And who but an Irishman could have said 'Heigho! 'Tis the women who make the trouble of this life—and life worth the trouble.' Mr. Stimson has done his best work in 'King Noanett,' and in Miles Courtenay he has added an immortal figure to the characters of fiction."—James Jeffrey Roche, in *The Pilot*.

"It is difficult to describe the fascination of its style, the enchantment which it yields, and the spiritual beauty which illumines the whole work."—James MacArthur, in *The Bookman*.

"'King Noanett' is a book designed for all ages."—N. Y. *Tribune*.

"Mr. Stimson writes as good a story as DuMaurier."—*Brooklyn Eagle*.

SOME OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

- A Bad Penny, by John T. Wheelwright. With ten full-page illustrations by F. G. Atwood, \$1.25
Fairy Tales, by Mabel Fuller Blodgett. With twelve full-page illustrations by Ethel Reed, 2.00

- Vera Vorontzoff, by Sonya Kovalevsky; rendered into English by Anna von Rydingsvård (Baroness von Proshwitz), (net) 1.25
Earth's Enigmas. A volume of stories, by Charles G. D. Roberts, 1.25
Low Tide on Grand Pré. A Book of Lyrics, by Bliss Carman, (net) 1.00
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Magda, by Hermann Sudermann. Translated by Charles-Edward Amory Winslow. With a cover-design and title-page by Louis J. Rhead, 1.00
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'96 Charades, by Norman D. Gray, 1.00
Dr. Vermont's Fantasy, and Other Stories, by Hannah Lynch. Published in connection with Messrs. J. M. Dent of London, (net) 1.25
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