

THE BOOK SHELF.

"In The Permanent Way."

As odious as are comparisons at most times it yet becomes scarce possible not to make them as one reads on in Mrs. F. A. Steele's collection of stories of life in India, which she has called, "In The Permanent Ways." Rudyard Kipling has spoiled most of us for any attempt which another may make to use the ground he has fairly won for his own. Yet one feels that there is more than a strong probability that here is more fact and less fiction, more truth if less art. Kipling has far greater dramatic power than has Mrs. Steele, and a finer sense of proportion and perspective, but he does not know his India any better than does the writer of "On the Face of the Waters." There are some things indeed, which escape a man's eye and heart, which the intuitive sense of the woman discovers.

One feels the measures of hand displayed in this absolute knowledge of the subject as the author here unravels the complicated problem presented by the varied races and caste which makes up the population of that part of the British Empire. Long before the book is finished the teeming roadways, the thronged bazaars, the crowded temple steps which fill its pages, oppress one as might the physical contact with that multitude, bringing in an overpowering sense of the endless struggle there going on for bare existence. The old man flying through the night with the curly head of the little English child pillowed on his shoulder, the superstition and alien faith in the story which gives the book its name, the wild jealousy and despair of the childless woman who must give another wife to her husband that he may have a son, are all real and convincing and weigh one down. It needs the perfectly drawn pictures of the children in "A Young Lochinvar" to relieve the pressure of sorrow and unhappiness.

It is all worth well reading. It is more than merely interesting, for it adds materially to one's knowledge of the world and human hearts—and there is little fiction of which one can say as much. (Macmillan and Company, \$1.50.)

"The Invisible Man."

One of the shrewdest literary men in London has prophesied that this latest story by Mr. H. G. Wells would prove the book of the season. If this turn out to be true it will scarcely be surprising, for "The Invisible Man" is not only a decidedly original and striking story but provocative of thought along the line of the limits which may be placed to the present march of invention.

The author has chosen as his subject a certain Englishman who, by following up scientific principles, here carefully and plausibly explained, found that he could render himself invisible. Naturally enough he saw the possibilities in his discovery possibilities of fabulous wealth and power greater than the power which goes with wealth. But he found, too, that his goal was not a paradise. For, although invisible, he was not intangible, and further, although his body was invisible, his clothes were not. Consequently, in order to enjoy the full privileges of his invisibility, he had to go naked, which was not comfortable in that damp climate. He found that if he took food he was visible until it was assimilated, while it was often embarrassing that the dishes on which it was served should be seen mounting to the unseen mouth.

The story has been worked out along this line and the result is truly amusing. It is no mere piece of sensationalism, for Mr. Wells has brought to the writing of his fantastic fiction a keen literary sense and a wide scientific education which lends a strange, almost convincing, verisimilitude to his astounding story. (Edward Arnold, \$1.25.)

"The Story of an Untold Love."

Paul Leicester Ford cannot help turning out a story that is eminently readable. Everyone knows how good was "The Honorable Peter Sterling." Here is a sort of obverse to that book, appealing to a smaller audience, just as literary and journalistic life appeals to narrower interests than does politics, but to every man and woman of letters truly fascinating.

The title is somewhat misleading. The question of love is not the paramount one. In the opening chapters the feeling is warm and tender, but thereafter the work bends in another direction, and the ultimate happiness of Rudolph Hartzman and his sweetheart becomes of far less interest than the account of the struggle of the career of a literary man.

Every journalist of experience will recognize the type of chicanery portrayed in Whately, and many a young writer has been confronted by the problem, here searchingly followed to its conclusion, of whether or no, one may in honor allow his work to appear above another's signature. Another and still more vital question is the moral responsibility involved by the buyer—and there are many more such buyers than the uninitiated might suspect. In this case the buyer is a business man, who, arguing that all is fair in love, publishes as his own a book which another man has written, that so he may commend himself to an intellectual woman who disdains the merely commercial. Of course the real author loves the same beautiful woman, and one wishes his scruples had asserted themselves before he knew why his rival had paid a fabulous sum for a dry manuscript. It seems almost too severe a punishment that he should learn that the book had convinced the woman in the case that the other man was not a mere minting machine, but nobler, finer than he seemed, "that no man but one of noble character and fine mind could write from such a standpoint."

That it all ends as it should it is pleasant to bear in mind, but the book is of decided interest and value quite apart from that fact, and is perhaps the keenest dissection of the instincts of the literary temperament that has been written in these modern days. (Houghton, Mifflin and Company, \$1.25.)

WARWICK JAMES PRICE.

December "Lit."

The contents of the December *Literary Magazine* are:

Stories—"The Idols," by Richard Hooker, '99; "S. P. C. A. in Extension," by C. E. Hay, '99; "In the Western Country," by Hulbert Taft, 1900.

Essays—"Melior," by F. H. Winters, 1900; "Poetry of John Davidson," by G. W. Carleton, '99; "Kipling's Recessional," by Isham Henderson, '99.

Poems—"Benedictus, etc.," by H. M. Young, '99; "There's One Keeps Watch," by Forsyth Wickes, '98; "Ballade of Hope Deferred," by C. E. by B. Moore, '99; "Mammy's Ephe," H. Mason, '99; "An Island," by H. Mason, '99; "The End of Vigil," by H. C. Robbins, '99.

Portfolios—"Boy's Friend," by R. Hooker, '99; "The Black Arrow," by R. Hooker, '99; "Bruges La Morte," by B. Moore, '99; "Mammy's Ephe," by J. M. Hopkins, 1900; "Mexican Fancy," by F. M. Atterholt, Jr., 1900; "Gascon Wine, etc.," by H. A. Callahan, '99; "The Gringos' Smuggler," by Hulbert Taft, 1900; "Old Men of Holmes," by H. D. Gallaudet, '98; "At the Peat Stacks," by W. S. Hastings, 1901.

"Scientific Monthly" Contents.

The December number of the *Scientific Monthly* contains the following articles: "Mississippi Floods," by William W. Knight, '99 S.; "Nansen's Trip Across Greenland," by William Walker, '99 S.; "Separation of Gold and Silver in the Mint," by Howard L. Davis, '99 S.; "The Development of the South African Diamond Fields," by Henry S. Canby, '99 S., and "Development in Marine Engines," by Osborn A. Day, '99 S. There are also the usual Departments.

Paper Chases.

The final scores for the cup offered by E. C. Perkins, '98, to the one winning the most points in the series of paper chases, which has just been completed, are as follows:

C. B. Spitzer, '99, 21 points; A. H. Richardson, 1901, 19 points; J. W. Falls, 1900 S., 15 points; N. B. Beecher, '98, 10 points; M. Scudder, '99, 8 points; H. M. Poynter, 1900, 5 points; J. P. Adams, 1900, 4 points; S. F. Shattuck, '99 S., 2 points; S. Bartlett, 1900, 2 points; G. Green, 1900, 1 point.

C. B. Spitzer, '99, therefore wins the cup.

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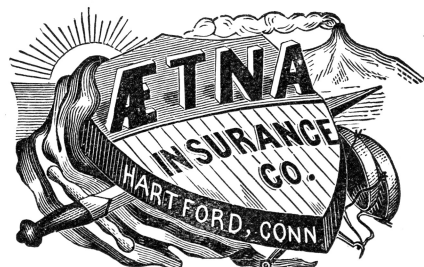
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