

THE LITERARY WORLD.

The Latest Books, Magazines, etc., Sent to The Editor for Inspection.

From Benjamin F. Leggett, of Ward, Penna, we have lately received two volumes entitled "A Sheaf of Song" and "An Idyll of Lake George."

A Sheaf of Song: 154 pages; John B. Alden, Publisher, New York, 1887, opens with a fine poem, The Ballad of the King, and contains throughout many beautiful and enchanting ballads, songs and poems. It is not the author's purpose to inspire to "deeds of high emprise" or sing of glory on the tented field, but to sing the dear delights of home and friends and the beauties of nature. His poems are faultless in metre, gliding as gracefully and musically as the streamlet at your feet, and perfectly intelligible to the commonest mind, for while maintaining a high standard of language he does not affect the mannerisms of greater poets or mystify us by stilted or meaningless phrases. The poem we quote shows his inherent love of justice.

GLADSTONE.

Brave chieftain thou in battle's stormy van!

Thy snowy hair is more than regal crown—

White badge of triumph over error's frown,

Through toilful years where thou has wrought for man!

Opposed by greed and blinded faction's clan

Bravely thy words the burning wrong assail!

Take heart, hope on! The right shall yet prevail!

Truth lives forever!—wrong the briefest span.

Thou canst not fail!—the work so well begun,

The passing years can never long delay;

Thine be the triumph when the strife is done,

When hate shall yield to love and pass away.

Proud England then, forgetful of her shame,

Shall crown her son and keep his deathless fame!

Idylls of Lake George: T. O. Metcalf & Co., Boston, 217 pages, is very attractively gotten up and presents a delicious bill of fare for all lovers of the true, the beautiful and the good. There is music and beauty in every line, especially of the opening piece, "The Idyll," and the scenes follow each other with the precision of a play and are that vividly portrayed that we almost imagine seeing them enacted before our very eyes. It is difficult to make a choice among so many pieces that are equally good, and we select this little one for its shortness and appropriateness.

BEFORE THE FIRE.

Long since the Summer's beauty fled,  
And russet Autumn, brown and sere,  
Went down the slope with stately tread,  
And out across the waning year.

To-night the sunset died away  
In folded drifts of vapor cold,  
And chill and wan the weary day  
Forgot her tawny crown of gold.

We sit before the blazing brands,  
The rude room lighted with their glow,

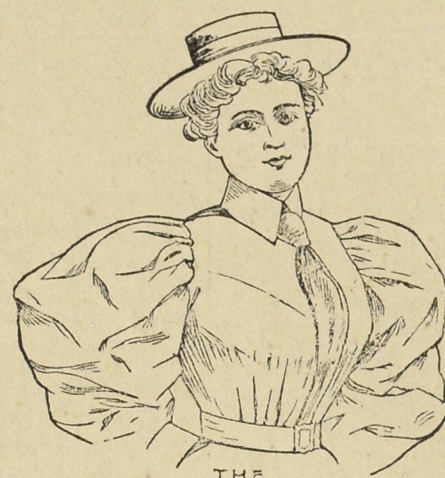
While winter wails across the lands,  
And all the hills are white with snow.

What would the world be without its  
singers and dreamers  
Who charm dull care  
And chase the phantoms of black despair

even for the moment from the weary body and aching brain worn out with ceaseless toil and sick with hope deferred. Their sweet songs are an earnest of that heavenly music, the flying sparks from the incandescent forges of God.

COLLINS—Charles H. Collins was born in Mayville, Ky., and is the son of General Richard Collins, distinguished as an able lawyer and legislator in Ohio and Kentucky. His grandfather, Rev. John Collins, was a pioneer Methodist minister, whose biography was written by Judge John McLean of the United States Supreme Court. Charles Collins is a lawyer and has enjoyed a lucrative practice from which he has acquired a comfortable competency. Mr. Collins has travelled a good deal both in Europe and America. He is now sixty-three years of age, has a vigorous constitution, pleasant address, and is a fluent speaker. He is the author of "Echoes from Highland Hills," "Highland Hills to an Emperor's Tomb," "Wibleton to Wobbleton," "Our Common Schools," "The Love of the Beautiful." His last work, "The New Year Comes, My Lady," a volume of poems, appeared last year. Mr. Collins is now a resident of Hillsboro, Ohio.

Our New Humanity, the third number of which is before us, is a magazine devoted to social and civic reform and the enfranchisement of women. It is far in advance of the present temporizing and conventional age, aims at bed-rock truth and shoots its arrows straight to the mark. The following, from an article by Moses Hull, entitled "The Great Fraud Yclept Society," though perhaps very forcibly stated, contains some plain truths. "Protestants have an infallible bible, Catholics an infallible church and everybody an infallible society. Before this god all must bow. If here and there a few Hebrew children, a Socrates or a Jesus happens to cross swords with this god, then fire, poison or the gallows tree ends their mortal career. Such things have given a few who walk the earth to day a living martyrdom and have driven our pens and voices into closer quarters. Woe to the man or woman who proclaims a truth before the world is ripe for it;" and from an article by Ernest Winne of incontrovertible vigor, truth and logic we clip the following: "I wish it was possible for me to remove from the mind of each reader who is deluded by this fetish of sexual error which asceticism has so zealously but blindly and disastrously promulgated. Were it not for the superstitious and bigoted taboo upon sexual matters, the truth concerning them might soon become generally known; the supposed good in them that is evil and the supposed evil that is good, together with an adequate remedy for the evil, might be revealed; and much evil that has no existence save in misunderstanding and ignorant imagination might be dispelled by the light of physiological truth." Our New Humanity Publishing Co., Topeka, Kansas. \$1 per year, 25 cents per copy.



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