

THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

Simplicity.

We may test contemporary literature by its conformity to the canon of simplicity; that is, if it has not that, we may conclude that it lacks one essential lasting quality.

Mr. Collier's Weekly Magazine.

The readers of that fresh, vigorous and always interesting periodical, Once a Week, must feel a little conscience-stricken sometimes, when they reflect that for such a wealth of literature they pay only \$4!

A Great Newspaper's "Style."

The following note seems to invite a private reply, but we trust that our esteemed correspondent will not object to the response herewith subjoined:

Andrew Lang on Amelie Rives.

In America you have seen, not long since, the "catching on" of a novel, followed by excursions and alarms, as it were, of a presidential election.

Notes and Announcements.

Col. T. W. Higginson's new volume of poems, The Afternoon Landscape, is inscribed to "J. R. Lowell, Poet and Fellow Townsman."

lied the writer promising and accepted a second novel, In Silk Attire, which was more favorably received. The next serial, The Monarch of Mincing Lane, was again a failure.

Mr. S. R. Carpenter has prepared an article on "Hendrik Ibsen," the great Norwegian dramatist, which will be accompanied by a portrait in Scribner's Magazine for April.

Mr. George P. Putnam, the New York publisher, asserts that, of the five American concerns which reprint English books without permission or payment, four are managed by Canadians, who began their business in Canada.

Mrs. Margaret Deland, author of John Ward, Preacher, one of the three religious novels which have attracted so much attention, is only about 30 years of age.

Ouida once naively remarked that "England has produced three great novelists—Thackeray, George Eliot, and myself!" This historic bit of egotism was recently surprised by Mr. Edgar Fawcett, as he sat in his boudoir surrounded by smoke, Saltus, and some attendant satellites.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Journal intimates that Mrs. Cleveland will venture into literature soon after her retirement to private life.

The new edition of Ruskin's works superintended by himself and so romantically printed amid the rural scenery of Kent, is now off for the market.

MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL.

The carnival and the minstrels' performances are responsible for the slowness of the musical and theatrical departments, this week.

"Ada Gray has come to town again," says the Toronto World. "She will appear in her new play, East Lynne."

St. Louis has sored on Mary Anderson. Her manager, in laying out the route, announced only five performances for that thriving village and eleven for Chicago.

Mary is a long-limbed, expressionless-featured woman, with a reach that would make a prize fighter's fortune, and voice that is large and somewhat rich, but that has never been attuned to agreeable music.

As for Perdita, the delineation of the sweet girl's rusticity and roscate warmth of love which crown the character of this delicious creation of Shakespeare is as far beyond Mary Anderson as the constellation of Hercules is beyond the dead and dinky moon.

disguised and unchangeable—pretty to look upon in repose, agreeable to listen to in declamatory bursts, beautifully robed, and pictorially attractive, but a mediocre actress at every point, and a particularly unpleasing actress, because she does not add a solitary artistic beauty to her personal charms, and there is not a single scintillation of intellectual strength or force in any portion of her work.

A tablet in memory of Joseph Maas will shortly be placed in Rochester cathedral by his widow, the dean and chapter of the cathedral having given the necessary permission; the lamented tenor was formerly a chorister at Rochester.

Absent-minded base ball player (as a crashing chord nearly lifts him off his seat)—"Good play!" And then, catching an interrogative glance from Mrs. Quarterrest, he adds—"I—beg your pardon! What is the score?"—Ex.

A Halifax friend whom many will recognize by his initials, "E. F. S.," writes from New York to praise my "capital comments" on recent performances there, and adds a paragraph which is so much to the point that I must quote it:

"What is the matter with Mrs. Potter?" you query. I saw her in the character of Cleopatra at Palmer's last week. It came home to me very strongly that she lacked that natural power necessary to make one feel what is being portrayed, and from "the silence of the applause" throughout the performance, I think the audience generally must have been of the same mind. If they went away satisfied it must have been at having beheld the beautiful Mrs. Potter.

LEON.

HE CAN STAND A JOKE.

A Fredericton Wag Gets Off a Few at the Commandant's Expense. There is no more popular and competent gentleman in the military service of Canada than the genial commandant of the Infantry school at Fredericton.

Infant School Corps.

FREDERICTON, Nov. 17, 1888. To Major-General Sir Frederick Meddle-some. Sir: I have the honor to submit this my fourth annual report of the Loyal School of Infants and corps under my command.

As to the former question I can bear cheerful testimony to the fact that the relations between our domestic classes and the corps under my command continue to be of a most friendly and harmonious character.

The band is more efficient now than ever. The drummer too is efficient. In time they will be sufficiently developed to play Brick Hill waltzes.

It cannot be too often repeated that everything tending to encourage the men to remain in barracks will prevent them from flocking to the drinking saloons of the town.

We have now two cross-eyed men in the corps. Their value in case of flank movements can hardly be over-estimated. It will be observed that there is a marked falling off in the cost of medicine for the corps for this year as compared with formerly, a result attained by the pleasing interest manifested by the newspapers in the affairs of the corps.

Too much praise cannot in my opinion be given to the able officers under my command for the able, energetic and timely alacrity with which at all times they have reported themselves for duty on pay day.

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