

THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

Something About Ibsen.

That the study or pretended study of the writings of the Norwegian writer, Henrik Ibsen, has become so popular on both sides of the water is a strong evidence of the tendency of the age toward a better knowledge of social topics.

Ibsen is an Anarchist. Thousands of those who are trying to become familiar with his plays do not realize this, nor do they realize that what they applaud is anarchism pure and simple.

Take, for instance, *An Enemy of Society*, in which Dr. Stockmann is the rather unfortunate hero. It is a satire on the right or ability of the majority to rule, yet shows clearly that it does rule with an iron hand, under the name of democracy.

Dr. Stockmann. Yes, but isn't it a citizen's duty, whenever he has a new idea, to communicate it to the public.

Burgomaster. Pshaw! The public doesn't need any new ideas. The public is best served by the good old recognized ideas that they have already.

It should be explained that Dr. Stockmann is trying to do, as an individual, what he considers for the best interests of his fellows in sanitary matters.

Dr. Stockmann. I have said I should speak of the great discovery I have made within the last few days—the discovery that all our spiritual sources of life are poisoned, and that our whole bourgeois society rests on a soil teeming with the pestilence of lies.

A little later he asserts that the leading men, "these old remnants of a decaying world of thought," are not the most serious danger of society.

Dr. Stockmann. . . . It is not they who are the most effective in poisoning our spiritual life or making pestilential the ground beneath our feet; it is not they who are the most dangerous enemies of our society.

Dr. Stockmann. Yes, you may be sure I will name them! For this is the great discovery I made yesterday! [In a louder tone.] The most dangerous enemies of truth and freedom in our midst are the compact majority. Yes, the d—d, compact, liberal majority—they it is. Now you know it.

Naturally there is great disturbance at this assertion and the doctor is asked to withdraw his remarks. He refuses. They argue with him and assert that right is always on the side of the majority.

Dr. Stockmann. The majority is never right. Never, I say. That is one of those conventional lies against which a free thoughtful man must rebel.

And again: Dr. Stockmann. It is the party-leaders who must be got rid of. For you see, a party-leader is just like a wolf—a starving wolf; if he is to exist at all he needs so many small beasts a year.

It may be added that in Dr. Stockmann, Ibsen is believed to have given a glimpse of himself and his experiences. Some of the author's views are recorded in a speech made by him to a club of working men, in 1885, in which he declared that he would work with all his life and strength in the social revolution which concerned the future of the workers and the women.

A Doll's House, now being played in the United States, is a social drama which deals with "the tragedy of marriage," while *Ghosts* is "the tragedy of heredity." It is a play which one is apt to finish with a shudder, so strong is the picture. *The Pillars of Society*, with its keen satire, will probably be found of interest to all readers.

How long the Ibsen fad may last is uncertain and unimportant. It will be at least the means of introducing the mature writer to many who are thinkers, and can appreciate the crystallized truths which are brought to them from the bleak regions of Norway. It will help in the great work of making others think. It will aid in what Ibsen says is the "only one thing that avails—to revolutionize people's minds."

W. K. R.

Among the first of illustrated holiday books to reach Progress was *Europe Illustrated* from the well stocked store of Mr. Alfred Morrissey. Good descriptions of country scenes and buildings is always interesting to Canadians, especially when accompanied by good illustrations.

The Magazines.

The *Atlantic Monthly* is so well known as a magazine of solid value that the mere announcement that it is out is quite sufficient to make a demand for each number as it appears. Depending on literary merit without pictorial attractions, and in the face of so much that trenches more or less upon its field it holds its own in the popular heart as of yore. Whatever is in it is worth reading.

The sixth volume of Scribner's closes with its December number. The ending is worthy of a successful year. It is quite safe to say that no magazine has in that period increased in popular favor more than Scribner's.

These admirable series are not yet finished, and will form a feature of the next volume. "How the Other Half Lives" gives one a good idea of tenement life in New York. The article is fully illustrated, and loses none of its interest under the realistic pen of Jacob A. Riis.

"Contemporary American Caricature" is the history of the successful illustrated humorous papers of the present day and their artists. To Thomas Nast and *Harper's Weekly* belong the credit of beginning the work which has been carried to such a popular and successful point. To the ridiculing pencil, the author claims, is due the downfall of Tweed and bossism in New York, and many of the very important reforms since that time.

Published monthly with illustrations by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price 25 cents. Subscription \$3 per annum.

The *Forum* for December treats of a wide range of topics of live interest. As each is dealt with by some one who is well qualified to write on his particular subject, it may be certain that each is treated with ability and vigor. The list of contents is: "Divorce in the United States," by Edward J. Phelps, ex-minister to England; "Can the Race Problem be Solved?" by Prof. Henry A. Secomp, of Emory college, Georgia; "Religious Teachings in Schools," by Bishop B. J. McQuaid, of Rochester, N. Y.; "The Possibilities of Electricity," by Park Benjamin; "Do We Want Industrial Peace?" by Prof. William G. Sumner, of Yale; "Is Medicine a Science?" by Dr. George M. Gould, of Philadelphia; "Immigration and Crime," by William M. F. Round; "The Natural History of Dogma," by Prof. Charles C. Everett, of Harvard; "Experiences with Spiritualism," by Rev. M. J. Savage; "The Farmers' Defensive Movement," by William A. Peffer, of Topeka, Kas. The *Forum* Publishing Company, 253 Fifth ave., New York. Price, 50 cents.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

[FOR ADDITIONAL SOCIETY NEWS SEE FIFTH AND EIGHTH PAGES.]

SUSSEX.

[Progress is for sale in Sussex by R. D. Boal and S. H. White & Co.]

Nov. 27.—A very pretty wedding took place on Monday afternoon at the church between Mr. Frank M. Rowan, of the firm of McLellan & Rowan, of St. John, and Miss Mary H. Kay of this place. The bride was attired in a pretty travelling costume of brown, with white hat and feathers, and looked charming.

Miss Wright, of St. John, is visiting at Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Dannel's.

Mr. Joseph Higgins has moved his family from this place to Bear River, N. S.

Mrs. March, of St. John, North End, was in this village on Monday.

An event in which there is no little interest centred will take place at the handsome residence of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. White this evening, when their daughter Laura will be united in marriage to Mr. John H. Morrison. I am glad to say Sussex will retain this young couple in its midst.

Mr. G. R. Pugsley, of St. John, spent Sunday in Sussex.

Miss Mabel Shives, of St. John, has been spending a few days here, the guest of her uncle, Mr. Nelson Arnold.

Mr. A. A. Stockton, of St. John, has been visiting his father, Mr. William A. Stockton.

Mr. Peter Snider, of Moncton, spent Saturday here.

Rev. Mr. Gray and bride have returned from their wedding tour.

Mr. R. Whiteside spent Sunday with his family here.

Mr. W. C. Matthews, of Montreal, spent Sunday in Sussex.

Mr. Walter Scovill is visiting his parents in this village.

Miss Schofield, of St. John, is here, the guest of Mrs. Medley.

Miss Dodge, of the W. U. T. office here, is visiting friends at Rothersey. Her place is filled by Mr. Fred Stevens, of St. John.

Mr. Sprague, of Campbellton, has moved his family into the new school building at St. John.

Mr. Frank White, of St. John, is visiting at Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Culbert's.

Mr. M. A. Ferguson, of Martin's Head, was in this place Tuesday.

Mr. Ernest Smith, of Port Elgin, has been spending a few days with his mother, at Sussex Corner.

HAMPTON.

[Progress is for sale at Hampton station by T. G. Barnes, and Geo. E. Frost, and at Hampton village by Messrs. A. & W. Hicks.]

Nov. 27.—Sheriff Harding and Mrs. Harding, of St. John, spent Sunday at the village, the guests of Mrs. Cowell.

Miss Maggie K. Barnes spent Wednesday and Thursday of last week in the city, visiting friends.

Ex-Mayor Thorne, Mr. C. A. Everett and Mr. W. C. Whitaker were among the visitors in town last Friday.

Mr. E. G. Evans, manager of the St. Martins and Upland railway, who had been confined to his room at the Vendome for several days, is able to be at business again.

Miss Katie B. Bartlett, of St. John, spent Saturday and Sunday here, visiting her sister.

Mr. A. H. Demill was in town on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Palmer paid Hampton a flying visit on Saturday.

Mr. James Truman spent a few days in the city last week, visiting Mrs. H. D. McLeod.

The young ladies of Hampton are practicing for the concert to be given at the Agricultural hall, in the village, on Monday evening next. It will be the first of a series of musical and literary entertainments known as the "Hampton School of Music."

The programme embraces nine lectures, which will be given during the winter, alternately at the above named places and at the hall at the station. The "Peake sisters" will be produced on Monday evening.

Ald. Frederick Blackadar, of St. John, was among the visitors to Hampton on Saturday.

Miss Wedderburn, Miss Fannie Barnes and Miss Minnie Travis spent Monday in the city.

Mr. William R. Avery was in town on Monday.

Miss Minnie Hammond, who has been visiting relatives in the city for the past two weeks, went to Rothersey yesterday, to spend a few days with her friends there before returning home.

Miss Maggie K. Barnes left for the city today, in order to attend a large party to be given by one of the leading citizens of the North End, this evening.

SACKVILLE.

[Progress is for sale in Sackville at C. H. Moore's bookstore.]

Nov. 27.—The professors of Mount Allison college gave a reception Saturday evening in the Memorial hall. The guests, who consisted of all the students and teachers from both institutions, with a fair sprinkling of the residents of Sackville. Prominencing was the principal amusement in which nearly all participated, the exception being chiefly small boys who sat in the seat of the scornful and made comments on the passers-by. These, he it understood, were those who wanted to "put on the college."

The college glee club sang several choruses in very hearty style, and one of their members, Mr. Anderson, gave a very acceptable concert in which he had no refreshments served, "the feast of reason and flow of song" being considered sufficient. This was a matter of small amount to the villagers, but the hungry students, with the consciousness that the "patron" carried their trunks contained nothing more substantial than a fig of tobacco or a few lonely gum-drops, would have liked it otherwise.

Mrs. Josiah Wood is spending a few days in St. John.

Miss Milner spent Saturday in Amherst.

Mrs. Ernest Anderson has returned from her visit to St. John.

The friends of Dr. P. R. Moore will be glad to hear that he is comfortably settled in Los Angeles, Cal. Although that city is swarming with M. D.'s, Dr. Moore has already commanded sufficient practice to warrant the purchase of a large house. The family are extremely pleased with their surroundings, but the doctor thinks there are no friends like old friends, and sighs for a confabulation with his old cronies.

Mrs. Siddall, wife of Frank Siddall, of Westcoast, is so ill that little hope is entertained of her recovery.

Mrs. Arthur Dixon still continues very ill.

Miss Smith, en route for Boston, is staying a week with her sister, Mrs. W. C. Milner.

Mr. Alfred Dixon, who left for the Northwest a few weeks ago on account of his health, is now in New Westminster, B. C. He is much pleased with the place, and has some idea of settling there if the weather suits him.

Mr. Herbert Archibald has returned from the U. S., and is to take charge of the C. P. R. telegraph office here.

Miss Scurr has returned from Dorchester, where she has been visiting friends.

Mrs. Cahill has returned from her visit to St. John.

Mr. Josiah Wood, M. P., Dr. Inch and Mr. Fred Ryan were in Moncton on Wednesday.

Miss O'Neill is visiting friends in town.

Mr. Fulton Macdonald went to Dorchester on Friday.

Miss Mamie Bell has returned from St. John, where she has been attending to the schools.

Hon. P. L. Hanington and Mr. C. E. Knapp, of Dorchester, were in town last week.

The many friends here of Mrs. Edward Chandler will here with regret that she lies dangerously ill at her home in Dorchester.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Parson and Mr. Herbert Crosskill arrived safely in New York last Wednesday.

California seems to be the fashionable resort of many of the Sackvillians this winter. The friends of Mrs. Marjorie Woods, Mr. and Mrs. Trueman, and Mr. Albert Fawcett, will hear with pleasure of their safe arrival, last Tuesday.

DORCHESTER.

[Progress is for sale in Dorchester at George M. Fairweather's store.]

Nov. 27.—The many friends of Dr. Teed, who has been so long ill, were pleased to see him out, for the first time, Monday morning.

Mr. William Cochran, who has been in New York on business for some time, arrived home Friday.

Mr. W. J. Robinson, of Moncton, and Mr. A. W. Bennett, of Sackville, were in town on Thursday.

Mr. F. McQuaid, of Sackville, spent Friday in town, on business.

Mr. W. W. Wells went to Newcastle on Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Chandler, widow of the late Hon. E. B. Chandler, is still very ill.

The Misses Backhouse, who have been visiting friends in Boston and New York for some length of time, returned home on Saturday.

Mrs. Phoebe Chandler spent Sunday in Amherst, visiting friends, and returned Monday.

Mr. Henry R. Emerson went to Elgin, Albert county, Tuesday afternoon.

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