

THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

The Odd Number. Thirteen Tales by Guy de Maupassant, 12mo. Price \$1.00. New York: Harper Bros.

No one who would learn the evasive art of constructing a good short story can afford to neglect the little master-pieces which Monsieur Guy de Maupassant has given us. The volume before me contains thirteen of these, very effectively done into English by Mr. Jonathan Sturges, and gracefully introduced to our notice by Mr. Henry James. Those who are so unfortunate as to be debarred from knowing M. de Maupassant's work in the original, are here enabled to acquaint themselves with many of those qualities which have won him his rich and enviable reputation. These translations reproduce for us the flawless clarity, the definiteness of outline, the satisfying unity and simplicity of structure, the wonderful combination of brevity with adequate fullness of detail, which we have learned to look for in this writer's work. Therefore, they are salutary models for our own authors, who are wont to carry so much superfluous and retarding toggery with them when they set out to run the race for fame.

For some years M. de Maupassant has been producing these wonderful vignettes of life at the rate of almost one a week. He has been, I believe, under contract of some sort to do this; and in such a case, with his manuscript sold before-hand, and with the creative faculties kept so unremittingly at work, it is not strange that he frequently falls below his own standard. Yet it is wonderful to note the high average he maintains, showing the thoroughness of his mastery. According to his own confession he early adopted the principle that "to prove that you have a first rate talent you must have a first rate style." M. de Maupassant is an artist who has acquired complete control of the vehicle in which he works. His achievement depends upon his conception, his inspiration, for he knows that whatever he may have to express, he is sure of being able to express it. This confident strength, this absence of fumbling, manifest themselves plainly in the translations before us,—which, by the way, though they are fair specimens of de Maupassant's best in this field, are not better than scores of others that might have been selected. Hence this collection may be regarded as faithfully representative.

After one has delighted in the crisp and novel flavor of these sketches, he will still be far short of appreciating de Maupassant's full power. What perhaps cannot be reproduced in translation is the style—the gleaming brilliancy, the firm decisiveness, the captivating *chute de phrase*. Even a certain amount of the rich, yet transparent, color which glorifies de Maupassant's papers, as it does those of his wonderful contemporary, the author of *Madame Chrysantheme*, seems to escape in the process of decanting. I may mention here that M. de Maupassant and Pierre Loti represent the youngest generation of accepted masters in French literature. They are yet young in their thirties.

It is a strange, sharply accented life that we come in contact with in these tales. Such transcripts from unfamiliar life—life unfamiliar to the educated classes even in France—as "The Piece of Thread" and "Little Soldier," are so emphatic in outline and color that, after a short time, they fit themselves into the memory like a part of one's own past experience. They stand out with almost the same sort of perspective—which arises, I think, from the skill with which M. de Maupassant has emphasized the salient points of his subject, while deliberately throwing out the minor incidents and color—tones which, if admitted, might have tended to level the scene. It would be difficult to convey a definite idea of the distinguishing flavor of the book without quoting one or more of the tales, which space peremptorily forbids; but to one who wishes a fresh and piquant literary relish, in the way of fiction, I would say—try M. de Maupassant. If you must have him in English, then get this altogether admirable translation by Mr. Sturges. The volume is a charming piece of book-making, with clear type and a luxurious page. CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

Magazines.

Civil service reform has a champion in Mr. Oliver T. Morton, in a paper called "Some Popular Objections to Civil Service Reform," which appears in the *Atlantic* for April. Mr. James's "Tragic Muse" is drawing to a conclusion. The picture of the recalcitrant lover, who is not willing to sacrifice his worldly prospects to the dramatic art to which he professes to be a devotee, is a powerful piece of character-drawing. Dr. Holmes, in "Over the Teacups," talks about modern realism, and says that the additions which have been made by it "to the territory of literature consist largely in swampy, malarious, ill-smelling patches of soil which had previously been left to reptiles and vermin." After falling foul of a romance which has been lately quoted by a brother-author as a "work of austere morality," he says, "Leave the descriptions of the drains and cesspools to the hygienic specialist, and the details of the laundry to the washerwoman." Mr. Aldrich has a poem on "The Poet's Corner," and Mrs. Deland's serial leaves the hero face to face with another problem. There are many other good things in the number. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Truly our church choirs were never in such a state of excitement as they are at the present time. Last week it appeared as if Trinity's lot of troubles had been satisfactorily settled, and that peace and harmony would follow, but now another difference has arisen, not among the chorists this time, but within the sacred precincts of St. John's church.

What it is all about I really cannot pretend to say. I fancy it arose from a paragraph in my letter of March 15, to the effect that two ladies from Trinity choir were about joining that of St. John's, when the chorists were singing in Trinity. My information, which was gathered from the most reliable sources, would certainly have been withheld had I dreamed of the storm it was destined to raise. I happened to know that one of the ladies mentioned had attended one or two practices for the Easter music in St. John's church, and that her invitation came from the secretary of the music committee of that church, and was sanctioned by the rector and organist. At least she understood it in that way. The other lady I was not quite so sure of, but understood she was included in the invitation. However for some reason, probably the fear of offending the rector of Trinity, (who wished to hold his choir together in case the surplices and cassocks should not be ready for the male choirs for Easter). The rector of St. John's wrote to PROGRESS, stating that all appointments to places in his choir were made by a musical committee of which he was chairman, and that no members from Trinity had been given invitations to sing, or had any application for membership been received by him. The committee heard a rumor of this, to them, astounding assertion, (as they say) that the matter was discussed at a meeting, and that authority was certainly given to both organist and secretary for the extending of invitations to any one approved of by the former) and PROGRESS was requested to suppress the rector's statement. This was done, and everyone thought the matter had blown over. The rector had been as they all believed, talked out of the idea. But they were destined to receive another surprise, for when the *Ephebe* appeared Saturday evening, there was the statement that had caused so much trouble.

This did not tend to smooth matters either with the musical committee, thus placed in a false position, or the young ladies who had been treated in such an extraordinary manner. On Sunday there was a prospect of several resignations from the choir, but at a meeting held on Monday the matter was arranged, the rector yielding to the committee, and joining in a formal invitation to the young lady who had supposed herself invited before.

I am sorry to have to contradict the statement I made last week concerning Mr. E. E. Gubb's appointment to Christ's Church Cathedral, Montreal. The paragraph came out before anything had really been decided on, and I have heard since that the situation has been given to Professor T. C. Smythe, a bachelor of music of the university of Trinity College, Dublin, late organist and choir master of St. James Church, Belfast, and for ten years a Professor in the Belfast Royal Academy. Mr. Gubb, I believe, remains in his present situation until Easter, and then goes to New York. I have not heard to what church.

Ephebe has had another disappointment. The libretto which was expected by the Peruvian did not arrive, in consequence of some trouble with the publishers who did not have it ready. This means a delay of another fortnight before the acting can be commenced. However it will give the chorus a better opportunity of getting familiar with singing to all orchestral accompaniments, and I believe the orchestra will commence practicing with the chorus very shortly. The latter rehearsals, I have been told, have been very encouraging.

Next week being Holy week, I suppose everything will be very quiet. I notice, though, that the church choirs get in a lot of practicing for their Easter music during the six days preceding that feast. Among other things talked of is the service which is to be held on St. George's day in Trinity church. The choir of St. Paul's and the Mission churches have been, or are to be, invited to assist, and rumor says that Rev. J. M. Davenport is to intone the service. I certainly think that, apart from all other considerations, the service will be well worth attending, musically speaking.

I believe the Philharmonic club has received the orchestral parts of the oratorio *Septua*, and are already at work on them. The attendance at the society's rehearsals is very good, and rapid progress is being made with the choruses.

Among those who will assist in the musical programme in connection with the Church of England Institute Easter sale, I notice the names of Miss Hancock, Miss Halliday, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. A. M. Smith, Mr. Ludlow Robinson and Master Fred Blair. The sale takes place the Thursday after Easter Sunday. TARBET.

Things Best Left Undone.

Do not write on ruled paper, or on that decorated with printed sunflower or blossoms of any kind.

Do not introduce your girl friend to the gentleman visitor. Instead, say "Miss Brown, will you allow me to present Mr. Jones?"

Do not talk especially to one person when you have three or four visitors. Instead make the conversation general.

Do not attempt to take care of a man's overcoat—he has a vote and ought to be able to look after his own clothes.

Do not ask people who they are in mourning for. If you don't know, wait until you find out, and, in the meantime, don't ask after the members of their family.

Do not giggle when a smile would answer, and don't talk in a jesting way about things that are holy to other people.

Do not laugh at anybody's form of worship—respect a toad praying to a mushroom.

Do not say the rules of etiquette are nonsense—they are made up for your comfort and mine, and arranged so that the feelings of every human being are considered.

Do not think it clever to find out by pumping the private affairs of your friend. There is no reason why you should lay bare her heart for an inquisitive daw to peck at.

Do not get into debt, but if you have been guilty, deny yourself everything possible that you may be free once more. —N. Y. Mail and Express.

Decidedly Unique.

A New York paper tells of a recent dinner party at which the guests, of whom there were forty, sat about an oval-shaped table thirty-seven feet long, which was spread in the large pink banquet room, and which was decorated with stuffed chicken, turkeys, geese, horses and a miniature plow, and the complete paraphernalia of a farm. In the centre of the table on a bed of straw, was a good-sized spring lamb, stuffed, and here and there on it were placed stacks of hoes and rakes tied together with ribbons, tall sheafs of wheat, buckets filled with spring flowers and baskets heaped with spring vegetables of every known variety.

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SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

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

ST. ANDREWS.

MARCH 25.—On Thursday evening, the Misses Odell gave a small party to their select friends. Progressive euchre and music were the attractions of the evening. The toilets worn by the ladies were pretty and worthy of note.

Miss Odell, who is a stately brunette, wore a combination dress of black and white of a soft material. Miss Minnie looked charming in lavender and black satin, square cut corsage, elbow sleeves; trimmings of black lace and white. Miss H. Grimmer looked very becomingly in mauve cashmere, moire trimmings.

Miss Gove, fish net over black silk; looked very fine. Mrs. L. W. Wren, old rose surrah silk.

The dresses worn by the Misses Nicholson, Green and Alger, were very pretty; also those of Mrs. Denning and Mrs. Dudley, Calais.

The first prizes were won by Mr. and Mrs. H. Grimmer. The ladies a silver bangle bracelet; the men's thermometer mounted on a toboggan. Booby prizes fell to Miss Love and Mr. Wren.

The music was exceptionally good. Mr. McGrath sang with much sweetness and expression that ever popular song, "Marguerite." A duet, "Far Away," by Miss Alger and Mr. McLeath, was very fine. Supper was served at midnight.

The men present were Messrs. McGrath, Haviland, New York; Carter, Bangor; Whitlock, Wren, Odell, Grimmer. There were regrets that the popular principal of the grammar school was unable to attend on account of illness.

Capt. R. McQuoid has returned from the land of the gold. Mr. and Mrs. Bradford have returned from their western tour. While highly pleased with their trip, they think, "there's no place like home."

Mrs. H. Street has returned from St. John. Capt. H. Campbell is visiting his parents. Mr. G. Fortune is home from Boston for a short vacation.

Miss Annie O'Neil is home from New York. Miss Kennedy has returned from her Canadian tour.

Dr. Powers has returned, bringing with him the substantial. He has thrown the "impressions" away.

Inspector O'Brien was in town last week. In consequence of his visit, there have been four cases of law grip. Two baffled the enemy with ginger beer and "pop." The other two victims are left to mourn their loss.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Magee have gone to Boston to see the styles. Miss Florence Sharp has gone to Boston. Miss Fitzpatrick has gone to New York.

The interesting event which was to have taken place some weeks ago, and which was so suddenly set aside by one of the parties being seized with la grippe, is to come off this week.

Mrs. T. Storr passed quietly to her rest on Sunday night, after a tedious illness. She was highly esteemed, and will be much missed in the family circle.

Dr. and Mrs. Osburn are expected home shortly. Theirs will be glad to welcome their pleasant faces back. PROGRESS.

AMHERST, N. S.

[PROGRESS is for sale in Amherst on the streets, by George Douglas.]

MARCH 27.—Miss Maggie Chapman, of Dorchester, spent a few days in town, the guest of Miss Ellen Read.

Mrs. Hubert Page left on Thursday last week for Montreal, where she will be joined by her husband. They proceeded to their new home in British Columbia. Mrs. Page was accompanied by her sister, Miss Howard, also Miss Alice Hay, of Halifax, who is going to join her father and sister in Vancouver, where they have made a home.

Surprise parties and quiet six o'clock teas have been quite numerous during the last week. Of the latter I may mention a pleasant meeting at Mrs. W. T. Pipes' charming home, "Whitethorne Cottage," on Wednesday.

Mrs. C. H. Best also entertained a number of ladies on Wednesday. Miss Myra Black gave a most enjoyable party on Friday evening.

Mrs. Walter Robb had another of her charming evenings on Friday.

Mr. Fitch, of the *Weekly Press*, has arrived in town with his bride.

Dr. Bliss' little son Gerald, is rapidly recovering from his very severe attack of scarlet fever.

Mr. James Dickey, C. E., spent Sunday in town. Everyone is always pleased to welcome the genial James.

Miss Crane, of Baie Verte, has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Tremaine.

Miss Harding, on her return to Halifax from her second visit to her uncle, Judge Fraser, at Dorchester, spent a short time with her friends in town.

Miss Robertson, of Dorchester, was in town last week, spending the time with her sister, Miss Alice, before the latter left for British Columbia. They were the guests of Mrs. Albert Chapman.

Miss Harrison, of Margareville, was in town for two or three weeks, visiting her cousin, Miss Miles.

Mr. Laird, son of ex-governor Laird of Manitoba, has been in town this week. He is in the bank here, where he made hosts of friends.

Mrs. Allan Chapman, of Dorchester, was in town on Tuesday.

We are anticipating a treat on Easter Tuesday, when Prof. C. G. D. Roberts is expected to deliver his lecture, "On the Threshold."

Mr. H. Lawcett, of Sackville, was in town on Monday.

Mr. T. R. Black, M. P. P., laid aside his parliamentary duties for a day or two, and then left on Wednesday for a short visit there, and accompany Mrs. Gass back to town. OSCAR.

DORCHESTER.

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

MARCH 28.—Mrs. C. U. Chandler, of Moncton, spent a few days in town last week at Mrs. Joshua Chandler's.

Miss Hamilton, of Shediac, is in town visiting her sister, Mrs. E. V. Chandler.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan W. Chapman spent Sunday in Amherst, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. David Chapman.

Miss Plank and Miss Peters returned from Bathurst by the C. P. R. Saturday evening.

Mr. H. C. Hamilton spent Sunday in town, as usual.

Mrs. H. W. and M. B. Palmer, and Miss Florie Palmer leave for New York next week, where they will remain two months.

Mr. and Mrs. David Chapman have returned from Amherst.

Miss Lottie Wallace, who has been quite ill, is able to be out again.

Mr. and Mrs. William Milner, of Sackville, spent Monday in town.

Mrs. Shreve, who has been visiting in St. John, came home last evening.

The members of the Gun club Thursday evening, was a decided success in every way, and if I am correctly informed by one of the members, a pleasant evening was spent. Judge Oulton occupied the chair, with Mr. Hickman on his right and Judge McNeil on his left. I trust that the Dorchester Gun club may flourish this season as it never did before, and may it vanquish every opponent. It will, I believe, hear from the Amherst Gun club shortly in the form of a challenge, so boys you had better get to work.

Mr. W. B. Chandler, who has been in St. John on legal business, returned home today.

Mr. Geo. F. Wallace went to Fredericton today to be present at the government stock sale.

Mr. Fred Chapman, of Moncton, arrived in town Monday, and is still here. HOPK.

CENTREVILLE, CARLETON COUNTY.

MARCH 27.—Mr. John Smith, a former resident of this place was buried here today. He had been in the lumber woods in Aroostook Co., Me., having worked three months, and while unloading, on his last trip—for the winter—two logs started and rolled over him. Springing to his feet and running a few steps towards his team, he exclaimed, "I'm killed," and immediately dropped dead.

Dr. Gregory, late of Stanley, York Co., arrived here yesterday. He opened up an office, and will make this village his future home. E. L. E. Miss Mary White spent Sunday at her home.

Mr. S. Shea, of Woodstock, paid us a hurried visit today.

Rev. S. Howard, B. A., (Methodist), occupied the Baptist pulpit last Sunday night. Rev. George Howard (Baptist), took his place at Wicklow.

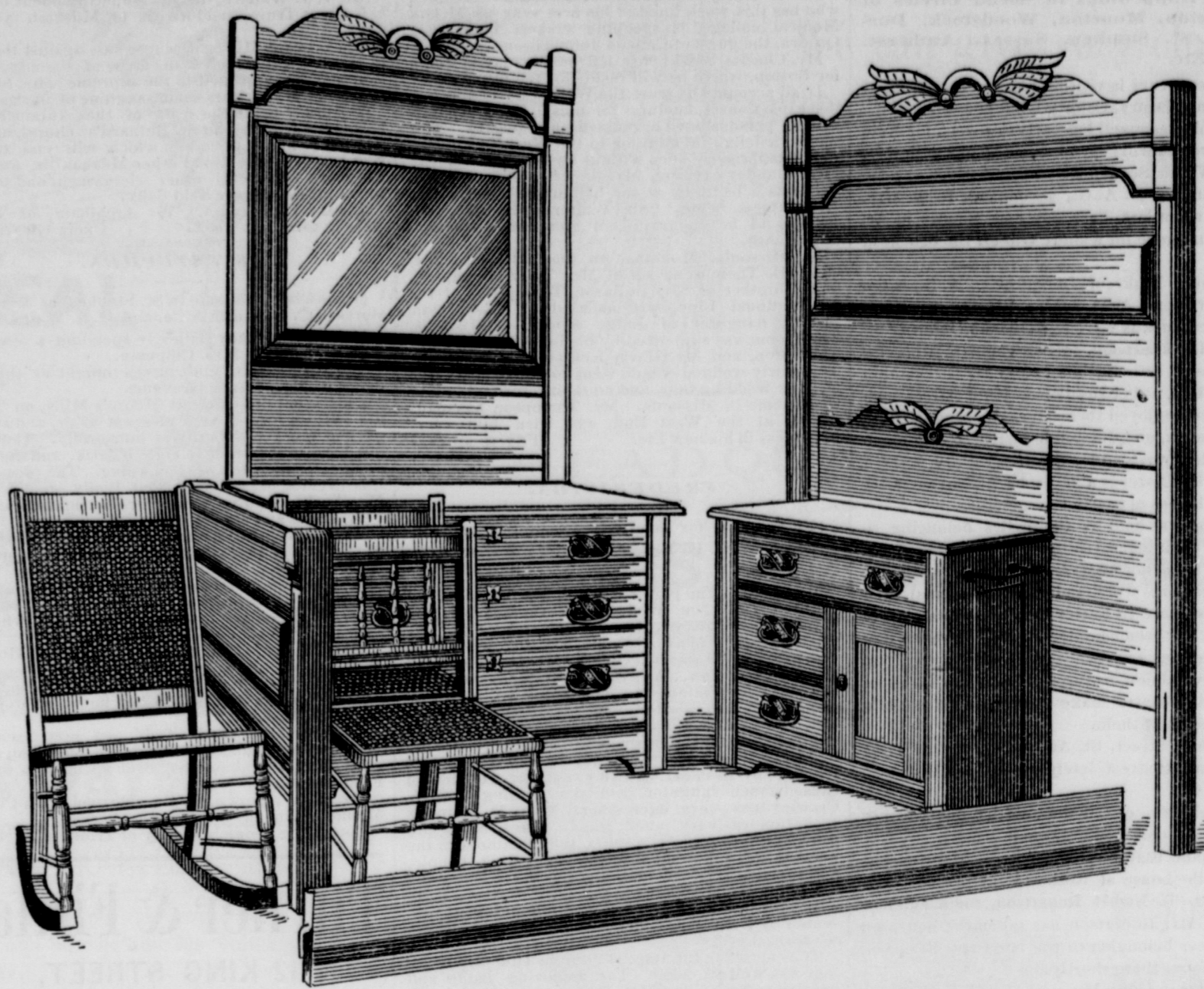
Mr. Scott Harold, a young man, died yesterday, from the effects of an accident he received last spring in the woods.

Mr. Clark's rink was crowded with pleasure seekers last Saturday night.

Under Professor Gibbs' instruction, our band is reaching a high state of efficiency, and will compare quite favorably with any other of the same age in the province. Dr. Dana is leader in the absence of the professor, last night they played sweet music to a large company in Mr. Alexander's hall. During the evening a number of baskets were sold at public auction, and the handsome sum of \$67 was added to the band fund. B.

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