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LITERARY

The Best in July Periodicals.

SCRIBNER.

Richard Harding Davis's "The Relief of Ladysmith" in the July *Scribner's* is probably the most brilliant piece of war correspondence since his famous story of the fight at Las Guasimas. He gives a vivid impression of the ways of living, the privations, suffering, and the constant danger in the besieged city, and of the fine spirit of endurance that enabled its defenders to hold out until the last. He shows, too, how difficult it was for the advancing column under General Buller to make its way through the surrounding hills that afforded the Boers an almost impregnable natural defence and describes the stirring scenes attending the entrance into the city of the relief column. The illustrations are from photographs in the city and of the country about,

The first of the papers on "The Slave-trade in America" by John R Spears, appears in this number. These will supply the first complete narrative dealing with the subject in all its aspects. Beginning with the conditions of life among the ignorant and superstitious blacks of the west coast of Africa, Mr. Spears tells of the inception and gradual development of the business of dealing in the lives of human beings, with its attendant brutality and general moral degradation. The entire narrative is based upon a careful study of actual contemporary records, both English and American. A remarkable series of illustrations by Walter Appleton Clark accompanies the text.

Another article by Thomas F. Millard, the correspondent who has been on the Boer side throughout the war, and who has made a careful study of their methods of fighting, deals with "The Boer as a Soldier." He points out with great clearness the Boers' methods in the field and shows how the dominance of individualism in the ranks and a lack of willingness to yield the conduct of affairs to the proper leaders have caused a large percentage of their defeats and deprived them of many opportunities for taking advantage of British mistakes and reverses.

M'CLURE FOR JULY.

Mr. S. S. McClure has secured from Rudyard Kipling a series of stories of the South African war. The first, entitled "The Outsider," has appeared in the July number of McClure's Magazine. This story introduces a young ignorant but self-important subaltern detailed to the demand of a remote railway station who gets into serious trouble As a character study, this is one of the most vigorous and amusing stories Mr. Kipling has ever written. In the July McClure's appears a sketch of Bryan, by the well-known Kansas journalist, William Allen White, author of "Boyville Stories." This is the first of a series of pen portraits of political celebrities by a writer particularly well qualified to write of both their public and private life. The article contains a shrewd estimate of Bryan's political career, and throws much light on the causes of his popularity.

LIPXINCOTT FOR JULY.

The July "New Lippincott" is primarily a Summer Story Number. The complete novel, called "An Anti-Climax," is a story of modern society in a swell suburb by Ellen Olney Kirk. Many remember "The Story of Margaret Kent," by the same pen, which achieved so great a success several years ago, and in this later work Mrs. Kirk bids fair to excel her earlier one. Stanwood Fleming, an interesting, absent-minded widower, is plunged into despair at the prospect of "bringing out" his twin daughters. In accomplishing this he is ably assisted by an attractive widow and a clever, good-looking spinster cousin who rival each other in devising plans of campaign. The introduction of a lady type-writer rather upsets these plans. The anxiety of the girls for their father's future, and concern about them and their lovers, are diverting episodes, and the amusing end of it all must be left for the reader to discover.

The first of five extraordinarily good short stories is notably Marion Harland's college tale "As a Dream when one Awaketh." This special graduation happens to be at Rutgers, but the incident might occur any day at any college, so it appeals to us all and is intensely interesting.

"A Monk from the Ghetto," by a new writer of much originality, Martha Wolfenstein, may be considered an antithesis to Maarten Maarten's story, "The Little Christian," which appeared in "Lippincott's" several month's ago and stirred up quite a controversy. The lifelong friendship between a Catholic priest and a Jew is the key-note of the plot.

"Damnabilissimus Juvenis," by Beulah Marie Dix, is a thrilling tale of Roundhead times, with a hero who found that knowledge of Latin saved his neck in time of danger. The "New Lippincott" with the Chestertown Transcript, $2.70 a year.

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