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THE BEST IN LITERATURE.

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The contents of the December Magazine Number of THE OUTLOOK are varied. Among the special articles will be found the fifth installment of the autobiography of Booker T. Washington, called "Up From Slavery"; the final installment of Mr. Hamiliton W. Mabie's "William Shakespear: Poet, Dramatist and Man," which has now been published by the Macmillians in sumptuous book form; elaborate articles reviewing the ablest books of the season in the departments of art, biography and fiction, with many portrait illustrations; and, most prominent of all, a series of brief articles by such men as James Bryce, Henry van Dyke, Edward Everett Hale, President Hadley, of Yale and half a dozen others, giving their opinions in reply to the question "What Are the Greatest Books of the Century?" ($3 a year, THE OUTLOOK COMPANY, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York.)

THE "NEW LIPPENCOTT."

The Christmas number of the "New Lippincott" Magazine publishes complete Amelia E. Barr's latest and best novel entitled "Souls of Passage." The author says this stary is the fulfilment of twenty years' intention, though only within the last twelve months has she felt that the time was ripe for launching her darling plot. It is certainly the best thing Mrs. Barr has done not even excepting "The Bow of Orange Ribbon," The title, "Souls of Passage," element shows strongly on one side of the story which deals with picturesque reincarnation. There is a striking psychological incident that one cannot forget, but above and beyond all, the novel is an intensely human story of Scotland, in which people love or hate, succeed or fail, live or die, in the most genuine sort of manner. The reader will feel a glow of gratitude to the author for writing about educated Glasgow people whose speech is understanable without foot-notes. Surely, humor, love and pathos gain much by not requiring to be translated. Most of the action of the story takes place at a Highland castle belonging to the Provost of Glasgow, where he takes his family to spend the summer. Here, while the young people are laughing and loving, the Provost and his old friend, Ian Macrae, meet after many years. Macrae is a believer in reincarnation, declaring, "We are Souls of Passage! We are here for a purchase."

Miss Agnes Pepplier contributes one of her charming essays, calling it "As Advertised." It hits at the oddness of advertisers, past and present, and is witty and satirical in Miss Repplier's own inimitable way.

A FEAST OF GOOD THINGS.

The Christmas Ladies' Home Journal offers a superabundance of literary and artistic features in most attractive form. Among its newly two-score contributors are Mrs. Lew Wallace, Elizabeth Stuart, Phelps, Charles Major, William Perrine, Clifford Howard and Elizabeth Lincoln Gould, while A. B. Frost, W. L. Taylor, Reginald B. Birch, Henry Hutt, George Gibbs and as many other illustrators supply its pictorial features. Apart from the articles having special holiday timeliness of interest the featuses of th Christmas Journal include "The Innkeeper's Daughter Who Dissolved a President's Cabinet," "What May Happen in the Next Hundred Years." Jerusalem as We See it To Day," "Two Women's Gifts of Twenty Five Millions," "The 'Little Men' Play" a dramatization of Louise M. Alcott's delightful story; "Where Children See St. Nick," "The Fourteenth Man," "Two Christmas Days at Rock Farm," and "The Successors of Mary the First," "The Story of a Young Man," and the "Blue River Bear Stories," which are continued. Edward Box has a thoughtful article on Christmas celebration, and there are various articles on woman's wear, Christmas presents and edibles, while various other practical, and helpful themes are ably presented. By The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. One dollar a year; ten cents a copy.

MCCLURE'S FOR DECEMBER.

The curious charm of the East holds every imaginative mind that from afar dreams of its mysteries. The like charm interpreted in part by experience, yet only the more subtly persistent, dominates those that have dwelt long in the Orient. In this treasure-field lie richest gems, as well of realism as of romance, ready for that author who has the art for their setting. Rudyard Kipling won his first fame by short stories of life in India, stories at times tragically prosaic, at times marvelous and mystical, always pregnant with force. And now again Kipling has chosen India as the theme of his maturest work. In McClure's Magazine for *December* appears the first installment of "Kim," the latest and most important novel from Kipling's pen. From the beginning it reveals itself as a masterpiece worthy alike of its theme and of its author.

But "Kim" is not the sole feature of prime literary importance in the *December* issue of McClure's Magazine. Anthony Hope there begins a series that will be welcomed by every wise reader. The "Dolly Dialogues" won for this brilliant writer his first prestige. The "Dolly" of those beguiling conversations was an artist's creation, a personalty absolutely new in literature yet true, living. That daintiest and most delicious of modern matrons was beloved by all for piquant graces, her adorable minglings of naive and worldly wisdom. Now the author permits us new glimpses of this delectable lady, and in "More Dolly Dialogues" her witcheries reassert their gentle sway.

DECEMBER REVIEW OF REVIEWS.

In the December Review of Reviews the editor comments on several important questions of the hour, including the new army bill, the problem of reappointment in the South, the Isthmian Canal and other matters that will engage the attention of Congress at the approaching session; the results of the census of 1900, with reference to the proposed admission of new States and representation in Congress; the meaning of the national election; the Cuban Constitutional Convention; the elections in Porto Rico and Hawaii; the Liberal victories in Canada and Newfoundland; the Chinese negotiations, and European politics, both internal and international. Among the contributed features are articles on "The Cuban Republic—Limited." by Walter Wellman; "Governor-elect Odell, of New York," by Dr. Lyman Abbott, and "Marcus Daly, Empire-Builder," by Samuel E. Moffett. There is also an interesting chronology of the career of William McKinley, the eighth President to be re-elected for the second consecutive term.

"ON THE DUTIES OF A WIFE."

Mary Sumerville, the mathematician, was a charmiug as well as a great woman. Indeed, as a girl, and later as a youthful widow, she was called prettily the "Rose of Jedwood," and was decidedly a belle. In person she was small, graceful, clear-eyed, of delicate features and a complexion like strawberries and cream; in disposition she was shy and modest, yet with a quick sense of humor, a gentle wit, and a ready friendliness that won affection everywhere. The art of rejecting suitors with the least possible pain was one which she had to acquire; but she had one suitor whom, notwithstanding her sweet disposition, she found it a satisfaction to dissappoint.

She had unobtrusively begun, simply for her own pleasure in leisure hours, the studies which afterward won her fame. But this gentleman so highly disapproved of learning for ladies that he sent the pretty widow by way of love-token a very long, very prosy volumn of most old-fashioned and illiberal sermons concerning women with the page ostentatiously turned down at one, "On the Duties of a Wife."

"I thought this as impertinent as it was premature," she records with spirit. "I sent back the book and refused the proposal."

It was not the last impertinence of the kind. On her betrothal to Doctor Somerville his younger sister wrote her a letter purposely to express a hope that "you will now give up your foolish manner of life and studies, and make a useful and respectable wife to my brother." The brother, who fully sympathized with his fiancee's intellectual aspirations, was properly incensed, however, and so manfully defended her to his family that they dared venture no furthur protest. On their wedding trip the young couple were joined near the termination of their honeymoon by several relatives one of whom fell seriously ill at a forlorn little country inn where few comforts were obtainable. The whole party was detained, and the mathematical bride promptly betook herself to the kitchen and constituted herself head cook and assistant nurse. The invalid took a sick fancy for currant jelly; notwithstanding a discouraging array of difficulties, she made him some which proved delicious. "And," she declared merrily, after she had been for long years a successful wife and mother as well as one of the most famous women in Europe, "I can never forget the astonishment expressed at my being able to be so useful!"

That was the time when the Bluestocking—unfeminine, unattractive crammed with dry and useless lore—was still a bugbear to terrify even intelligent girls away from books. We know better now. We know that there were never many genuine specimens of that painful sisterhood, and that most of the women who have been precious to the world for their learning, wisdom or genius, have been also women who were precious in the home.

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In the morning exercises were held in the chapel. The chief number on the programme of exercises was the concert given by the choir of 40 insane patients under the leadship of Mrs. Hughes, wife of Chief Resident Physician Hughes, and the literary features that followed. The chapel was decorated with red, white and blue festoons, and palms and potted plants. Mayor Ashbridge and Dr. Shoemaker spoke briefly to the insane patients.

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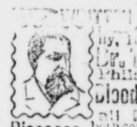

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