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THE BEST IN THE PERIODICALS.

February's Menu of a Feast of Literary Good Things.

COUTRY LIFE IN AMERICA FOR FEBRUARY.

Country Life in America for February is an enlarged number of this beautiful magazine of the world out-of-doors representing the new expansion of American life to the country. "I Garb of White," the frontispiece, is a remarkable picture of a New England woods road in winter. Among the leading features are "Skibo Castle," the summer home ef Andrew Carnegie in the Scottish Highlands; "A Sniff at Old Gardens," by J. P. Mowbray, who treats of the vestiges of a past home life on the old Hudson River manors; and "Cuckoo," an illustrated poem of the woods, by John Burroughs. Other articles and superb pictures touch upon every side of country life. "Prize Dogs" represent St. Bernards of world-wide fame; "Two' Possums and Several Mistakes," by A. Radclyffe Dugmore, is illustrated by inimitable photographs of the live animals under unique circumstances; while "The Trees," is a large plate of rare beauty covering the two central pages of the large magazine. Of gardens and practical garden making there is "An Experience with the Soil," in which a suburbanite tells of years of enthusiastic work in growing a wild garden of some eighty kinds of flowers, shrubs and aquatic plants; and there are also articles on the construction and care of the hot-bed, with suggestions for starting early vegetables and flowers. A series of photographs is devoted to "The Abandoned Farm Country," where, amid old friends—the marigold, hollyhock and climbing rose—may be found pleasant summer homes, modest, but quite as much the aim of this successful magazine as the ideal country seats with their dairies, blooded stock, and fox-hunts.

THE COSMOPOLITIAN.

Sir Charles W. Dilke contributes to The Cosmopolitan for February an article on "The Naval strength of Nations," which gives not only a most interesting and comprehensive account of the navies of the great powers but also a clear insight into world politics. Few men possess such knowledge as the author's, gained from years of experience in a diplomatic and political career. The artical is so broad in scope and straightforward in treatment that it will be read with interest not alone by statesmen but by every one whose thoughts travel beyond the immediate wants of a single day.

The Cosmopolitian is fortunate in its fiction for February. Stories of love, adventure and humor from the pens of famous arthors make the "Midwinter Fiction Number" vitally interesting. "S. Cohn & Son" by Zangwill deals with the Anglicization of a Jew and the inevitable tragedy of his love for an English girl whose race prejudice triumphs over her nobler feelings. In "The Valley of the Dead" Thomas A. Janvier pictures the struggle of a dashing young engineer between love and duty. "Mr. MacGlowrie's Widow" is the title of a Western story in Bret Harte's happiest vein and "The Fish" is one of E. W. Kemble's best humorous skits.

"Niagara—The Scene of Perilous Feats" is the title of an article in the February Cosmopolitian which tells the story of the many who have year after year gone to Niagara seeking notoriety or—death. From the earliest days Niagara has deen the Mecca of those who valued their lives lightly, and the story of Sam Patch, Blondin, Maria Spelterina, the jealous Balleni's attempt to cut the cable on which his rival was performing over the seething Whirlpool Rapids, Peter Nissen's ill-fated "Fool-Killer," and Captain Webb's, is carried down to Mrs. Taylor, the only survivor of a trip over the great falls.

MCCLURES FOR FEBRUARY.

McClure's Magazine for February is one of the best all-around numbers its editors have got out. The timeliness of the articles, their range of subject and the variety of short stories make it possible to read the number from cover to cover without monotony.

Two articles stand out for special notice as among the most opportune and readable magazine articles for the month—"Marconi's Achievement," by Ray Stannard Baker, and "Grover Cleveland," by William Allen White. In each case both the title and the author's name are sufficient guarantee of good reading on timely subjects. Concerning the Marconi paper, it is of interest to learn that the author of it was the first special correspondent for any paper or magazine to catch Maconi in Newfoundland after his success in telegraphing across the ocean without wires. Mr. Baker had many opportunities of seeing Marconi at work and when the inventor left Newfoundland traveled across the island with him, and so has been able to write the most authoritative, and by far the most thorough account of the matter yet published. The inventor, so says Mr. Baker, is very sanguine about the rapid extention of wireless telegraphy. It is a question rather of months than of years, he thinks, before wireless messages will be regularly sent across the Atlantic at a cost hardly exceeding a cent a word. Marconi has also succeeded in perfecting his devise of "tuning" his instruments, so that a given message will influence only the "receiver" especially keyed to take it, thus securing the same degree of secrecy as is possible in an ordinary cable dispatch.

THE LEDGER MONTHLY FOR FEBRUARY.

A rarely beautiful picture representing an old colonial St. Valentine subject forms the cover design for the February number of the Ledger Monthly. Among the interesting special articles in the February number of the Ledger Monthly may be mentioned "The Old English Home of the Washingtons" by Day Allen Willey, with illustrations of the houses and scenes rendered interesting by connection with the immediate ancestors of the illustrious patriot, General George Washington; "Historic Old Blue China Connected with New York State," by N. Hudson Moore, a very interesting article on the fine old blue Staffordshire ware connected with the history of New York State, illustrated with photographic reproductions of many beautiful pieces; 'Florida for Health and Recreation," by Waldon Fawcett with many illustrations of this winter paradise; an article on the principal popular musica dramatic artists of the day, entitled "Stars of the Opera." "The Ledger Album of Celebrities," in the February number, gives portraits and sketches of Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico, the Emperor and Empress of Germany, Mrs. Humphrey Ward, the author of "Robert Elsmere," Edwin A. Abbey and James McNeill Whistler, the artists, Elihu Root, the Secretary of War, Santos-Dumont, the Brazilian aeronaut, and Hall Caine, the author of "The Christian." The department of "The Social Side of Church Work," contains an interesting article on the International Society of the Kings Daughters, by Rev. William J. Peck, M. A., and an article on "The Mite Society" by Rev. Octayus Flagg, D. D. Rev. Egerton R. Young continues his fascinating story, "A Missionary and His Dogs in the Wild Northwest." This number of the Ledger Monthly contains all the regular departments "Current Fashions," by Mathilde Verlet, "Cooking and Serving," by Mrs. Gesine Lemcke; "The Cultivation of Physical Beauty," by Stella Stuart; "Thoughts Affecting the Life of a Young Girl," by Mrs. Clement Farley; Ledger Model Houses of Moderate Cost," "Our Health and Its Conditions," dealing with diet and digestion, "The World Over," "Youth and Home," "New Books," "Home Cooking," etc. The Ledger Monthly is $1 00 a year, 10 cents a copy. The Ledger Publishing Co., Publishers, 4th Ave. and 19th St., New York.

NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

The February number of the North American Review is rich in contributions of strikingly high quality upon a great variety of important subjects. Professor Simon Newcomb opens the number with a strong and suggestive article on "conditions Which Discourage Scientific Work in America." Charles H. Allen, the first Civil Governor of Poto Rico, tells "How Civil Government was established in Poto Rico." Oscar S Straus writes of the recent "Conference for Industrial Peace" and its possible results. W. McAdoo, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Navy, in "Launching a Battleship from the Congressional Ways," gives an account of the course of a proposition for the construction of a new vessel of war from its inception from the Navy department, through the House and the Senate, up to the moment when it is presented to the President for his signature. Prince A. de Yturbide shows why "The Proposed Pan-American Union" is opposed by conservative citizens of Spanish-American countries. Charles Whibley presents a charming study of the great Russian novelist, Ivan Turgenev. F. W. Whiteridge, replying to Mr. Gage's recent defence in the Review of the customs regulations now in force, contends that very different opinions of these regulations are held by "American Travelers and the Treasury department." Maurice Low deprecates the encroachment of "The Oligarchy of the Senate" upon powers which the Senate was never intended to exercise. Col. H. M. Chittenden, of the Engineer Corps of the United States Army, strongly advocates "Government Construction of Reservoirs in the Arid Regions."

SCRIBNER FOR FEBRUARY

Scribner's Magazine for February contains discussions of questions of the greatest national importance; short fiction by clever writers, beautifully illustrated; several art articles; an instalment of F. Hopkinson Smith's serial of artist life in New York; and poems by Winston Churchill, Edith Wharton and others.

The question of most importance now before Congress is "The Proposed Isthmian Ship Canal," and William H. Burr, a member of the Commission, gives the clearest possible exposition of the whole subject for the general reader. Professor Burr speaks with the highest authority as an engineer, and from actual observation of the Nicaragua and Panama routes. He is a vivid writer and his article is entirely free from technical obscurities. His attitude toward both routes is judicial, and he balances the advantages and disadvantages with perfect frankness. Every one who wants to know about this great project can get an adequate idea of it from Professor Burr's article. The illustrations and diagrams help to make it entertaining.

A man who lives right, and is right, has more power in his silence than than another has by his words. Character is like bells which ring out sweet music and which, when touched, accidentally even, resound with sweet music. —*Philips Brooks.*

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