

health, and charm, qualities as valuable to women as brains and industry are to men." But somehow these girls didn't or wouldn't marry. Then came the loss of all their fortune, and in consequence they are shipwrecked in life. How their misfortunes ended I must leave the readers to find out for themselves. The narrative of their various adventures is full of interest and suggestion. Moreover, Mrs. Dean has been exceptionally clever in the descriptions she has given us of the male kind in the story. If Herr Hansen is an admirable portraiture of a good-hearted, dull-natured German, Dick Lorimer is almost an equally good representation of a sturdy-natured young Englishman, and even the minor male characters are drawn with a clever and sure pen. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore seem to me to be rather impossibly stony-hearted people, who were apparently created stony-hearted by their authoress, in order to further the dramatic necessities of her story.

I should like to draw attention to the descriptions in this novel "of the critical attitude of the German visitor to England, as well as that of the English visitor to Germany," the contrast in their rival attitude of mind are treated with considerable originality and wit. The novel is engrossing, and difficult to lay aside before finishing.

A. M. G.

## Bookland.

### WHAT TO READ.

"The Home and Early Haunts of Robert Louis Stevenson," by Margaret Armour. With 12 illustrations, including new portrait by W. B. Macdougall. Edinburgh (Riverside Press, W. H. White and Co.)

"Russian Rambles," by Isabel P. Hapgood. (London: Longmans.)

"Colonel Norton," by Florence Montgomery, Author of "Thrown Together," "Seaforth," &c. (Richard Bentley & Sons.)

"My Lady Nobody," a novel, by Maarten Maartens. (Richard Bentley & Sons.)

"Terminations," by Henry James. (William Heinemann.)

"At the Gate of Samaria," by William J. Locke. (William Heinemann.)

The Queen has given her permission for the dedication to her of a book on Hindoo schoolgirl life entitled "Ratanbai," by Shevantibai M. Nikambai, to which Lady Harris has written a preface. The book will be published by Messrs. Marshall Brothers.

Mr. Thomas Hardy's new story, "Hearts Insurgent," now appearing serially in *Harper's Magazine*, will be published in book form by Messrs. Osgood, McIlvaine, and Co., uniform with their new and complete edition of this author's works. The story has been somewhat modified for the purpose of serial publication.

The new volume of "The Zeit-Geist Library" will be contributed by the author of "A Yellow Aster." It will be entitled a "Comedy in Spasms," and a first edition of 10,000 copies will be printed.

A biography devoted to the extraordinary career of Lady Hester Stanhope, niece of William Pitt, is being written by the Duchess of Cleveland.

The Tower Publishing Company will publish shortly a collection of short stories entitled "Stolen Souls," by

William Le Queux, the author of the successful romance, "Zoraida."

The forthcoming number of the *Humanitarian* will contain a discussion on the "Place of Realism in Fiction," to which the following writers will contribute:—Dr. William Barry (author of "A New Antigone"), Alphonse Daudet, Sir George Douglas, Ella Heyworth Dixon, George Gissing, W. H. Mallock, Richard Pryce, Adeline Sergeant, Frederick Wedmore and W. H. Wilkins.

Love letters used to be interesting, but from the specimens made public we fear the writing of them is a lost art. A fascinating volume of "Love Letters" has, however, just made its appearance, edited by Mr. Gilbert Burgess. The letters, which were exchanged by one James Hackman and Miss Reay, the mistress of the Earl of Sandwich, cover a period of three years, 1775 to 1779, and are very dramatic, the sad sequel to the story being the murder of one of the lovers by the other. The man's letters are charged with passion and loving tenderness, the woman's also are admirable.

The letter written by Hackman to a friend when lying under sentence of death at Newgate has more real interest than his demonstrations of devotion (a love letter cannot stand the scrutiny of a *third* pair of eyes). It is the description of a dream in which he sees the woman he loved.

"But what saw I else? That mind, that person, that face, that angel—was in the bosom of another angel. Between us was a gulf, a gulf impassable! I could not get to her, neither could she come to me.

Nor did she wish it. There was the curse.

Charles, she saw me, where I was, steeped to the lips in misery. She saw me, but without a tear, without one sigh.

One sigh from her, I thought, and I could have borne all my sufferings.

A sigh, a tear! She smiled at all my sufferings. Yes, she, even she, enjoyed the tortures, the wrackings of my soul. She bade her companion angel, too, enjoy them. She seemed to feast upon my griefs; and only turned away her more than damning eyes to turn them on her more than blest companion.

Flames and brimstone, corporeal sufferings, were paradise to such eternal mental hell as this.

Oh! how I rejoiced, how I wept, sobbed with joy, when I awoke and discovered it was only a dream, and found myself in the condemned cell of Newgate."

We have more sympathy for the captive than the "angel."

## Coming Events.

June 27th.—Opening by H.R.H. Princess of Wales at 1 p.m. of Grand Bazaar in aid of St. Mary's Hospital at Portman Rooms, also on two following days.

Afternoon Concert at St. Martin's Town Hall in aid of the East London Nursing Society.

June 28th.—Last day of Fancy Fair at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, in aid of the funds of the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission 1s.

June 29th.—Consecration of Rahere Lodge of Freemasons by H.R.H. Prince of Wales at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Evening Concert at Queen's Hall by Countess of Radnor's String Band and Chorus in aid of National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Madame Albani will sing.

Annual Scottish Gathering in aid of Scottish Charities in London, at Stamford Bridge Grounds.

July 1st.—Women's Mission Association, S.P.G. Meeting at 37, Dover Street, W., 3.30., Bishop of Ely presiding.

July 4th.—Meeting of Matrons' Council at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 3 p.m.

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