

"Few are ignorant of that weakness of the vulgar which leads them to admire in the great, not so much the qualities which deserve admiration, as those which, in the eyes of the better-informed, are defects; so that the *amours* of Cæsar, the clock-making of Charles, and the jests of Coligny are more in the mouths of men than their statesmanship or valour. For one thing commendable, two that are diverting are told; and for one man who in these days recalls the thousand great and wise deeds of the late king, a thousand remember his occasional freaks, the duel he would have fought, or his habit of visiting the streets of Paris by night and in disguise."

There are twelve episodes related in this volume, and nine of them are captivating. I would give precedence to those entitled "The Open Shutter," "The Two Mayors of Bottitort," "The Tennis Balls" and "The Cat and the King." I shall not, however, spoil any reader's interest by revealing a line of the plots of these stories. They are all permeated by the character of Henri IV.'s famous Minister, with his genuine sense of humour, balanced by his fears of compromising his dignity, his little sententious aphorisms and his devotion to his king. The commencement of the story of "The Governor of Guèret" will give readers a specimen of these qualities:—

"Without attaching to dreams greater importance than a prudent man will always be willing to assign to the unknown and the unintelligible, I have been in the habit of reflecting on them. . . . Considering these visions, and comparing my sleeping apathy with my daylight reflections, I have been led to wonder at the power of habit; which alone makes it possible for a man who has seen a dozen stricken fields, and viewed scarcely with emotion the slaughter of a hundred prisoners, to turn pale at the sight of a coach accident, and walk a mile rather than see a rope hang."

Mr. Stanley Weyman first made a name for himself when he published "A Gentleman of France." That was a delightful history of adventure, crime and romance. Since then, and before then, we have had stories about other heroes from his pen, but none equal to that foolish, grave, romantic and altogether delightful personage, Monsieur de Marsac, gentleman of France. These memoirs of Baron de Rosny, Duc de Sully, will, it is to be suspected, prove almost, if not quite as great a favourite with the sensible reading British public. I know two women and one man who don't (truth to tell—can't) appreciate and enjoy "A Gentleman of France," and I always feel so sorry for them, and consider that they have missed a great epicurean literary treat. I hope that the many readers of the "Memoirs of a Minister of France" will all enjoy (as much as the writer of this review) the relation of his quaint adventures, hopes and fears.

A. M. G.

Bookland.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND CO. announce that they have undertaken the London agency of the *Century* and *St. Nicholas*, and that both magazines will in future be published at 30, Bedford Street, Covent Garden. Among the special attractions of the new volume of the *Century* will be a new novel by Mrs. Humphry Ward, entitled "Sir George Tressady;" shorter serial stories, by W. D. Howells and F. Hopkinson Smith, the continuation of Professor Sloane's "Life of Napoleon," extensively illustrated; four papers by Captain Mahan, on Nelson's most famous victories; three articles on "Rome," by Marion Crawford, illustrated by Castaigne, and contributions by Mark Twain, Rudyard Kipling and George Kennan.

On January 1st, 1896, Mr. T. Fisher Unwin will publish a new monthly with the title "Cosmopolis, an International Review," at the price of half-a-crown. It will appear simultaneously in London, Berlin and Paris, and contain original articles in English, French and German, with chronicles of the literary, political and theatrical occurrences of the month in Germany, France and England.

Messrs. Longman and Co. will issue next month "Longman's Gazetteer of the World." The work is to be edited by Mr. George G. Chisholm.

The Tower Publishing Company will publish early this week, "The Lady in Grey," by George Ohnet, author of "The Ironmaster." This is the first volume of the Tower Cosmopolitan Library.

The *Athenæum* says that Mr. George Meredith's new novel, "The Amazing Marriage," will be published by Messrs. Archibald Constable and Co. in the course of the season.

Mr. S. R. Crockett in "Sweetheart Travellers," has written a book for children. Messrs. Wells Gardner and Co. are the publishers.

Some personal recollections of Cardinal Manning, Mary Hewitt, George Eliot, Adelaide Procter, "Barry Cornwall," and other celebrities are promised in Madame Belloc's new volume, entitled "In a Walled Garden," which Messrs. Ward and Downey are to bring out.

WHAT TO READ.

"A Scheme for Imperial Federation: A Senate for the Empire." Three articles reprinted with additions from the *Westminster Review* of April July and October, 1879, by Granville C. Cunningham, of Montreal, Canada, with an Introduction by Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G.

"The Borderland of Czar and Kaiser," by Poultney Bigelow. (London: Gay and Bird.)

"The Land of the Nile Springs," by Colonel Colville. (Edward Arnold.)

"Outre-mer: Impressions of America," by Paul Bourget. (T. Fisher Unwin.)

"Flamma Vestalis, and other Poems," by Eugene Mason. Cameo Series. (Fisher Unwin.)

"Essays about Men, Women and Books," by Augustine Birrell, author of "Obiter Dicta." (London: Elliot Stock.)

"The Men of the Moss Hags," by S. R. Crockett. (London: Isbister.)

"Scylla or Charybdis," by Rhoda Broughton. (R. Bentley and Son.)

"The One Who Looked On," by F. F. Montresor. (Hutchinson and Co.)

"Rust of Gold," by Francis Prevost. (London: Ward, Lock and Bowden.)

Coming Events.

October 8th.—Meeting of the Executive Committee, Registered Nurses' Society. Election of members. Selection of candidates, 5 p.m.

October 17th.—Opening Nursing Exhibition, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, 2.30 p.m.

October 18th.—Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Women, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, 11 a.m.

October 24th.—Matrons' Council. Meeting of Executive Committee, 2.30 p.m. Meeting of Council, 3 p.m. First Sessional Conference at the Medical Society, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, 8.30 p.m. Paper by Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on "A Uniform Curriculum of Education for Nurses." Tea and Coffee.

October 21st to 25th.—The Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers at Nottingham.

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