

of hundreds of miles from the village where they had resided. I must own this story strains my own credulity to the breaking-point. But it is established by the very strongest and most detailed evidence; and there appears to be no choice between believing it, and holding a lady to have been guilty of an almost inconceivably complicated and deliberate fraud.

The preface to this book is perhaps the most interesting part of it. Mr. Lang therein states, with admirable lucidity, the state of his own mind as regards a belief in ghosts. It is very striking, but I have not space left to quote it, but must refer all and sundry to the book itself, which must be of the deepest interest to all who care for such things. G. M. R.

Bookland.

TRULY, the foes of woman are those of her own household! As we read the things some women write, we are tempted to wonder whether the attempt to make them realize their vast responsibilities is to be a hopeless failure after all.

Miss Laurence Alma-Tadema has written a little quasi-dramatic story in the *Cosmopolitan*, which is really not far from being a plea for the reinstatement of the harem, with all its social and moral curse.

A widow sits by the fire, her only son on her knees. Out of the cold and stormy night, a wanderer implores shelter for herself and her little baby boy. The widow admits her, and her child is laid beside the widow's child, in the inner room. This wanderer has also lost the man she loved, and she assures the widow that her loss is not less hard to bear, because she was never wife to the father of her child. The widow is sufficiently modern to feel that this trifling irregularity constitutes no bar to a life-long friendship; and they are planning to live together always, when the nurse from within calls upon them to look at the two children, who are awake, and are the living image of each other. It does not take long to discover that the husband of the widow was the father of the wanderer's child, whom he met barely two months after his marriage to the woman who had given him all her heart. The widow is sufficiently normal to feel, at first, that this renders the life-long friendship liable to become a trifle strained; but the wanderer shows her how narrow-minded this is. He has given the same exquisite joy to two instead of one, that is all; and the widow sees that she was quite wrong, being herself completely loyal to one man, to expect a man to be in return completely loyal to herself. When women preach this pernicious stuff, how shall we hope to make men chaste?

Tired.

No more satins, silks, and laces,
 No more gems and hot-house flowers,
 No more matches, no more races,
 No more stifling gas-lit hours!
 I want to steal away
 To laugh in the dew and the day,
 To milk the cow,
 And blush and vow,
 With Lubin under the may!

No more light loves, no more letters
 Offering dinners, drives, or dances,
 No more social fibs and fetters.
 Let the future take its chances!
 I want to steal away
 To sigh in the evening gray,
 To watch love rise
 In a true man's eyes,
 With Lubin under the may!

No more dreaming! Vain the yearning,
 May is dead, and here's November!
 Down life's path there's no returning;
 Love and youth, who dares remember?
 Yet oh, for but one day,
 Once more to steal away,
 To taste the bliss
 Of a first love kiss
 With Lubin under the may!

—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

WHAT TO READ.

- "Cecilia." By Stanley V. Makower.
 "The Earth Breath, and other Poems." By A. E.
 "Tennyson, a Memoir." By his Son.
 "Annals of a Publishing House: William Blackwood and his Sons. Their Magazine and Friends." By Mrs. Oliphant.
 "St. Francis of Assisi: his Times, Life, and Work." By W. J. Knox-Little, Canon Residentiary of Worcester.
 "The Ancient Wisdom: an Outline of Theosophical Teachings." By Annie Besant.
 "The Journal of Countess Francoise Krasinska, Great-Grandmother of Victor Emmanuel." Translated by Kasimir Dziekonska.
 "The French Revolution." By Justin H. McCarthy. Volumes III. and IV.
 "The Pomp of the Lavillettes." By Gilbert Parker.
 "In Kedar's Tents." By Merriman.

Coming Events.

Special Exhibition of Nursing Appliances by Messrs. Southall, Bros. & Barclay, at 74, Regent Street, W., daily, until October 28th.

October 18th.—The Queen's Jubilee presents will be on view at the Imperial Institute on and after Monday October 18th, between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

October 19th.—At 73, Lynette Avenue, Clapham Common; Lecture, "Women's Position in Politics." By Mrs. Wetton. 7.30 p.m.

October 25th.—At 49, Elgin Crescent, Notting Hill; Lecture, "Luxury." By Mrs. E. F. Hogg. 7.30 p.m.

THE SANITARY INSTITUTE.

October 21st.—Water Supply, Drinking Water, Pollution of Water. Prof. W. H. Corfield, M.A., M.D. Oxon., F.R.C.P., Professor of Hygiene and Public Health, University College, London, Medical Officer of Health, St. George's, Hanover Square. At 8 p.m.

October 25th.—Infectious Diseases and Methods of Disinfection. Henry R. Kenwood, M.B., D.P.H., F.C.S., Medical Officer of Health, Stoke Newington At 8 p.m.

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