

(d) establishing a State Home for Dependent Children, (e) abolishing the use of party emblems on the ballots.

5. Equal suffrage has greatly increased the number of towns voting for no-license, and has brought about a better enforcement of the liquor laws in Colorado and New Zealand.

6. The testimony is almost universal (a) That the polls are more clean, quiet and orderly than before equal suffrage; (b) That the nominations are of a higher order.

A school for women librarians has now been opened in Berlin. It provides two courses of instruction—one of six months for the training of librarians for the ordinary public libraries, while the other extends over three years, and it is intended to prepare students to take over the direction of scientific libraries.

### A Book of the Week.

#### FROM SEA TO SEA.\*

In these two delightful volumes, Mr. Kipling has collected several series of papers written for an Indian journal; they comprise a tour among the more remote cities of India, a tour in Japan, in North America. Also "The City of Dreadful Night"; and various other articles of somewhat less interest.

The book is one which you may open wherever you please and begin to read; where you begin, there you will go on; the style will carry you along fascinated and spell-bound. It is most enchanting reading, and in one sense it gives a new sensation to readers of Kipling. The man is so great now. Since two hemispheres mourned over what they deemed his deathbed, he has written—he *must* have written—in full and deliberate knowledge that the eyes of the world are upon him, but in this book you catch him saying just what comes into his head at the moment. Serious, or admirably fooling, he is equally engrossing. There are lapses, of course, bits of journalese crop up of which his style has since been severely purged. It may be supposed that he would not now talk about "coolth" nor say that he was located in a "bungaloathsome" hotel. But all these things are most interesting as showing some of the material that went to the making of a great writer. It is difficult among such a mass of material to pick out the plums—to say whether the genius of the man shines out more strikingly in describing the India of his love, or the novel sensations caused by Japan or the States. Perhaps the magic quality of his style is more pronounced in the account of the ruined Indian cities—Chitor for instance. The great tower of Victory, with its stair hollowed and slippery with the tread of countless thousands of bare feet; the mysterious palaces with their endless hidden rooms, their countless points of vantage, whence the hidden women, the dwellers behind the purdah, might unseen peer and pry and listen and find some kind of outlet into the world that was denied them. One feels the age, the remoteness, the awful, crushing desolation and silence, the quivering haze of heat over all; and one yearns to behold with the eyes of the flesh the fairy Taj Mahal, on which another great journalist, the lamented Mr. Steevens, also tried his hand. One of the funniest

\* Rudyard Kipling, In Two Vols. Macmillan.

chapters contains the misbehaviour of an elderly she-elephant—our author is always great on elephants—and another the journey to Chitor with her Majesty's mails.

Then the description of Yellowstone Park is wonderful indeed. "Hell's Half-Acre" must be a place to visit; the Geysers make cold thrills go down the back of your spine; and from Hell you get to Paradise—the Gorge of the Yellowstone.

"All I can say is that without warning or preparation I looked into a gulf seventeen hundred feet deep, with eagles and fish-hawks circling far below. And the sides of that gulf were one wide welter of colour—crimson, emerald, cobalt, ochre, amber, honey slashed with port wine, snow white, vermilion, lemon, and silver-grey in wide washes."

But it is no use to go on quoting—to give the extract in its full wonder would take too long.

The humour of the American part is excellent; the account of the Mormon City, though short, is wonderfully graphic. The whole thing abounds with those lightning turns of vivid description. The local journal of a Californian "city" of about 2,000 inhabitants is touched off; "as narrow as the edge of a chisel and twice as keen." The great Columbia River—"The river that brings the salmon that goes into the tin, that is emptied into the dish when the extra guest arrives in India." The great tunnel in the Rockies:—

"The train crawls through, brakes down, and you can hear the water, and little bits of stone falling on the roof of the car. Then you pray—pray fervently, and the air gets stiller and stiller, and you dare not take your unwilling eyes off the timber shoring, lest a prop should fall for lack of your moral support."

A book to buy, this; one of which you will not tire, and of which a fragment might be read at any time, in almost any mood. G. M. R.

### Poem.

The best revenge is love:—disarm  
Anger with smiles; heal wounds with balm;  
Give water to thy thirsting foe:  
The sandal tree, as if to prove  
How sweet to conquer hate by love,  
Perfumes the axe that lays it low.

#### WHAT TO READ.

- "The Unchanging East." By Robert Barr.
- "Sophia." By Stanley J. Weyman.
- "Madame Izan." By Mrs. Campbell Praed.
- "The Collapse of the Penitent." By Frederick Wedmore.
- "The Second Lady Delcombe." By Mrs. Arthur Kennard.

### Coming Events.

April 14th.—Opening of the Paris Exhibition by President Loubet.

April 19th.—Concert in aid of the Ragged School Union's Work among the Crippled Children of London, at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross. 8 p.m.

April 24th.—The Lord Mayor presides at the Annual Meeting of the East London Nursing Society, Mansion House. 3 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)