... says that the ... now transformed in- ... been supplied to five ... Gen. Boulanger ... immediately ask the French Assembly to grant the requisite funds with which to convert all those of the French army into repeating Bell rifles. The Austrian Government has announced this week the adoption of the Mannlicher rifle which fires eight shots per minute. The English military authorities are also busy with a new rifle. The Enfield Martini sent out to the soldiers last spring for experimenting purposes has not proved satisfactory and the extensive manufactory of them was suddenly stopped two weeks ago. Another rifle, more nearly like the old Martini-Henry, has been distributed this week for trial. The Governments of England, France, Germany and Austro-Hungary will spend nearly $100,000,000 next year in affecting the changes. It is just possible that, when the next big war breaks out the repeating rifles will not be found to be such an acquisition as some of the military authorities now appear to believe. Gambetta, who organized the Defence National in France in 1881, and who had a profound knowledge of military matters, opposed the adoption of the scheme for arming the French with this class of rifles. His principal objection was based on the fact that the young soldiers, who under the present short-service system constitute the chief portion of the European armies, are already far too much inclined, in the excitement of the conflict, to fire too quickly and without taking proper aim. This is one of the great difficulties with which the commanders have to contend. The second objection was due to the rapid heating of the rifles. Even in the Franco-German war with the ordinary chassepot the soldiers were constantly forced to cast aside their weapons because too hot and pick up those of dead comrades in order to continue the conflict.

"Americanisms."

One more reproach is removed from American speech and letters; that abominating in so called "Americanisms." The English critic has been fond of pointing out certain words and phrases much used here as corrupt excrescences; and the meanings of words here differing from those in England as indications of corrupted usage. But a writer in the St. James's Gazette demonstrates that the most conscious of these instances only prove that Americans cling to pure and classic English, from which the Englishman of to-day have themselves departed. The much scorned 'I guess' of Yankeedom, for example, was used by Chaucer and by Shakespeare; Dryden spoke of the 'fall' instead of 'autumn', and if Americans use 'sick' where Englishmen use 'ill,' they are only following after Chaucer, Shakespeare and Pope. Milton used 'homely' in the sense of 'plain,' and intimated in his 'Comus' that such was the general usage of the time. In 'Hakewith on Providence,' published in 1627, the verb 'to whittle' may be found, and Chapman in 1605, and later Sir Thomas Brown and Fuller, used 'slick' in the true Yankee sense. The salutation 'how d'ye?' occurs in Pope, and 'cute' for 'clever' or 'sharp' is still older origin. Milton used 'freshet,' Spencer and Dryden wrote of 'snags,' and 'rile' for 'roil' is found in Chaucer. So it seems that the Yankee dialect is only Elizabethan English, preserved unchanged since it was imported by the way of Plymouth Rock.—N. Y. Tribune.

Lippincott's Monthly Magazine.

To the December of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett contributes the complete novel, 'Miss Defarge,' a study of life in the household of a dissolute, spendthrift English lord, which affords ample scope for both pathos and humor. E. P. Roe, the most popular of all American novelists, contributes a story in his characteristic vein, entitled 'A Ghost on Christmas Eve.' A delightful little extravaganza is Seawell Sidney's 'Maid Marian.' The literary autobiography is furnished by John Habberton, who writes with modesty and dignity, and with a humor and good humor that are very captivating. Another autobiographical sketch of unique interest is that in which Charlotte Adams tells 'How I Became an Artist's Model.' Junius Henri Browne, in "Newspaperism Reviewed," makes a very clever, entertaining, and good tempered answer to Conde Pallen's article on 'Newspaperism,' in the November number. Frank G. Carpenter discusses 'The Presidents as Gastronomers,' and gives a good deal of curious information gathered from authentic sources. The departments of Monthly Gossipand Book-Talk are as bright as ever. The poetry is furnished by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Charles L. Hildreth, William H. Hayne, Mark Mallow, and Helen Gray Cone. 'A Bachelor's Blunder,' by W. E. Norrish, is concluded in this number, and in future the publication of serial stories will be entirely discontinued, a complete novel being furnished with every number.

THE CHRISTMAS ST. NICHOLAS.—Frances Hodgson Burnett's new fairy tale, 'The Story of Prince Fairy foot,' begins in the Christmas St. Nicholas, and will be run through three numbers. It is an entirely different vein from 'Little Lord Fauntleroy,' but is just as bright and amusing in its own way, and throws some entirely new light on the habits and manners of fairy-folk. There is also a short story by J. T. Trowbridge, which is called 'The Bamberg Boys and their Flock of Sheep,' whi h tells of a famous dog-trap; and Frank R. Stockton contributes the first half of another of his entertaining shipwreck stories. It is entitled 'A Fortunate Opening,' though he does not explain in this installment what the fortunate opening was. The most striking feature of the number, however, is the article on 'How a Great Battle Panorama is Made.' It is written by Theodore R. Davis, who was interested in the production of one of these popular exhibitions, and it is copiously illustrated with sketches by the author, and with reproductions of photographs. The entire process of producing the marvelous effects obtained is described so as readily to be understood. A Christmas St. Nicholas without Christmas stories would be an anachronism, and, accordingly, there are two exceptionally good ones in this issue. The first, entitled 'A Scheming Old Santa Claus,' is by John R. Corvell, who is as excellent in fiction as in his entertaining natural history sketches. The second is by Rose Lattimore Alling, author of the clever short serial, 'Nan's Revolt.' It is called 'A Christmas Conspiracy,' and is as fertile in suggestion as its predecessor. It will be concluded in January. The frontispiece—a charming Christmas picture by Reginald B. Birch,—illustrates an old-time Christmas poem by Helen Gray Cone, which appropriately opens the number. Besides all this, there are some quaint verses and pictures by Alfred Brennan, and verses by Mrs. Dodge, J. G. Francis, Mary Bradley, Mrs. E. T. Corbett, and E. Whitney, while illustrations are drawn by George Foster Barnes, R. B. Birch, Alfred Brennan, Jessie McDermott, Henry Sandham, W. A. Rogers, H. A. Ogden, Irving R. Wiles, and others.

THE ECLECTIC MAGAZINE, published by E. R. Pelton, 25 Bond Street, New York, may be had by addressing him—single numbers 45c; yearly subscription, $5. For this month it contains the following: 'England Revisited,' by Goldwin Smith; 'Our Craftsmen,' by Thomas Wright; 'Mechanical Engineer; 'Denys L'Auxevors,' by Walter Pater; 'Statesmen of Eastern Europe,' from Temple Bar; 'Falling in Love,' by Grant Allen; 'Horace, Book III., Ode 29,' by Sir Stephen E. Devere Bart; 'A Night of Horror,' by E. F. Cumming; 'Coleridge,' by Charles F. Johnson; 'The Resources of Ireland,' by Albert J. Mott, G. G. S.; 'Thoughts About Comets,' from Cornhill Magazine; 'The Secrets of the Sea,' a sonnet, by M. C. Gillington; 'The Bulgarian Situation,' from Contemporary Review; 'The Highest Education of Women,' by Mrs. E. Lynn Linton; 'Women of Indian History,' by H. G. Keene; 'Music and Medicine,' by T. F. Thistleton Dyer, M.D.; 'Cankers of a Calm World,' from Blackwood's Magazine; 'The New Papal Hierarchy in Italy,' from Saturday Review; 'Flattery,' by a Spectator; Prose Poems, Literary Notices, Foreign Literary Notes and Miscellany. This number closes the 44th volume of the new series.

At a meeting of Bulgarian revolutionists at Bucharest on Sunday another rising was planned, to which the Russian consul promised assistance.

The December Century.

There is hardly a reader of THE CENTURY that will not turn first of all to the 'Life of Lincoln,' so unique in its interest have the graphically written opening chapters proved to be. From all parts of the country, and even from Europe, The Century has received innumerable evidence of the deep hold which this enterprise has already taken upon the reading world. The second part deals with 'Lincoln as Soldier, Lawyer and Politican'—one might also have said 'as wrestler'—and, together with what has already been printed, forms a sort of epitome of life in the Mississippi Valley, down to 1835. The characteristics of the future Presidents are clearly distinguished in the young man—his humor, his pluck, his simplicity, his homely resources, above all, his devotion to principle. The style of the history is buoyant, spirited and entertaining, and shows a good sense of proportion and a carefulness that inspires confidence. The narrative is brought down to the close of Lincoln's 'pioneer period' and into the first years of his legislative experience, including events which first gave him prominence as a legislator and politician. The pictorial material which accompanies the text forms a valuable addition, including documents, portraits, views of the home of Lincoln's father, Lovejoy's printing office at Alton, an engraving after the cast of Lincoln's hand made in 1860, etc., etc.

The opening articles are on Lincoln's youthful idol, Henry Clay. His home at Ashland is described by Charles W. Coleman, jr., and reminiscences forming altogether a definite picture of the man are contributed by his political opponent, and executor, J. O. Harrison, Esq. Three portraits of Clay are given: one from a daguerreotype printed as a frontispiece, one as a young man, from a miniature, the third being of himself and his wife, from a photograph. The other drawings, chiefly by Mr. Fenn, reproduce vividly the mansion at Ashland, its surroundings and mementoes.

The art paper of the number is the first of several short articles on 'Contemporary French Sculpture,' the critical text by Mr. W. C. Brownell, devoted this month to the work of Chapu and Dubois, the former being represented in the illustrations, by his 'La Jeunesse,' from the Rennuart monument and by his 'Jeanne d'Arc'; the latter, by his 'Military Courage,' from the tomb of Lemoriciere, and by his 'Infant John.'

The latter half of Dr. Martin's 'Old Chelsea' contains chat in regard to the literary and historical associations of this part of London, the drawings, by Pennell, including Carlyle's Statue and Home, Turner's House, Tile Street, Cheyne Walk, Battersea Church, etc.

'The Food Question in America and Europe' is a vital and suggestive study, by Edward Atkinson, of a most practical subject, the victualing question as related to labor and wages, the comparison being greatly in favor of the United States. Mr. Atkinson's statistics will be a revelation to his readers.

A curious article is 'A Little Millerite,' by Mrs. Jane Marsh Parker, being reminiscences of Millerism in 1843 and 1844, the time set for the end of the world. The writer conveys the impressions which the movement produced upon a child, the daughter of a convert. A portrait of Wm. Miller, the leader of the 'Ascensionists,' is given, together with a contemporary picture of a trial chart of Daniel's 'Visions,' by which the date of 'the last day' was demonstrated.

The topic in the War Series is 'The Second Day at Gettysburg,' treated by Generals Henry J. Hunt and E. M. Law, the latter with special regard to 'Round Top and the Confederate Right.' The thoroughness with which this series is being carried through is perhaps nowhere better exemplified than in the papers devoted to Gettysburg. The announcement that less space will hereafter be devoted to the War Series has brought the Editor numerous letters from veterans expressing the hope that the report is incorrect; such, however, is not the case. In Memoranda are notes on 'The Capitulation of Harper's Ferry,' 'Ripley's Brigade at South Mountain,' etc.

The number contains two short stories by American writers: one of a London society sketch, 'An American Beauty,' by Mrs. Poultney Bigelow, the other a tale of the Far West, entitled 'A Coward,' by a new writer, Miss Ellen Mackubin. Mr. Howell's novel, 'The Minister's Charge' comes to a conclusion, and in the second part of Stockton's 'Hundredth Man,' the boycott is touched upon, and toward the last is begun the serious part of the story, the theme being the interference with an engagement to marry.

Sonnets are contributed by Robert Burns Wilson and Henry Tyrrell, 'Songs of Christmas,' by Louise Both Hendriken, and 'Brie a Brac' verse by Maurice Perkins, Margaret Deland, Charlotte Fiske Bates, Anthony Moorehead, and Duyva Morgan Smith. In 'Topics of the Time' are editorial articles, 'To our Readers—in Confidence,' 'The Eight-hour Working Day,' 'Appropriations and the Veto. In 'Open Letters,' communications on 'The Union of American Churches' (from a Methodist Episcopal point of view), by the Rev. George R. Crooks, D. D., 'George Bancroft on the Legal-Tender Decisions,' and 'Practical Help for Ireland,' the last being a short account, by Mrs. Ernest Hart, of the Donegal cottage industries founded by her.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST for December, 1886, rounds out the year with a very superior number. The leading feature is a six column description of George Washington as a farmer, by Donald G. Mitchell (Ik Marvel). This paper is accompanied with a magnificent plate engraving of the Home of Washington, being the third in the series of "The Homes of our Farmer Presidents." David W. Judd continues his Western editorial correspondence. Peter Henderson urges cloth frames for vegetable protectors. Seth Green tells boys how to enjoy trout fishing. Joseph Harris "Walks and Talks" with the farmers. A. B. Allen, Stephen Powers, George Thurber, F. M. Hexamer, and some twenty-five other well known writers discourse on subjects pertaining to their special fields of thought and labor. The Household and Children's Departments are unusually interesting. There are three full page engravings, and over seventy others of animals, plants, farm and household contrivances, etc., etc. Price $1.50 per year; single numbers, 15 cents. Address Publishers, 751 Broadway, New York.

WE have to thank Messrs. Elliman, Sons & Co., Slough, England, manufacturers of Elliman's Universal Embrocation, for a copy of a very neat little volume recently published by them, "How My Hunter was Lamed and How He was Cured." It contains seven full-page illustrations of great merit, it is tastefully bound in cloth and gold, and altogether it is well worth the trouble of sending for it, which is all that is necessary to get it, as it is mailed free to all who write for it. Elliman's Embrocation has received testimonials from the stables of all the leading masters of hounds in England as an infallible cure for strains, rheumatisms and all similar troubles among horses, and it is also used on human patients with great success in cases of inflammatory afflictions, colds, &c.

GRIP'S COMIC ALMANAC.

We have received from the Grip Printing and Publishing Co., of Toronto, a copy of their celebrated Canadian Comic Almanac 1887 It more than keeps up the reputation of this Annual, which has now reached its eighth year,—the great variety of the illustrations, and the first-class character of the humorous matter, making it a decidedly attractive book. Everybody will want it; and its price will not be an obstacle. Though eight pages of matter have been added, it still sells at 10 cents, and may be had from the publishers or at the bookstores.

The Christmas number of HOME LIFE contains a number of stories and selections to suit the season, and its illustrations should be seen to be appreciated. They are equal to the best in the highest priced periodicals. Send $1 for a years subscription or 10 cents for a sample copy to the HOME LIFE Publishing Agency, 130, 132, 134 and 136 Church Street, New York City.

AN AID TO CURING ALCOHOLISM.

We believe the best authorities are generally skeptic as to there being any sure cure for confirmed habits of inebriety, unless the effort in that direction be aided by a strong exercise of the will of the unfortunate subject of the bad habit. There are, however, many remedies recommended as aids in diverting or in a minor degree satisfying the appetite for strong liquors, which are undoubtedly of great advantage in some cases, and one of these is thus recommended by a self-styled 'rescued man:' "I was one of those unfortunates given to strong drink. When I left it off I felt a horrid want of something I must have or go distracted. Explaining my afflictions to a man of much education and experience, he advised me to make a decoction of ground quassia, a half-ounce steeped in a pint of vinegar, and to put a small teaspoonful of it in a little water and drink it down every time the liquor thirst came on me violently. I found it satisfied the cravings and it suffused a feeling of stimulus and strength. I continued this cure, and persevered till the thirst was conquered. For two years I have not tasted liquor, and I have no desire for it. Lately, to try my strength, I have handled and smelt whisky, but I have no temptation to take it. I give this for the consideration of the unfortunate, several of whom I know have recovered by the means which I no longer require.—Scientific American.

The December Number of HARPER'S MAGAZINE, just published, excels even its own high precedents as a Christmas feast of rich attractions. It is undoubtedly the most sumptuous issue of HARPER'S MAGAZINE that has ever been issued, and marks the acme of artistic and literary bounty in the periodical world. A specially holiday tone prevails throughout, from the charming frontispiece by Abbey to the clever Drawer plate by DuMaurier. Nearly half of the sixty cuts are full pages, and four are printed on plate-paper. The regular serial are omitted to provide larger space for the Christmas features. Every article and story is complete in itself.

The place of honor is held by the extraordinary article on "The Boyhood of Christ," by Lew Wallace, the author of "Ben-Hur." The lovely illustrations are all original, and from two clever artists, Alfred Brennet and Sue O. Mersen, the former a pupil of Bougereau, picturing the text descriptions of the principal scenes in the youth of that sublime character which inspired the author to produce the most remarkable novel of recent times.

W. D. Howell's farce, "The Mousetrap," is fully equal to its predecessors, "The Register" and "The Elevator," which distinguished the Christmas Harper's of 1884 and 1885. The same characters continue in new scenes with Reinhart's matchless illustrations.

In Gibson's "Wood Notes" the author-artist introduces us to many delights of his own experience in the woodland recesses of his favorite demain.

The Number is unusually rich in short stories, containing no less than six, four of them admirably illustrated. The sprightliest, perhaps, is Thomas Nelson Page's Southern Christmas story, "Polly," with Reinhle's characteristic drawings. "The White Garder" is a delicate production by a new writer, Harriet Lewis Bradley, illustrated by Alfred Fredericks. Sarah O. Jewett contributes "The King of Folly Island," a picture of eccentric and pathetic life on one of the Maine islands, with four excellent engravings after Diehman. "La Mere Venus" is a sketch by the artist, George H. Boughton, A. R. A., recounting and illustrating a quaint portion of his professional life in Normandy, B. L. Farjeon's story "Blind Willy" is a strong English narrative of a devoted servant and his master.

Among the wealth of illustrated poetry the familiar ballad "Sally in our Alley" is exquisitely elaborated by Abbey's eleven drawings, one of them, "When Christmas Comes," being the frontispiece. Richard Henry Stobbard's beautiful poem, "The Legend of Fray Bernardo," is finely illustrated by Diehman, and Mrs. E. W. Latimer's Florentine subject, "The Legend of St. Nicholas," by Miss Mary L. Gow. Elihu Vedder's powerful painting, "The Cup of Death," is inserted as a plate engaving, with a poem by Louise Chandler Moulton. The poetical story of Western miner life in Wallace Bruce's "Inasmuch" is effectively illustrated by A. B. Frost.

The Editor's Easy Chair opens with a cordial Christmas greeting, discusses American politeness, throws light upon the editorial method of dealing with contributions, and sketches the recent Deerfield Colonial Celebration. The Editor's Study discourses genially concerning several important biographies and other new publications. The Editor's Drawer, under Chas. Dudley Warner's management, serves up a spicy sauce of humors, concluding with Du Maurier's Christmas view of English aristocratic life—the first of a series of society sketches which will run through the year.

Mr. L. D. Sullivan has been re-elected Lord Mayor of Dublin.

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