

ESTABLISHED 1837.

VOL. 50



NO. 1,205

CHRISTMAS (JUBILEE) 1887

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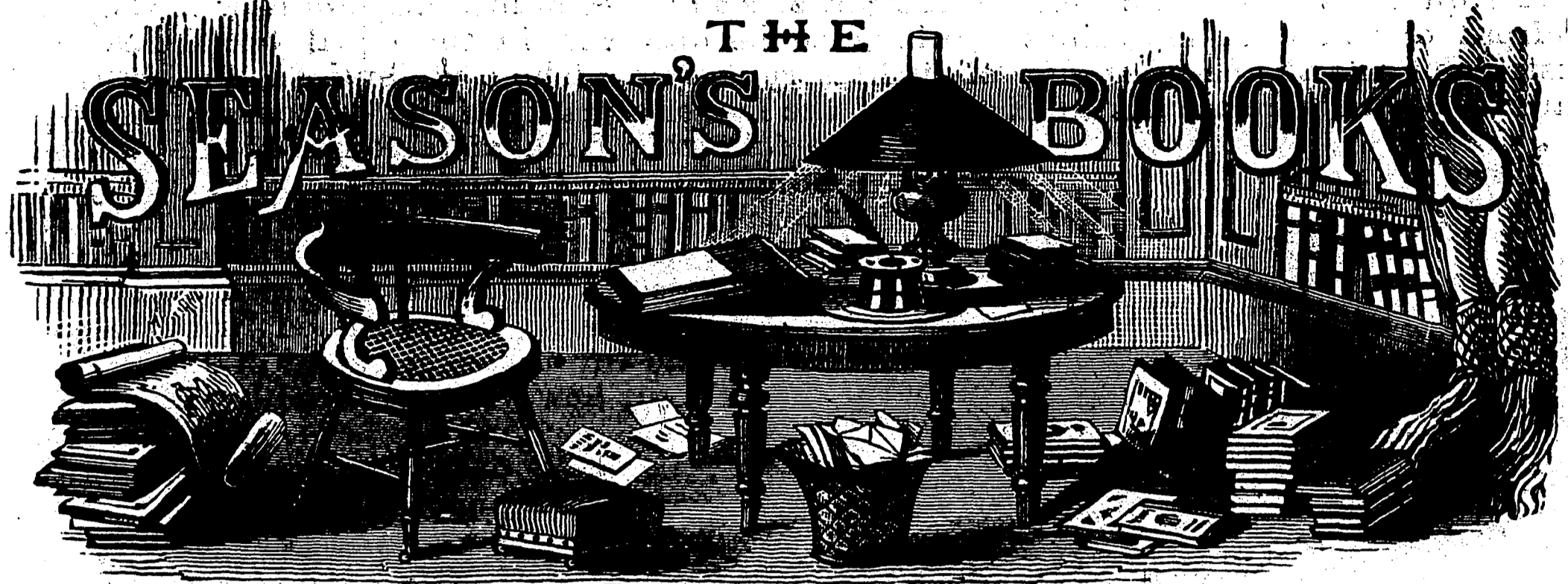
ST. DUNSTAN'S HOUSE:

December 6, 1887.

OUR annual survey of the literature of Christmas-tide is now presented to our readers. The season opened most auspiciously for the trade; and, remembering that no political or social excitement is prevalent throughout the country, there is every reason to think that a prosperous book trade will be in force during the approaching gift festival. The large number of books now brought before the purchasing public shows much variety of talent and taste. This, of course, goes without saying; but there are some features observable in the new books which tell of a very remarkable change in general thought. We must now gauge the public taste and hopes by its demand for books. What publishers supply may be at all times considered a safe guide to the wants of general readers. Christmas books, perhaps, can hardly be classed under the heading Literature, except in cases where they aim at the pictorial or annotating enrichment of classical texts. The ambition in these days seems to be the production of a book for the season, and not for Time. Ideas of Christmas books, however, must be merry: they must strike at the open hearts of a free people, ever free to the broadest kindness of humanity.

The most remarkable phase of the present Christmas book trade is the introduction of the beautiful monotint brochures which seem to be taking the place of other complimentary presents in the festive season. During the past two years this change has been remarkably evident. With few exceptions English publishers seem to keep clear of enterprise in the way of producing *éditions de luxe*, and several of the best books of a high order of elegance in appearance which are now before the English public are of foreign origin. We must confess to a feeling of pleasure, while noting the survival of national taste in connection with the majority of Christmas books, that even those which come from abroad show a desire to attach the sympathies of the English country by appeals to patriotic feelings. Continental illustrations of Shakspeare and American illustrations of other English poets are examples of this.

Setting aside books having amusing aims, we must look upon Christmas-tide literature as an educative power in the country. Children are growing and reading, and the future of the nation depends upon their reading; on Christmas reading especially, when kind sympathies are awakened and stimulated. We hope that the books of the year will carry their weight of influence in the direction of truth and kindness.



MAGAZINE VOLUMES.



YEARS ago the volumes of our most familiar magazines were rarely complete in themselves. In counting-house parlance, the stories were 'carried forward,' and the purchaser of one volume would have to purchase the next, or the necessary parts, before he became the possessor of the complete novel. All this is happily changed. Nearly all the volumes of the most popular magazines are now complete books, and owing to this, as much as to their fine appearance, have taken a place as appropriate gift-books.

The columns under the heading 'The Gatherer' continue to be one of the most acceptable features of **Cassell's Family Magazine**. Readers there find information on all topics of interest and utility which come before the public, or before sections of the public who are devoted to special lines of scientific or other investigation. New things of worth in invention and discovery are carefully recorded, and some of the details given respecting useful novelties are as interesting as they are valuable and complete. The 'Family Doctor's' columns deal with a variety of common but troublesome ailments, which only call for simple remedies or precautions if readers will take friendly and competent advice. 'What to Wear: Chit-chat on Dress' is always a curious column, worthy of the attention of the fair sex; to the masculine mind it is only marvellous for the kaleidoscopic rapidity of its changes. 'The Garden' columns give suitable instructions for cultivation during every month of the year. These special departments of 'Cassell's' are supplemented by a host of articles, lively and serious, not to speak of hundreds of stories such as can be read throughout during odd moments. A series of papers on 'Remunerative Employments for Gentlewomen' deserve notice. The serial stories 'A Step in the Dark,' by Kate Eyre; 'A Man of the Name of John,' by Florence M. King; and 'Life's Fitful Fever,' by Arabella M. Hopkinson, run harmoniously throughout the volume. As to the illustrations, it is sufficient to say that they are produced with the care and elegance which we always expect from the house of Cassells.



The qualities which have placed **Harper's Young People** (Sampson Low & Co.) in the forefront of children's magazines continue to be observed in the equal excellence of the illustrations and the pleasant glow of its literary matter. The contributions of an instructive character are numerous. As an example of the modern quality of the contents we may quote



the following from an account of the wonderful prodigy, Josef Hofmann, who has lately been astonishing the music world of London. When six years old he made his first appearance at a charity concert, the result of which was that his father was overwhelmed with tempting offers for the engagement of his little son. These, however, he steadily resisted, per-

mitting the child to appear only occasionally, for charitable purpose. At the age of seven he played the first part of Beethoven's Concerto in C, (No. 1), and it was about this time that Anton Rubinstein heard him play in Warsaw, and drew the attention of the German impresario, Hermann Wolff, to the musical phenomenon. When Rubinstein was giving his seven great historical concerts in London some one told him of a newly-discovered infant prodigy; but he shook his head, and said he did not as a rule believe in these wonderful children, though he said he had heard one boy such as the history of music had never before produced, and, excitedly striking the piano which stood beside him, the maestro exclaimed, 'And the name of this

young rascal is Josef Hofmann.' The little girl in our picture looks at the daisy :

'Sweet flower, thou tell'st how hearts
As pure and tender as thy leaf—as low
And humble as thy stem—will surely know
The joy that peace imparts.'

The Welcome (S. W. Partridge & Co.) has long been known for the useful and instructive character of its contents. Combined with this, readers were always sure to find fiction of an elevating and wholesome nature. In the yearly volume now before us these features remain happily prominent as ever. Amongst others, such well-known and experienced writers as the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, Professor A. H. Japp, J. Bowles Daly, G. Holden Pike, Mrs. M. S. Haycraft, Rev. T. F. Thiselton Dyer, Mrs. E. R. Pitman, Jennie Chappell, Rev. W. Tulloch, Dr. Gordon Stables, B. Montgomerie Ranking, W. Harcourt Burrage, J. E. Panton, F. Morell Holmes, Charles Nisbet, and the Rev. Henry Allon contribute to its pages; while the illustrations are supplied by such charming artists as C. J. Staniland, C. Gregory, M. E. Edwards, Robert Barnes, Alice Havers, W. Rainey, G. L. Seymour, A. C. Corbould, and E. A. Abbey. Mrs. Oliphant writes the chief serial story, 'Cousin Mary,' and shorter works of fiction are contributed by Eliza F. Pollard, Annie S. Swan, and Mrs. Haycraft. An interesting feature is a number of natural history papers by H. M. J. Underhill, Edward Step, and others. 'The Home Garden,' a monthly article conveying information on horticultural matters from the pen of Tom Jerrold, and 'Gleanings'—Literary, Scientific, Industrial, Antiquarian, and Miscellaneous—make up a thoroughly enjoyable volume.

The Fireside Annual (*Home Words Office*) contains, as usual, a variety of pleasing contents, selected by the Rev. Charles Bullock with his customary knowledge of the people's wants. The volume is indexed in four parts—subjects more especially applicable to 'The Christian Home'; such as form 'Pleasant Reading for our Sons and Daughters'; 'Science, Art, and History' articles; and a monthly chronicle of 'Notes by the Way.' The papers under each of these headings are of highly suitable and engrossing kind, and are supplied by writers whose names have become almost as household words in providing literature of an improving and religious tendency. The serial story, 'Her Peculiar Circumstances,' is written by Agnes Giberne, and is a fiction of much varied interest and sympathetic power. The Rev. W. H. Davenport Adams furnishes a series of articles entitled 'Missionaries in Many Lands.' Other

contributors are Archdeacon Whately, Rev. Canon Lefroy, Rev. R. Maguire, Christian Chamberlyne, A. J. Symington, Mrs. Charles Garnett, Clara Thwaites, Rev. Richard Wilton, Mrs. Emma Marshall, and the Editor.

This year the volume of **Good Words** (Isbister & Co.) appeals strongly to its world-wide circle of admirers. Under the command of the Rev. Donald Macleod, D.D., the array of contributors who are marshalled could hardly be surpassed in the power of wielding pen and pencil.

While turning over the leaves of the volume we come across articles such as Mr. F. H. Underwood's 'Reminiscences of American Authors,' the late Charles Reade's 'Studies of Bible Characters,' Mr. Clement Wragge's 'Experiences of a Meteorologist in South Australia,' a series of Sunday readings by well-known pulpit orators, and the Bishop of Rochester's 'Winter in the Slant of the Sun.' These are regular series of papers, but there are many separate articles which, though small in size, are of permanent interest. Such, for example, are the late Charles Kingsley's remarks on the 'Aristocracy of the Future,' 'Early Closing of Shops,' by Sir John Lubbock, 'Earthquakes,' by Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., the 'Cunard Line,' by John Burns, and a host of other articles, biographical, historical, scientific, social, philanthropic, and on travels.



Short stories, happy and sad, and pleasant poems appear at intervals. This year the serial stories are very successful and have been read with delight by thousands. The names are: 'Her Two Millions,' by William Westall, 'Major and Minor,' by W. E. Norris, and 'Old Blazer's Hero,' by D. Christie Murray. The illustrations, which are very bright and happy in their effect, come from the pencils of the best book artists of the day. That which we select adorns Mrs. Craik's (Miss Mulock) pretty verses, 'New Year in the Colonies.'

'Across the great dividing seas
We stretch a kindly hand
To where Canadian rivers freeze,
In the wild western land.'

The Leisure Hour (Religious Tract Society) is noticeable for the number of instructive and thoroughly interesting articles that it contains, as well as for the variety and beauty of its illustrations. Nor are the claims of fiction in any way slighted, for we have in 'Something to His Advantage,' by the Rev. T. S. Millington, and 'Phayre Phenton,' by Tighe Hopkins, a couple

of stories as good as anything we could desire, while of shorter tales, healthy and interesting, we find plenty and to spare. Biography also is duly represented, and many most captivating articles are devoted to eminent men of the past. There is much solid worth in the *Leisure Hour*, and readers who fail to be pleased by its pages must indeed be exacting and critical in taste. Among the more prominent of the articles in the present volume we may mention 'Mormonism as it is,' by the Rev. Alfred Rowland, LL.B.; 'Coral Reefs of England,' by S. R. Pattison, F.G.S.; 'Glimpses of Queen Anne's Days,' by John Stoughton, D.D.; 'On the Songs from the Music-Books of the Elizabethan Age,' by Francis Turner Palgrave; 'Some Typical Poets of Wales,' by the Rev. H. Elvet Lewis; and 'Our Vagrant and Criminal Classes: What is to be done with them?' by the Rev. Henry Solly. This reveals, however, but a very slight portion of the good things that the volume contains.

The Quiver (Cassell & Co.) offers many absorbing attractions, both of letterpress and illustration. This magazine possesses a quiet charm which is sure to be widely felt by readers of the more domesticated type, whose main interests lie in the pleasures of home life. Its pages are replete with instructive essays, attractive biography, interesting Biblical lessons, and healthy fiction, to say nothing of the innumerable notes which, under the title of 'Short Arrows,' supply information on a variety of popular and most entertaining subjects. Four serial stories are included in the contents: 'My Brother Basil,' by the author of 'The Heir of Sandford Towers'; 'By the Waters of Babylon,' by C. Despard; 'A Faithful Heart,' by the author of 'Victor's Inheritance'; and 'Miss Willowburn's Offer,' by Sarah Doudney. Indeed, fiction occupies no inconsiderable portion of the magazine, for besides the stories we have mentioned there are several shorter



tales; but it is always fiction with a good moral, that gains its chief attraction from the simplicity and truthfulness of its style. Among the contributors to the more serious pages of the volume, we may mention the Dean of Armagh, Professor Blaikie, Lady John Manners, the Dean of Canterbury, Rev. Hugh Macmillan, Rev. G. S. Reaney, Edward Garrett, Rev. W. M. Statham, Rev. J. Hiles Hitchens, J. F. Waller, Annie Beale, Evelyn Everett Green,

and the Ven. Archdeacon Gore—names which sufficiently attest the high literary character of the magazine. Of the illustrations, we furnish a specimen, which may safely be left to speak for itself.

The volume of **Cassell's Saturday Journal** (Cassell & Co.) is not only a bulky book and a big bargain, but it is replete with the light and instructive literature which it promised to give and improve at the outset of its career. There is no people's paper in the English tongue that gives better value for the money; and a bound volume of its weekly numbers is what may be termed a perfect mine of amusement and knowledge. The cottar's Saturday night could not be more profitably or agreeably employed than in conning over *Cassell's Saturday Journal*. The cheapness of the book is remarkable. Since this volume was published illustrations have been introduced in the weekly numbers.

The introduction of colour printing into the pages of the **Magazine of Art** (Cassell & Co.) shows how the publishers and editor endeavour to place art objects as truly as possible before the public eye. The several branches of art which can only be described by the use of colour are an obstacle in the way of illustrated periodicals such as the *Magazine of Art*.

We are therefore

pleased to notice pictorial embellishments such as appear in Mr. Grego's

interesting paper on 'Old Blue and White Nan-keen China.' The illustrations for the articles 'An Artist in Design' and 'Angelica Kauffmann and her Engravers' are also an agreeable change.

From another point of view they show that the publishers are sparing no expense in the production of their magnificent work, which places the

highest delineation of art and its cognate subjects within the reach of all. 'Glimpses of Artist Life,' by M. H. Spielmann,

gives brisk and amusing descriptions of a novel character and is very readable. Bibliophiles will be attracted by an article on

'Byways of Book Illustration,' by J. Penderel-Brodhurst, which is chiefly an examination of Jean Baptiste Descamps' 'Lives of the Flemish, German, and Dutch Painters.'

The progress of art in the colonies forms the subject of several contributions. Our illustration is taken from a picturesque article

on 'Australian Coast Scenery,' by Mr. Stephen Thompson: it depicts Wilson's Promontory. The best of the full-page

plates is the etched frontispiece which shows Van Haanen's gossipy group of 'Venetian Bead-Stringers.' A photogravure of Boughton's 'Peter the Headstrong' is very acceptable.

Mr. Harry Furniss furnishes some of the fun in the new volume. Our natural love of country is invigorated by many happy descriptions of sequestered rural scenes, a kind of literature that

is luckily fostered by the conductors. The beauties of old English buildings, too, are rarely forgotten in these pages. With its store of splendid plates and choice woodcuts, explained

by able literary pens, the book for 1887 maintains the pre-eminence of the magazine as a strong cultivator of artistic taste and judgment. We welcome the article which our illustration

adorns especially on account of its bringing the scenery of our great antipodean colony to the view of well-wishers in the mother country.



Along with its companion volume of *Good Words* the handsome new volume of **The Sunday Magazine** (Isbister & Co.) offers wealth of entertainment and sound counsel. The Rev. Benjamin Waugh is the editor of this favourite periodical. We notice high skill in the character of the illustrations which abound in the pages of the book; one example now presented depicts a scene in Miss Mary Linskill's powerful story 'In Exchange for a Soul,' which has been appearing regularly in this magazine. The other serial stories are 'Daddy's Boy,' by L. T. Meade, and 'The Shepherd's Darling,' by 'Brenda.' Biblical papers, articles on biographical and historical subjects, on Nature, travel, missionary work, philanthropy, and topics of general interest make up the volume. Side by side with these miscellaneous topics of more solid meaning short stories and poems are intermingled. Miss Clara Thwaites writes some very good lines of verse: we quote those entitled 'Mountain Peaks.'

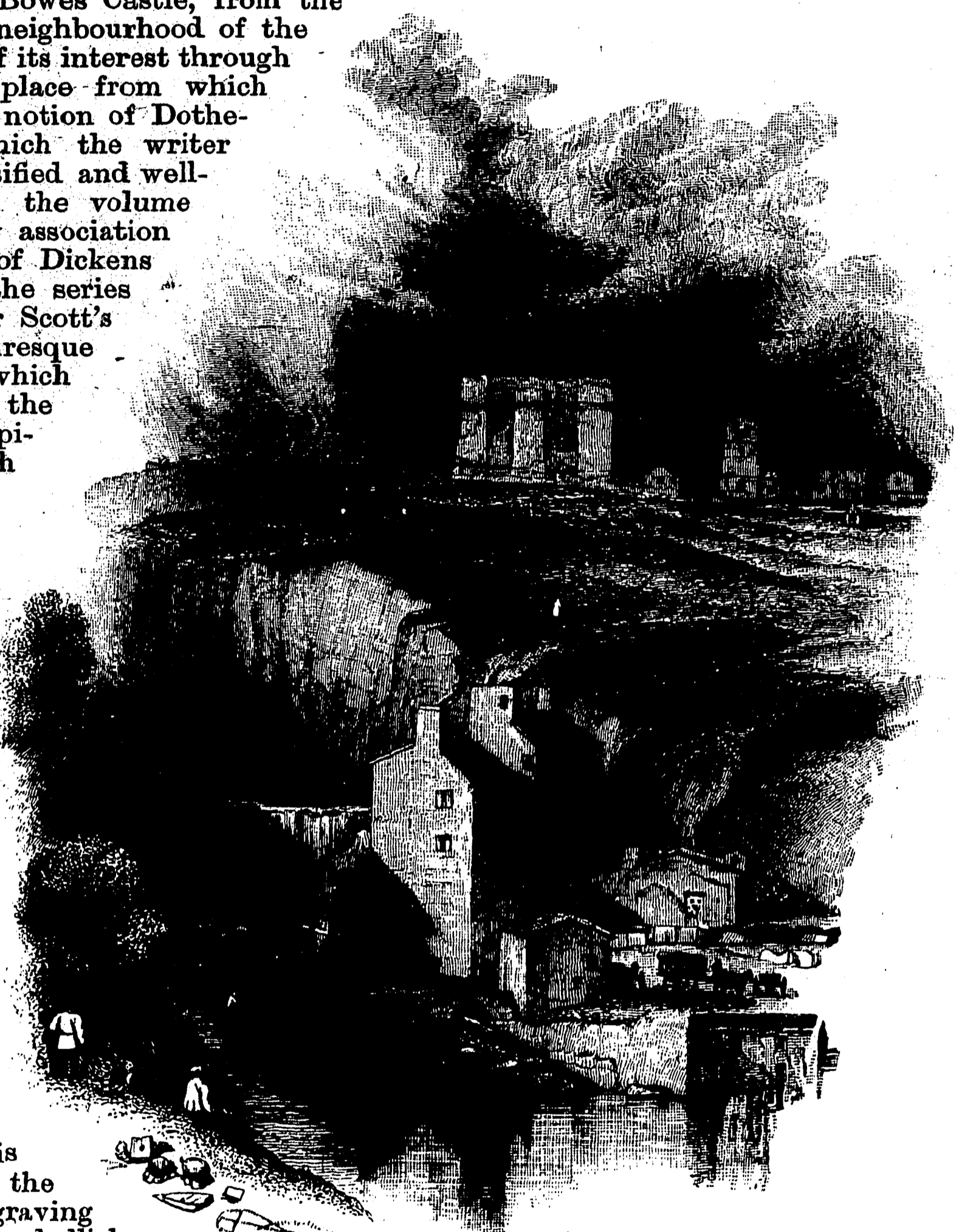


'I tarried in a vale of shadows dim
 Beside the ripples of a gloomy sea,
 Where mountain echoes caught my morning hymn,
 And bore it through the valley tenderly.
 Up to the silence of eternal calm,
 Up to the silence of untrodden snows,
 My heart ascended in a frequent psalm
 At early dawn and evening's silent close.

The first to hail the orient flush of day—
 The last to lose her rich departing glow,
 Transfigured into glorious array,
 The heights were luminous with ruby snow.
 O that to me, I cried, it might be given
 To be transfigured as the mountain height,
 To tarry thus beside the gate of heaven
 And hail the glory of the Light of Light!

In again referring to the general contents, we might give honourable mention to papers such as Professor Blaikie's 'Edinburgh Old Town Fifty Years Ago,' the Rev. J. Oswald Dykes' 'On Making and Spending Money,' and the pregnant pages entitled 'Our Monthly Survey.'

Subscribers and occasional purchasers of the **Art Journal** (Virtue & Co.) find entertainment and advantage in its pictorial descriptions of places that are familiar by name and fame to the public, and in its bringing to light interesting associations of little-known localities. The picture here presented is Bowes Castle, from the original by Turner. The neighbourhood of the castle derives not a little of its interest through being situated near the place from which Dickens took his realistic notion of Dotheboys Hall, concerning which the writer of the article gives diversified and well-defined information. In the volume now before us a literary association even greater than that of Dickens is descanted upon; for the series of papers on 'Sir Walter Scott's Country' show in a picturesque light the scenes from which the great 'wizard of the North' drew that inspiration which gave truth and dignity to his astonishing portrayal of our country's romantic scenery. These articles, we are informed, were the outcome of a summer's work undertaken by Mr. MacWhirter, A.R.A. Every page of the new volume of the *Art Journal*—the fiftieth—shows that its editor has been careful to produce work that will fitly celebrate its half-century of existence. Great changes have taken place in the art illustration of books, but the *Journal* has always kept pace with the times; and although its pages display examples of the best of modern processes, it is gratifying to notice that the beautiful art of wood engraving still predominates in the embellishments of this popular periodical. The plate illustrations in the new volume are numerous, and consist of line engravings, etchings, and reproductions in facsimile. By gracious permission the Jubilee book is dedicated to Her Majesty the Queen.



The Sunday at Home (Religious Tract Society) has for long occupied an almost unique position among the monthlies. The care with which its contents are selected, the wholesome and elevating nature of its influence, have rendered it a favourite in many a household circle where other magazines are comparatively unknown. In the present volume we find its usual character well sustained. Fiction, which nowadays enjoys so wide a popularity, is supplied in the form of a serial story by Evelyn Everett Green, entitled 'Barbara Brothers'—excellently illustrated by Frank Dadd—and, again serially, by the author of 'The Spanish Brothers,' in

'Geneviève ; or, the Children of Port Royal.' There are also numerous short stories. Of the more serious contents, we may favourably mention a highly interesting series of papers on 'Hospitals and Hospital Work,' by Mrs. Brewer ; 'Life in New Guinea,' by the Rev. James Chalmers ; 'Glimpses into American Sunday Schools,' by the Rev. Alfred Rowland, LL.B. ; 'The Hymn Writers of Wales and their Hymns,' with a variety of scriptural information regarding 'Difficult or Misunderstood Texts,' 'Natural History Notes on the Revised Version of the Bible,' 'Hidden Texts,' 'Scripture Characters,' 'Bible Notes and Queries,' and other interesting subjects. The volume as usual is profusely and elegantly illustrated.

While speaking of cheerful volumes of magazines, it is not out of place to refer to magazines which are just beginning a career. We select for notice **The Woman's World** (Cassell & Co.), edited by Oscar Wilde, which has already been spoken of in these columns. The initial part is made up by contributions from some very eminent ladies who interest themselves in the advance of Art and Letters. Miss Thackeray, Mrs. Jeune, the Countess of Portsmouth, Lady Archibald Campbell, Miss Amy Levy, 'Violet Fane,' and Mrs. Bancroft all contribute to the first part.

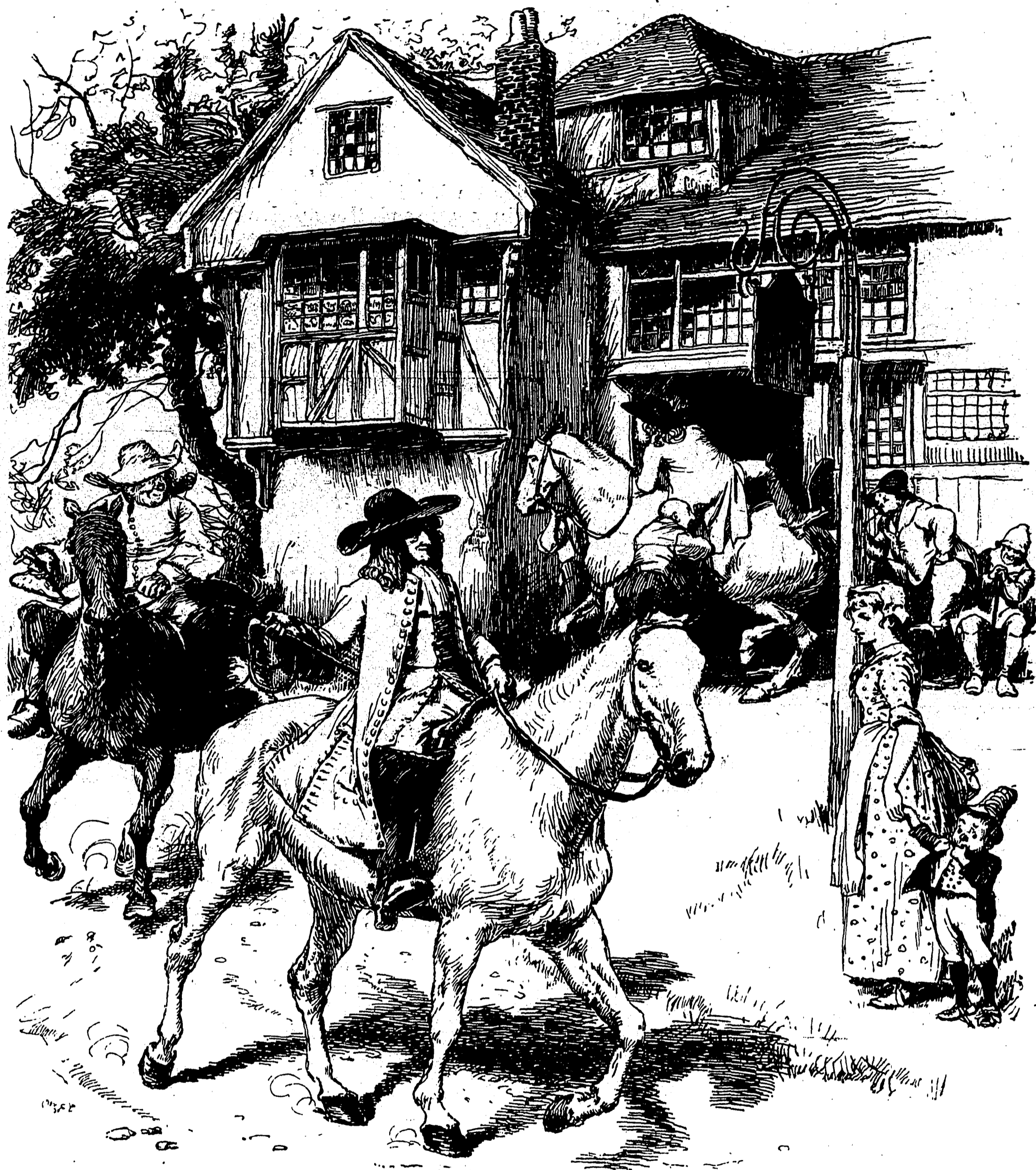


George Fleming begins what promises to turn out a very engrossing story called 'The Truth about Clement Ker.' Our purpose at present, however, is not so much to speak of the literary matter as it is to draw attention to the artist's work. The picture we select, Orlando, is from Lady Archibald Campbell's paper, 'The Woodland Gods,' in which much warm and yet thoughtful enthusiasm is shown in the cause of open-air plays. The subject shows a scene or part of a scene in the open-air performances of 'As You Like It,' which Lady Archibald recently organised and carried out with marked success.

As in former years the annual volume of the **Girl's Own Annual** (Religious Tract Society) has a powerful list of contributors, both writers and artists. The frontispiece, 'Afternoon Tea,' by Miss Kate Greenaway, is as pretty a piece of colour work as could well be imagined. Sometimes it is said—is it true?—that girls like boys' books better than their own. But if books like the *Girl's Own Paper* are kept before them they will not readily fly to their brother's tumbled and tattered and heavily thumbed volumes. Information on those subjects which are of service and interest to young ladies is furnished in a fashion that makes it pleasantly comprehensible. Dress, for example, is described, according to the seasons, in a way that shows taste and elegance combined with economy. Pieces of music, all modern, seem to come from popular composers. Illustrations are abundant, especially the full-page pictures of girlhood life, which are fresh and graceful.

The English Illustrated Magazine (Macmillan & Co.) displays a series of attractions that will bear comparison with the most successful of its rivals. Not only are the literary contents of a character likely to be peculiarly acceptable to the majority of educated readers, being selected with wise care and discrimination, but in each case they are illustrated by

artists who have striven with exquisite skill and success to bring out and pictorially enforce the author's meaning and fancy. The typographic work and engraving are beyond all praise. It is not particularly easy to pick out from a volume which is so prolific of good things those of the contents which more especially call for mention, but, taking the longer articles, we may instance the serial story, 'A Secret Inheritance,' by B. L. Farjeon; 'An Unknown Country,' the delightful series of papers on Ireland, contributed by the late Mrs. Craik (Miss Mulock); 'A Visit in a Dutch Country House,' by May Crommelin; 'Marzio's Crucifix,' a story



by F. Marion Crawford; 'Some Less-known Towns of Southern Gaul,' by Professor Freeman; 'Our Fishermen,' by James Runciman; and 'Walks in the Wheatfields,' a characteristic subject, characteristically treated, by Richard Jefferies. Among the artists we have such well-known names as David Murray, A.R.S.A., E. Burne Jones, A.R.A., L. Alma Tadema, R.A., W. Biscombe Gardner, G. L. Seymour, George Du Maurier, Clara Montalba, Alfred Parsons, T. R. Macquoid, and P. Macnab. The work of clever Hugh Thomson is plentifully distributed throughout its pages, and from his artistic delineation of Gay's 'Journey to Exeter' we take the accompanying illustration—'The ready ostler near the stirrup stands.' The entire volume conveys a perfect load of Christmas enjoyment, and in no sense is its gorgeous appearance misleading—which is saying a good deal.

The providing of vigorous, sound reading for boys is a problem that has been solved long ago by the Religious Tract Society, whose **Boy's Own Annual** is an example of what



may be successfully done in that way. Jules Verne's story of the 'Clipper of the Clouds,' which has recently been published as a volume, runs through the *Boy's Own* for the year 1887. After the stories, long and short, peaceful and adventurous, the papers which we think will interest boys most are those on 'Our Pleasure Navy' and 'Our Merchant Navy,' which are remarkable on account of the vast amount of intelligence they convey. Coloured plates are introduced giving sections of the representative yachts and merchant vessels hailing from British ports. Throughout the book, illustrations brighten nearly every page, and the boy will be envied indeed who is the happy possessor. We must again commend the spirited tone of the literary matter, which compares most favourably with the best of works for boys. The editor seems to be thoroughly acquainted with the tastes of his constituents and gratifies them most agreeably.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

Cambridge University Press (C. J. Clay & Sons).

FROM the London Warehouse of the Cambridge Press we have received some specimens of their new illuminated **Prayer Books**. These forms of the Prayer Book are entirely new; they are beautifully printed in black and red, with illuminated scroll initial letters, and may be had in a variety of leather bindings—calf, morocco, and russia. These books are exceedingly desirable gifts, and should be held in high favour.

Mr. J. W. Arrowsmith.

TWYCROSS'S REDEMPTION, by Alfred St. Johnston. It would not do for every girl, like the heroine of this story, to go about in boy's clothes, but where the motive was so creditable we are little inclined to find fault. The tale abounds in incidents of sensational adventure. The scene of the plot is laid in India, and the natives, both human and animal, take no inconsiderable part in the narrative. To add still greater intensity to the thrilling nature of the text, we have a series of illustrations by Gordon Browne, each dramatically depicting some striking event in the story. 'Twycross's Redemption,' we should think, is sure to be widely read, and when read is bound to be appreciated.

No doubt, for the majority of readers, youthful and otherwise, the chief attraction of **King Diddle**, by H. C. Davidson, will be found in the beautiful coloured illustrations prepared from drawings by E. A. Lemann. But the letterpress possesses a comicality of its own also, and the description of little Hugh and Amy, who during their parents' absence from home find their way to the old lumber-room at night and there make acquaintance with certain marvelous little beings never discovered out of a fairy book, is certainly quaint and amusing. Much praise should be given to Mr. Arrowsmith for the exquisite way in which the volume has been produced, printing, binding, and illustrations alike being excellent.

Messrs. Blackie & Son.

MESSRS. BLACKIE & SON have for many years past enjoyed a high reputation for the excellence of their Christmas books, and this season they show no falling off either artistically or from a literary point of view. It makes one almost feel young to see all these gorgeous volumes arrayed on the table before us, and we envy the excitement and

pleasure they will create in the minds of some thousands of juvenile readers. All tastes of school-boy predilection are suited, and Santa Claus this forthcoming Christmas should have no difficulty in apportioning his book gifts to the satisfaction of everybody.

Thus for those who like history we have **For the Temple**, a tale describing the fall of Jerusalem in the terse vigorous language Mr. G. A. Henty knows so well how to use, and that apparently Mr. Solomon J. Solomon has striven earnestly and not unsuccessfully to properly illustrate. **Bonnie Prince Charlie**, by the same author, sufficiently proclaims its character in the title, and tells of the attempt of the gallant Young Prince to win back the kingdom of his forefathers. It is beautifully illustrated by Gordon Browne. Yet another story by the same prolific but ever-interesting author refers to the rising in Ireland on behalf of King James, and the battle of the Boyne. It is entitled **Orange and Green**, and is full of stirring and adventurous incidents, to which Mr. Gordon Browne has added intensified effect by the vigour and realism of the illustrations. But even this is not all. **In the Reign of Terror** is the title of a story in which Mr. G. A. Henty has attacked the time of the French Revolution, and by his relation of the experiences of young Harry Sandwith he will surely arouse in his readers a fruitful curiosity to hear more of that eventful time. The illustrations are by J. Schönberg.

Girl Neighbours, by Sarah Tytler, delineates after the authoress's pleasant sympathetic manner the difference between the old-fashioned method of educating girls, and the system now generally pursued. Her chief

characters, Sapiencia and Harriet Cotton, familiarly called Pie and Harry, respectively represent the old and the new styles of instruction. The book is sure to be popular with girl readers, and the illustrations, of which we furnish a sample, are in every respect excellent.

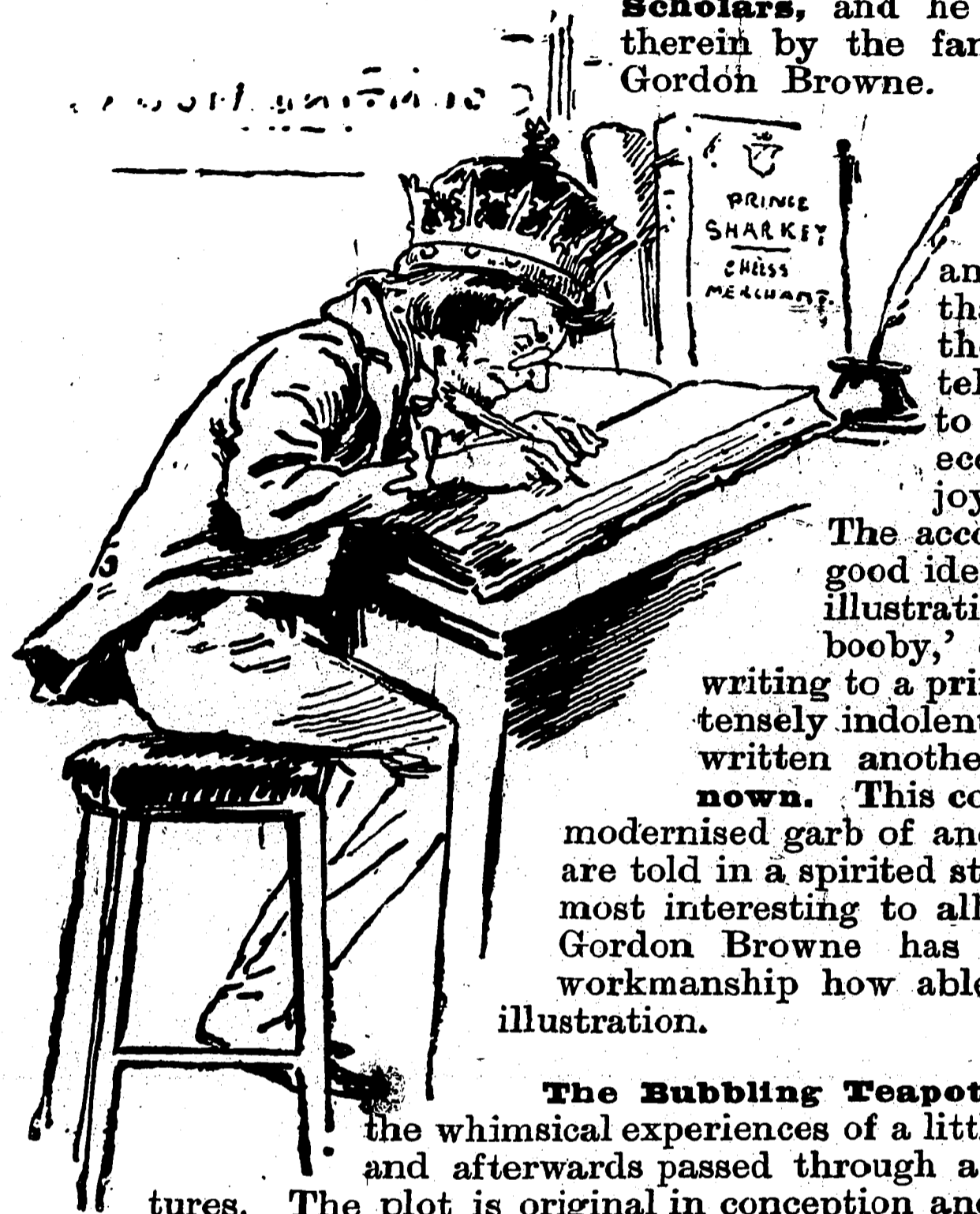
Margery Merton's Girlhood, by Alice Corkran, is another story that we can warmly recommend to the same stamp of reader, and in the experiences of the heroine, an orphan who is left at an early age to the care of an elderly aunt, we may promise them a literary treat of much excellence. In the same category we may also place **Miss Willowburn's Offer**, by Sarah Doudney, a writer whose earnest womanly style is bound to win the suffrages of her readers.



An old and much valued friend, whom readers will welcome with pleasure, appears in George Macdonald. **The Princess and the Goblin**, of which a new edition is now issued, is a delightful fairy story told with a serious gravity and in a matter of fact style that infinitely

add to the comicality of the situation, and should almost succeed in persuading young readers that the incidents are all real. Numerous illustrations by Arthur Hughes adorn the text. **The Princess and Curdie** is a fanciful sequel to the preceding story, which many have richly enjoyed in the past, and fully as many more, now that the work has been issued in new form, with tinted illustrations by James Grant, will revel over in the future. **Gutta Percha Wille** is also interesting, and as all tastes are not alike it is possible that some will prefer it to the foregoing volumes by the same author, though we do not. It possesses the advantage of several very good wood-engravings designed by Arthur Hughes.

Mr. Ascott R. Hope has perpetrated a delicious piece of conceit in **The Seven Wise Scholars**, and he has been powerfully aided and abetted therein by the fanciful drollery of the clever artist, Mr. Gordon Browne. The story relates the case of one Dr.



Archibald Didaskalos, the head of a select academy for young gentlemen, containing only seven pupils. All of them, however, are wise beyond their years, and it is therefore not surprising to find that instead of construing Homer and Virgil they have a much greater inclination for the telling of stories. This, therefore, they do, to the infinite gratification of the somewhat eccentric head-master, and the further enjoyment, we are now sure, of their readers.

The accompanying woodcut, which will furnish a good idea of the quaint character of Mr. Browne's illustrations, represents the father of 'the sleeping booby,' one of the best tales in the collection, writing to a princess to come and teach his royal but intensely indolent offspring. Mr. Ascott R. Hope has also written another book, entitled **Stories of Old Renown**. This consists of a series of nine reproductions in modernised garb of ancient tales of knights and heroes. They are told in a spirited style that should undoubtedly render them most interesting to all boys of healthy tastes; and again Mr. Gordon Browne has shown by his humorous and dashing workmanship how able an artist he is in this form of book illustration.

The Bubbling Teapot, by Mrs. Lizzie W. Champney, relates the whimsical experiences of a little girl who was transformed into a teapot and afterwards passed through a series of the most extraordinary adventures. The plot is original in conception and excellently constructed. A story by Walter Everard refers to the time of the crusades and describes with considerable intensity some of the most thrilling episodes of that heroic time. It is entitled **Sir Walter's Ward**. An equally stirring book which treats of a somewhat similar subject may be mentioned in **Chivalric Days**, characteristic stories of courtesy and courage in a bygone age, by E. S. Brooks. They are varied and interesting, and among the leading characters are Hannibal, Queen Nitocris, Alfred the Great, Pepin, Constantine, and others. **Chirp and Chatter** is the attractive title of a fascinating little book in which the authoress, Alice Banks, very effectively tells, and Mr. Gordon Browne humorously illustrates, a number of stories for children. **A Pair of Clogs**, by Amy Walton, with the two other tales that accompany it, are designed for a kindred class of reader.

Mr. G. Manville Fenn, whose name has become a 'household word' in all matters connected with boy literature, has this year written a highly exciting romance of the Great East Swamp, entitled **Dick o' the Fens**. It describes, in language of great vigour and dramatic effect, a series of adventures in the lives of two Lincolnshire boys, sons of a farmer living on the border of one of the vast wastes. The story is constructed with all the author's characteristic and customary skill, and abounds in absorbing incidents of country sport and social disturbance. The illustrations, which are very good, are by Frank Dadd. Another experienced contributor to this form of literature is Mr. Harry Frith. On the present occasion he writes a little work entitled **Aboard the 'Atalanta'**, replete with seafaring peril and sailor-life charm. **Sturdy and Strong** is the title of a story by G. A. Henty, relating how George Andrews, son of a poor widow, made his way in the world.

Beauty and the Beast and **Hop o' My Thumb**, published last year in 'Gordon Browne's Series of Old Fairy Tales,' have now been issued with coloured instead of plain illustrations. The pictures are drawn with all the artist's well-known drollery and technical skill, and we can imagine very distinctly the open-eyed astonishment of the youngsters as they gaze on these startling embodiments of adventure in Fairy-land.

The Rover's Secret, by Harry Collingwood, clever and experienced in providing literary fare for boy readers, is a dashing story of 'The Pirate Cays and Lagoons of Cuba.' Startling incident succeeds startling incident in this enthralling narrative with a rapidity that is almost marvellous, considering that no anti-climax is brought about. The artist, W. Christian Symonds, has ably assisted the author by the vigorous life-like character of his illustrations.

Two little books by Elizabeth J. Lysaght display much insight into homely life and are cleverly constructed. They are respectively entitled **Aunt Hesba's Charge** and **Our General**, the latter being a story especially intended for girls. **The War of the Axe**, by Percy J. Groves, graphically relates the adventures of a young fellow named Tom Flinders, who falls into the hands of Caffirs and has many more remarkable experiences besides. Other books that we can favourably mention are **By Order of Queen Maude**, a narrative of domestic life by Louisa Crow; **The Squire's Grandson**, agreeably related by J. M. Callwell; and **The Stories of Wasa and Menzikoff**, descriptive of two notable characters in the world's history, by an anonymous author.

We can speak very highly of the smaller books for children issued by this firm. Six new volumes of the shilling series lie before us. Each is excellently written, and just as admirably printed and bound. The authors are Mary C. Rowsell, F. A. Holmes, J. Dickinson, M. Harriet M. Capes, and Annie S. Fenn. Scarcely less inferior in matter, though hardly so neat in binding, are the seven new volumes of the ninepenny series, contributed by Kate Wood, Isabel Hornibrook, Mary C. Rowsell, Mrs. Musgrave, Harriet Boulwood, Jessie Fleming, and Jennie Perrett. The sixpenny series maintains its good name by the issue of excellent stories by Annie S. Fenn, W. L. Rooper, Christian Burke, and others. In the fourpenny series of reward books we have suitable tales by W. L. Rooper, R. Scotter, Caroline Stewart, M. A. Currie, and 'Penelope.' Finally, four little works for the 'very little ones' have come to hand, written by Jennett Humphreys. They consist of simple stories in words varying from three to five letters, each volume containing a variety of engravings, and one coloured illustration.

Messrs. Cassell & Co. (Limited).

TO a contemplative mind, especially if man or woman be possessed of a feeling of veneration for the ancient, beautiful, and historical church edifices of our land, there is no study more engrossing or more grateful than the investigation of the rise and progress of these monuments to the aspirations and devotion of our ancestors. It is not uncommon for true



devotees to make pilgrimages to the most beautiful English cathedrals and churches; and to those who cannot do this, as well as to the more fortunate who wish to have their memories freshened, we cannot recommend a finer book than **Abbeys and Churches of England and Wales**, edited by the Rev. T. G. Bonney, D.Sc., LL.D., &c., the Professor of Geology in University College, London. The book is descriptive, historical, and pictorial. In the latter

connection, of course, the art work is magnificent—nearly every page is adorned with delicate woodcuts. That which we show here represents Lutterworth Church, famous through its Wiclifite associations. Some parts of this church in which Wiclif preached are still pointed out. The editor devotes a good deal of space to the most interesting of old London churches which historically are most interesting. As a rule the striking associations are rarely overlooked. Selborne and Eversley remind us of two great lovers of nature; Stratford-on-Avon, the church of Shakespeare; Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, the Venerable Bede; Stoke Poges, of Gray and the 'Country Churchyard'; Grasmere and Crosthwaite, of the Lake Poets; and Harrow and Newstead of Byron. Mention of these exemplifies the character of the details which have been elaborated by the various writers under the editorship of Professor Bonney.

It is fitting that the present season should be chosen for beginning the publication of a book such as **The Life and Times of Queen Victoria**, by Robert Wilson. The first volume brings the story up to the marriage of the Princess Royal. From a national point of view there is much that is great in the history of our country during that period, and the chronicle of diplomacy, of domestic reforms and domestic troubles, of foreign wars, colonial progress and geographical discoveries, is most excellently recorded by Mr. Wilson, whose

narrative is in every respect one of the best examples of popular modern historiography. It should be mentioned that the first eleven chapters of the



work are from the pen of the late Mr. Edmund Ollier. The politics of the history have been very judiciously treated; in this, indeed, the author seems to have successfully overcome the chief difficulty of his task. Very graphic and martial-like descriptions of the Crimean war and the Indian mutiny are incorporated in the work. Indeed, a good deal of attention is given to the interesting associations attaching to the story of our Indian Empire, while the Colonies receive the notice which they merit as integral parts of Greater Britain. We look forward to the appearance of other instalments of this readable and altogether delightful history.

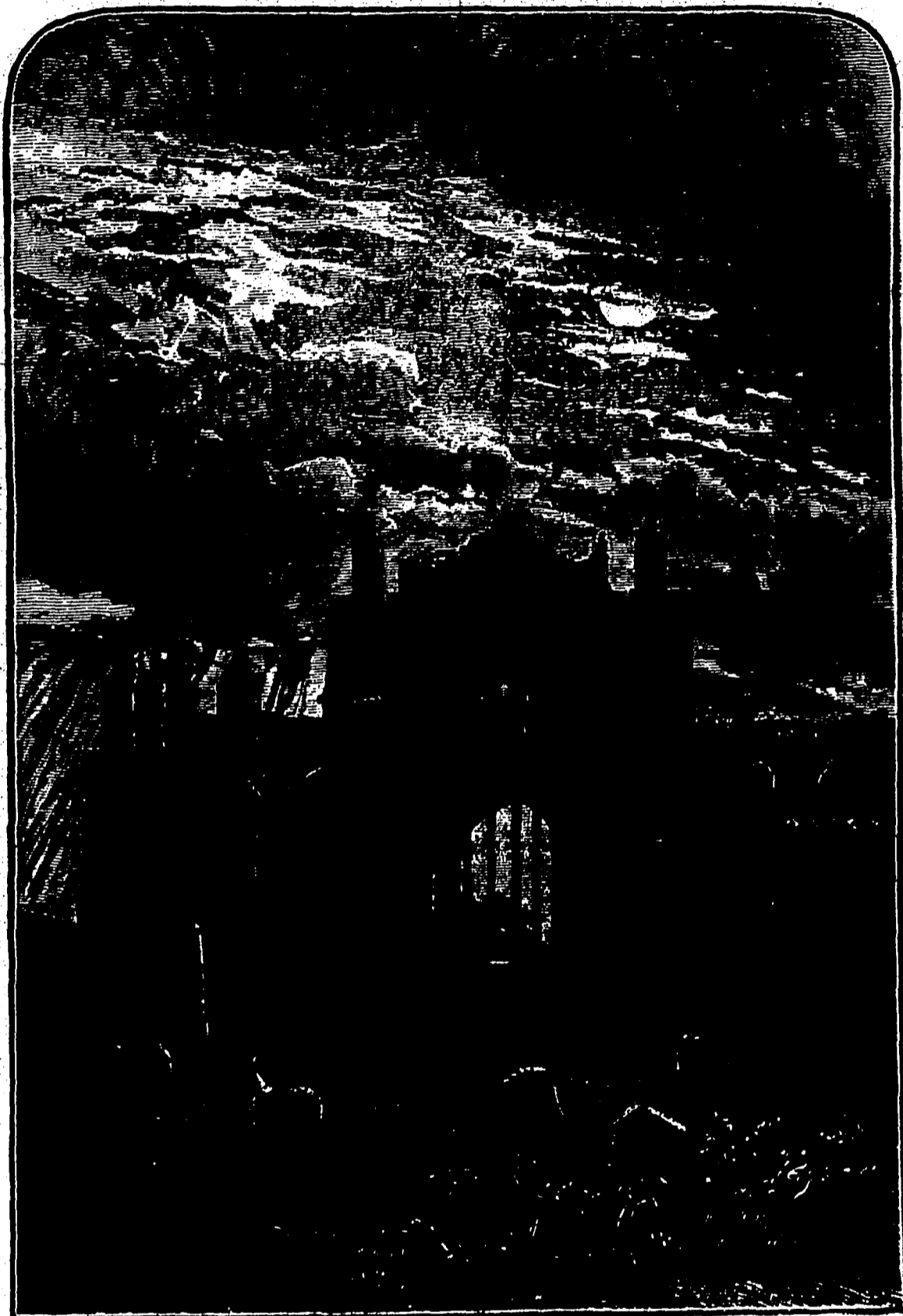
Ships, Sailors, and the Sea is a bright-looking book, with plenty of pictures and stirring stories. The author, Mr. R. J. Cornwall-Jones, has brought these very skilfully together. Boys who are thinking of the sea and of seafaring will find a good deal of information as well as excitement by reading it through. Points of importance in nautical education are explained with force. Four volumes of Messrs. Cassell's **World's Workers** series speak of noble men and women. The first we take in hand tells the story of Sarah Robinson, the soldiers' friend, of Agnes Weston, the sailors' friend, and of Mrs. Meredith, the prisoners' friend, essays which together form a concrete study of self-sacrificing feminine devotion. Another volume contains the lives of Mrs. Somerville and Mary Carpenter, written by Phyllis Browne. Mr. Henry Frith contributes a life of the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury. Dr. Van Buren Denslow and Mrs. Jane Marsh Parker write respectively, in one volume, the essays on

Thomas A. Edison and Samuel F. B. Morse. These brief but clever studies are just the sort of guiding literature to place in the hands of young women and young men beginning the battle of life.

The annual volume of **Little Folks** exhibits all the charming characteristics of varied illustration and well-selected contents that purchasers of this magazine have long been accustomed to. The serial story is by Mrs. Molesworth. **Bo-Peep**, for younger readers, is equally attractive, and the pictures, being such as are likely to catch a child's fancy, are sure to have many eager admirers. As a rule youngsters care more about illustrations than letter-press, but in this case they are bound to be entertained by both. The same may be said of four smaller volumes intended for juvenile readers, and respectively entitled **Our Sunday Stories**, **All Sorts of Adventures**, **Holiday Hours**, and **Up and Down the Garden**, the last two being by Maggie Browne. Young people will therefore see that Messrs. Cassell have been particularly mindful of their interests this Christmas season, and no doubt, if they only knew the trouble and care expended, would be proportionately grateful.

It is well to notice that the 'Jubilee' edition of **Cassell's History of England** is in some leading attributes an entirely new book. The illustrations, for example, are new and original, and come from the pencils of good artists. As the book is so well known it is needless to speak again as to its unrivalled merits as a popular history. We can only speak of the artistic and mechanical efforts which have been advanced to make this edition worthy of its name, and of the occasion which its appearance commemorates. Thus we notice the careful revision of the text, the aptness and power of the illustrations, and, not by any means the least important, the clearness and beauty of the typography. Every historical work issued in occasional volumes should have an index, and for this readers in the present instance have to be thankful to the publishers. Royal devices, emblazoned in colour and gold on the binding, give the volume an elaborate, but not gaudy, look.

Mr. Edwin Hodder's great book, **The Life and Work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury**, is before us in the form of a cheap popular edition, so that the enterprise of Messrs. Cassell has placed this valuable work at the disposal of a much wider circle of readers. When the memoirs of the great and worthy philanthropist had been gathered together and given to the world, it was admitted that Mr. Hodder had accomplished his task not only with devotion, but with precision and happy effect. The result is that the book claims the attention of all classes who work in accordance with the dictates of sympathy towards their fellow-men. To the student of philanthropy, as well as to the donor of charity, Mr Hodder's book will be found extremely useful in its guidance.



MELROSE ABBEY,
(Cassell's History of England.)

The Palace Beautiful: a Story for Girls, by L. T. Meade. The authoress may almost be said to have acquired a reputation for this kind of fiction, but we believe she has never shown to better advantage than now. Above all, the story is wholesome and pure, and it is from the womanly method of narration, the simple unaffectedness of style, that the narrative acquires one of its main charms. To describe the plot even briefly would be somewhat difficult with the space at our command, even were it not slightly unfair, but we may at any rate say that it is full of interesting incidents that are pathetic and exciting by turns. The narrative is considerably indebted to the illustrations of W. S. Stacey. Another story that we may warmly commend is entitled **The Cost of a Mistake**. To some extent it reveals life amongst the poor, and the influence of mission work among them. What the special mistake was we are not going to reveal, but it has furnished groundwork for a most excellent and interesting story. The drawings which beautify the book are from the

pencil of Hal Ludlow. **Seeking a City**, by Maggie Symington, is a simple story of quiet life, rejoicing in no exciting incidents of murderous design or passionate depravity, but distinguished by a sympathetic grace that renders its perusal a charming occupation. It is well illustrated by C. T. Garland, who has been quick to take up the salient features of the story.

What is known as the 'Adventure Series' of books now demands notice. The genius of Robert Louis Stevenson is conspicuously evident in **Kidnapped**, the illustrated edition of which lies before us. In the thrilling nature of its contents, and the wide range of its imaginative conception, the story may be said to equal, if indeed it does



not excel, any of the author's previous works. The most unimpassioned of readers could scarcely lay the book down without perusing it to the last page, and the majority, though fevered with excitement and breathless from suspended anxiety, will wish that it were longer. It may be that their desires will be acceded to, since the author hints that should the public take sufficient interest in his work, the story of Alan may possibly be continued and the after events of the murder set forth. In the interests of some thousands of readers it may fervently be hoped that such will be the case. Of the illustrations in this edition of 'Kidnapped' we supply an example in the accompanying woodcut. It represents an incident in the gale which befel the brig *Covenant* off the Island of Mull, and, like the remainder of the illustrations, it is from the design of W. Hole, R.S.A. **A Queer Race**, by William Westall, is a worthy companion to the above in the exciting nature of the incidents it provides. Sydney Erle, a Liverpool underwriter, whose time is not particularly well occupied, takes a sea voyage on account of his health. The ship's com-

pany is attacked by yellow fever, and all but himself and the boatswain perish. The vessel, with no one to navigate her, drifts on to an unknown island, shrouded in a perpetual mist and guarded from approach by a number of tall, white rocks. Here he finds the 'queer race'—descendants of the English crew of a captured Spanish treasure ship, wrecked on the island in 1744, and the aboriginal natives of the place. Much of the interest and charm of the narrative consist in a description of the customs of these singular people, their method of government and peculiar habits. The story is highly absorbing throughout and very original. A work exhibiting wonders of stern reality and written with much care is entitled **Short Studies from Nature**, and this should be productive of considerable instructive information. The writers are Professor F. R. Eaton Lowe, Dr. Buchanan White, W. S. Dallas, F.L.S., Dr. Robert Brown, F.L.S., G. C. Chisholm, M.A., Geo. M. Seabroke, F.R.A.S., and F. P. Balkwill. An additional attraction is to be found in the numerous and excellently drawn illustrations of the volume.

Messrs. W. & A. Chambers.

IT is a good many years since Messrs. Chambers issued their series of 'People's Editions,' but several of the cleverly-compiled volumes still retain a hold upon public fancy. Those who read pleasant books in childhood, often, when they come to man's estate, like to give the rising generation a share of the pleasure they themselves felt in the stories of days gone by. **Shipwrecks and Tales of the Sea**, a compact and handsome little volume, contains better

information than many more ambitious books of a like nature: the stories are absorbing in interest, and the illustrations show the exercise of talent and skill.

A **Life of Benjamin Franklin** has been re-issued in a form also attractive. As a specimen of biographical writing it is simple and forcible, and the compiler seems to have cracked the best nuts he could get. Franklin's story is one which every boy should know, and Messrs. Chambers' book relates it in very felicitous and truthful words.

Messrs. James Clarke & Co.

IF the incidents of **A Border Shepheress**, by Amelia E. Barr, are not particularly exciting, they at any rate appeal very strongly to the human interest of the reader. The story chiefly turns on a question of parentage, and the main character is Faith Harribee, as beautiful and loving a creation as ever proceeded from the authoress's pen. The end for those who invariably look for a happy conclusion, when all disagreeables are cleared away and loving hands are joined, will be a trifle disappointing; and yet it was only according to the natural order of events—a species of poetic justice, one might say—that Lord Graeme should die. The story is one of Scottish life, supposed to have taken place some years back; and Mrs. Barr is distinctly to be congratulated on the beauty and pathos she has thrown into her work.

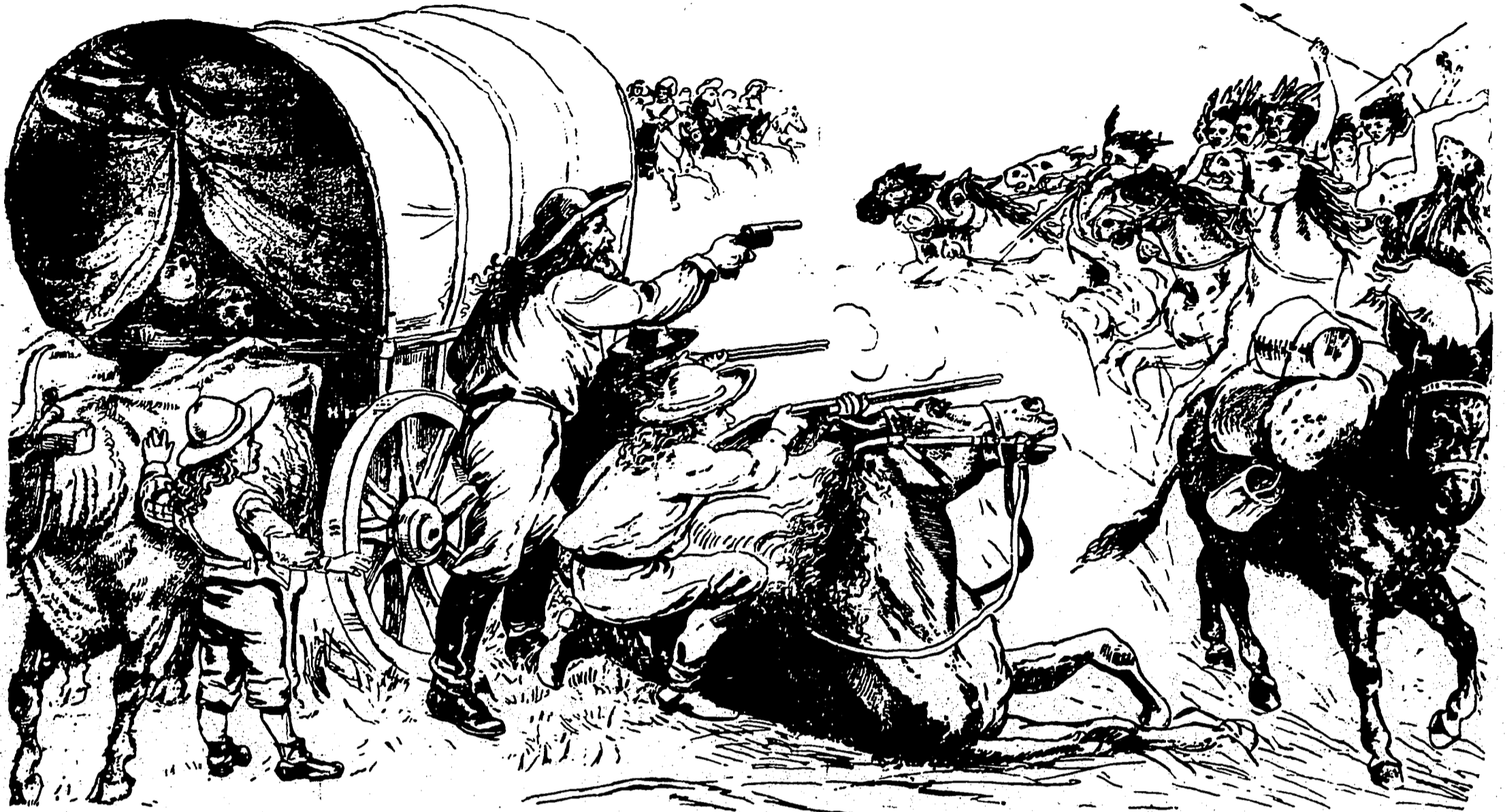
The Rosebud Annual contains an exceedingly smart and entertaining series of contents for child readers, bound in a tastefully-designed and appropriate cover. The pictures, which are very numerous, are such as will readily take the fancy of the young, and may very probably cause them to consult their elders for further knowledge on the subjects depicted; while the letterpress, comprising stories, verses, anecdotes, and what not, is bold, distinct, and varied in character. 'The Rosebud Annual,' in short, is bound to give unlimited satisfaction to its juvenile readers, and afford them inexhaustible delight.

Messrs. Dean & Sons.

THESSE indefatigable caterers for the happy amusement of little ones still stand in an impregnable position. Long as the name of Dean has been before the public on the title-pages of our most familiar picture-books it never fails, as of yore, to appear on the most attractive books of the day. The volumes of **The Little One's Own** are exceedingly mirthful and pleasant to the eye. Under the sympathetic editorship of Mrs. E. Day the stories are cleverly chosen, while the coloured pictures should please every good little boy and girl. 'Lazy Jack' is the subject of our illustration. **Zig-zag Journeys in the Western States of America**, by Hezekiah Butterworth, is a volume showing some peculiar and striking incidents of semi-civilised life. Emigrants could hardly do better than read its teeming pages. Stay-at-home people will be fascinated with its sketchy descriptions and enlivening stories. We do not know any popular work giving better or livelier touches of American description and scenery. Nearly every page is illustrated with telling wood engravings. Toy-books have long been produced by Messrs. Dean, who, indeed, are at the top of the tree in the production of these 'essentials' of the nursery. Their panoramas **Scenes in the Circus** and the **Zoological Gardens** are fully suited to meet the criticism of the most fastidious youngster. Each of these shows open out twelve and a half feet long. The **Sphinx Puzzle Proverbs** are equally amusing and more ingenious in their



educative influence. Dean's **Bold Picture Animal Series** fills a good place in toy-book circles. The pictures are bold, and are also true in drawing and colour. **Buffalo Bill** is a smartly coloured picture-book showing some of the picturesque scenes in Colonel Cody's London show: it should be popular.



(From *Buffalo Bill*.)

With the Christmas number of the **Little One's Own Paper** is presented a spirited plate entitled 'Indignity and Impudence.' We have had occasion more than once to remind readers of the claims of this bright periodical, which has only to be seen and it will be bought. Messrs. Dean are in every way to be complimented for the able manner in which they progress in these days of keen competition and keep up the old and high reputation of the firm. **Wayside Pearls**, by Miss Cecilia Havergal, and **Gems strewing the Path to Heaven**, edited by Miss Jane Strickland, are beautiful little illuminated books. The illuminations of the former are done by A. Hanslip.

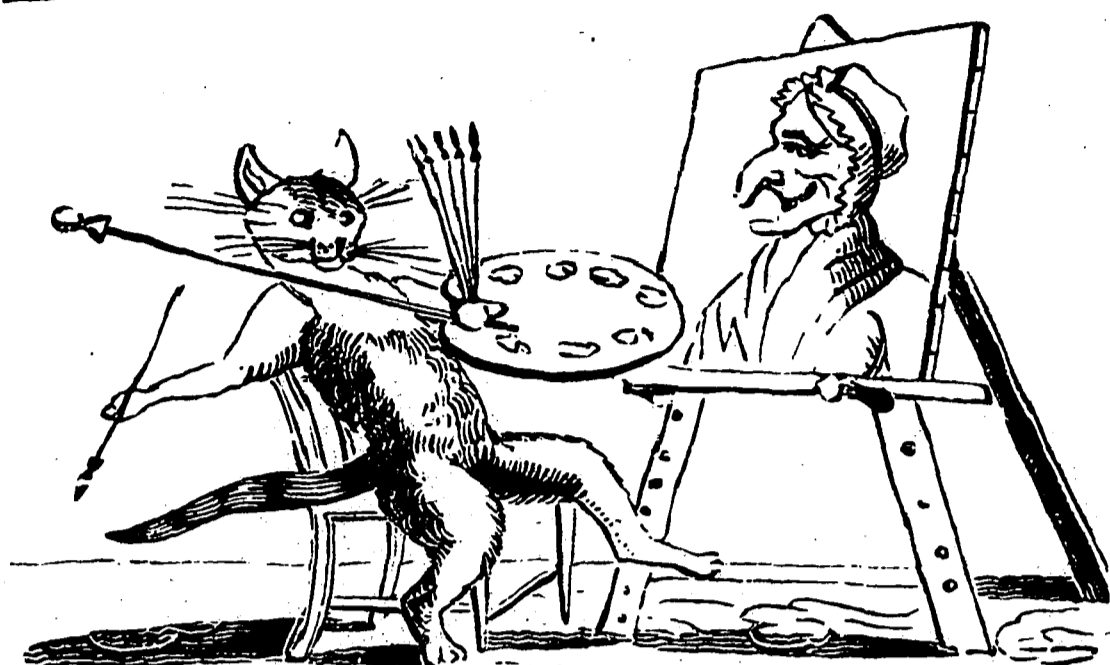
Messrs. Gall & Inglis.

THE books of a Christmas character published by this firm, if numerically small, are excellently adapted for fireside enjoyment and show much taste in 'general get-up' and binding. **Fairy in the Spider's Web**, by A. L. O. E., is a story descriptive of Indian life, and in this way it possesses some novelty and is sure of many interested readers. The writer's style is simple and unaffected, and the construction of her work indicates considerable skill. **Larry Gilbert; or, Persevere and Win**, by S. K. Reeves, shows how a boy, by steadfastly continuing in the path of honesty and uprightness may eventually overcome all his trials and misfortunes, and emerge from the struggle a respected and highly esteemed man. At the close of the story we learn that Lawrence Gilbert, Esq., was one of the most successful and prosperous citizens in Marleyville.

It has often been said that an individual's prospects in life, for good or evil, turn upon his power of saying 'No' at the right time. A little story that effectively illustrates this point is entitled **Where to say No**, by R. Terry Cooke, and the author may be congratulated on having with simple every-day material constructed a fairly interesting fiction. **Struggling Upward**, by S. J. Jones, is the account of a rough miner to whom a dying mother confided her baby, and of the elevating influence the child exercised over him and his wild companions. After a time the little fellow falls into other hands, but eventually is recovered, and all ends happily. The main character in the story is Fred Rader, the miner, whose efforts to lead a better life form the leading thread of the story. **Muriel; or, Ways and Means**, by M. Vandegrift, possesses equally wholesome teaching, though of a somewhat different kind. It is the description of a good loveable girl's life, her sorrows, trials, and temptations. But the reader finally leaves her in peaceful repose, hopefully waiting for the return of her lover Neil Duncan from India; and it is to be presumed that her future days are as happy and contented as they undoubtedly deserve to be. The construction of the story is not particularly good, but in other respects it merits much praise.

Messrs. Field & Tuer.

POSSIBLY the declaration of Mr. Ruskin regarding the nursery book, **Dame Wiggins of Lee**, has encouraged its revival in the form in which it now appears from the Leaden-



hall Press, in company with two other forgotten picture-books for children, namely, 'Deborah Dent and her Donkey' and 'The Gaping, Wide-Mouthed, Waddling Frog.' These booklets are very delightful in recalling to mind the stories which charmed the young people a generation ago. Mr. Tuer has become the possessor of all the old and quaint cuts, and gives them hand-coloured to

his new readers. In the preface Mr. Tuer recounts the history of the publication of these stories, in itself a very entertaining narrative.

Many purchasers now look forward for the appearance of **The Bairns' Annual**, with its budget of stories, poems, and pictures. As in last year's issue we noticed familiar names, so in this we observe that skilful pens have been at work to gratify the young. 'The Bairns' Annual' is edited by Alice Corkran, and illustrated by Mrs. Mack. The contributors include Mrs. Macquoid, Mrs. Oscar Wilde, Mrs. James Gow, Mr. W. G. Wills, Mr. R. M. Lewis, and others. One of the



Dame Wiggins of Lee.

funniest books of its kind is **Silver Voice: a Fairy Tale**. The illustrations, hand-coloured, are old-world and comically grotesque.

Of Dollies timid, Dollies bold,
Of Dollies gentle, Dollies rough,
Of Dollies new and Dollies old,
Here surely you will find enough.

Surely there is enough about dollies in the story of a little girl who buys five hundred at a time! All this is chronicled in **Sybil's Dutch Dolls**, by F. S. Janet Burne, a prettily fanciful story, in which it is related how the little girl dressed her dolls as various historical and social characters, thus making the book educative as well as amusing. Equally amusing is a little book entitled **The Story of a Nursery Rhyme**, illustrated by Edwin J. Ellis. The author, C. B., knows well how to write for children, and this book is very fascinating in style.

Messrs. Wells Gardner, Darton & Co.

THE new volume of **Sunday** will be, as usual, welcomed by young readers, who gladly turn over its pages on week-days as well as on the day of rest. 'A Flock of Four,' 'Animals of the Bible,' 'Bert,' 'Fearless and True,' 'Little Christian's Pilgrimage,' are the longer pieces of the letterpress, which is varied and interesting. There are about sixty pieces of poetry; while the illustrations, two or three hundred in number, are so bright and artistic that they cannot fail to have a beneficial effect on the growing mind.

Many of the works issued by these publishers have an historical bearing, and amusement and instruction are pleasantly combined. **Westminster Cloisters**, by M. Bidder, goes back to the time of brave Richard I. and the Abbey as it then existed. We here take up the history of the youthful Raymond de Fauconberg, with his ambition to emulate the painting of Brother

Roger, and learn of the treachery of Prince John of Lackland, and the Abbot, Father Papy-lion. Eventually the poor boy discovers the secret of Brother Roger's wonderful colour, but no sooner has he achieved his ambition than he is laid low with serious illness, and on recovering finds that he has become colour blind. The story is an interesting one and is told with excellent effect.

In the series of 'Popular Histories of the Great Nations,' **A Popular History of France** has now appeared. It is condensed from the text of Emile de Bonnechose, and brought down to the first years of the present Republic, by H. W. Dulcken, Ph.D. The advantage of thus studying French history from a Frenchman's point of view can scarcely be over-estimated. The mass of our countrymen are, perhaps, too much inclined to think that *our* view is always the right view, and to forget that to every question there are two sides. This volume will doubtless help them to modify their opinions on many events of history upon which they have hitherto held decided views. As a popular work of instruction it should have a well-assured success. The illustrations are numerous but somewhat unequal in merit. A third edition has been issued of **Great Britain for Little Britons**, an excellent volume for youthful students, by Eleanor Bulley. The facts of history are here displayed in wonderfully attractive form, and are likely to be retained when the book is laid on one side.

From Pharaoh to Fellaah, by C. F. Moberly Bell, seems at the first glance a title savouring somewhat of affectation. The book, in a word, is an account of travels in Egypt, chronicled by a quick and scholarly observer. One thing, however, that will soon occur to the reader is the vivacity of Mr. Bell's composition; we might add the light-hearted clearness with which he discourses of Egyptian affairs, ancient and modern, great and small, sad or otherwise. Anyone can read with equal interest the story of a disinterred mummy, of the humours of the travellers themselves, or of the troubles of the fellaheen. The travellers 'did' Egypt very thoroughly, and the history of various places is related as they come under notice, so that readers who were previously unacquainted, or slightly acquainted, with Egyptian story could not do better than get Mr. Bell's book. There is a grand interest in the theme which does not suffer in his hands, for the love of the subject evidently clings to him. A great number of remarkably fine illustrations are given in plates or incorporated in the text. These are drawn by Georges Montbard and engraved by Charles Barbant.

The author of 'Miss Toosey's Mission' has written a series of **Letters to Our Working Party**. They are sensible, and relate to mission work. We have also received **Very Short Stories in Very Short Words**, by the Hon. Emmeline M. Plunket, which is cleverly adapted to its purpose and suitably illustrated. **The Ballad of the Chorister Boy**, by the Right Rev. W. Walsham How, D.D., makes a very pretty book, and the verses deserve their setting, for they are tuneful and wise.



BARBANT



From Pharaoh to Fellaah.

Messrs. Hatchards.

ATALANTA, the new magazine for girls, which started so favourably on its career a few weeks back, with its second number shows no signs of falling off in the high promise it then exhibited. The frontispiece is a delicious little picture by E. K. Johnson, R.W.S., entitled 'Forgiven,' and the other illustrations which brighten and beautify its pages are of equal artistic merit. The accompanying woodcut is the heading to a somewhat novel department in the magazine, 'The Atalanta Scholarship and Reading Union,' which offers valuable prizes to studious readers; and we also quote the lines from Tennyson accompanying it, which seem singularly apt and appropriate to the subject:



Girls,
 Knowledge is now no more a fountain sealed:
 Drink deep, until the habits of the slave,
 The sins of emptiness, gossip and spite
 And slander, die. Better not be at all
 Than not be noble.'

The literary contents of the magazine, under the skilful guidance of L. T. Meade and Alicia A. Leith, are of suitable and distinctly captivating character throughout, and furnished by such writers as H. Rider Haggard, Sarah Tytler, Helen Zimmern, Mrs. Molesworth, and the practised editors, they are bound to afford pleasure to many readers.

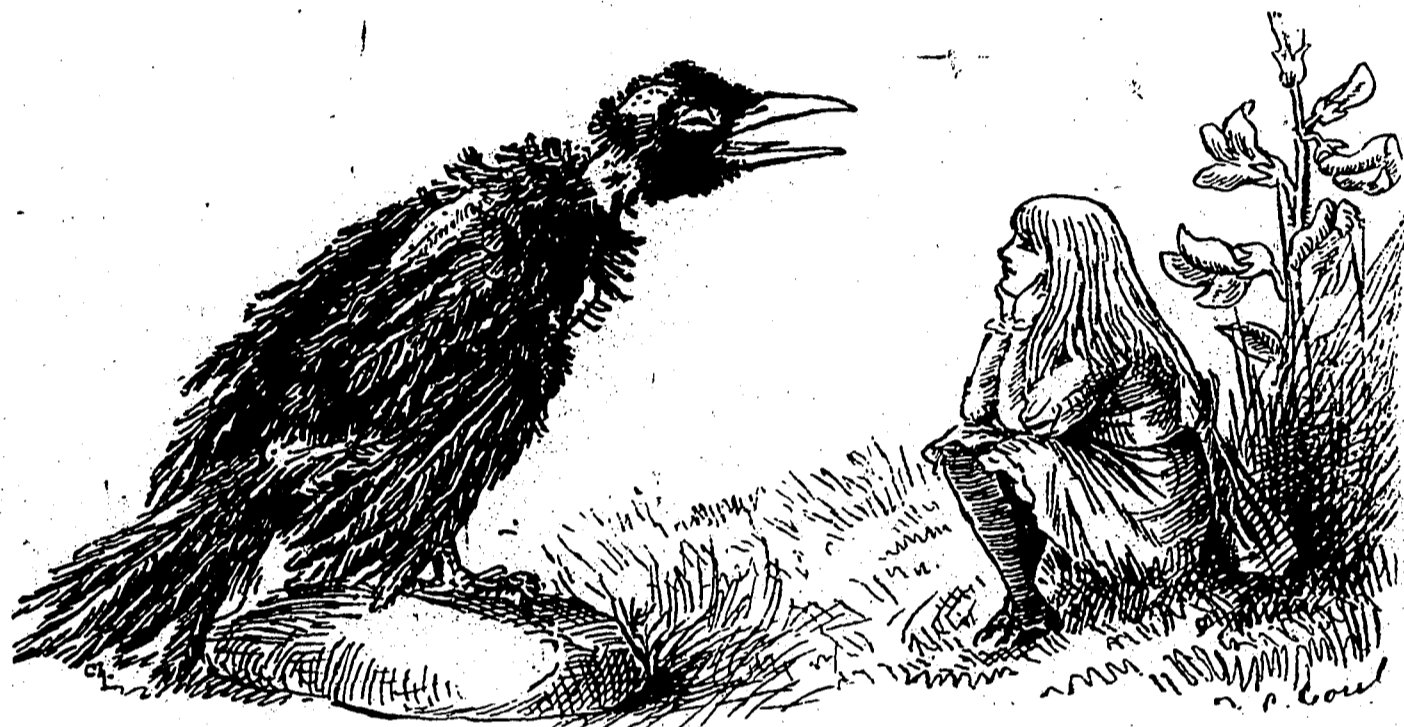
Rider's Leap, by F. Langbridge, tells the story of a fine manly young fellow named Jack Archdall. The narrative opens in the schoolhouse at Castle Wickham, and we are here also introduced to an evil character in the plot, an unprepossessing vindictive lad, one Joe Nightlight, whose father is even worse than himself. Jack has an uncle, a miser, who in his sleep hides his treasure; and in the mystery attaching to its disposal a considerable portion of the interest of the story centres. After a variety of exciting experiences, which more than once threaten to terminate Jack's life, the box is eventually discovered, and all ends happily. Mr. Langbridge has written a thoroughly interesting, vigorous story, which will charm all boy readers and impress them by its manliness.

Messrs. Griffith, Farran, Okeden & Welsh.

LOOKING generally at this collection of handsome volumes as they lie on the table before us, one would say that their tasteful binding and attractive appearance must surely be significant of absorbing interest and pleasurable excitement within. Nor are we disappointed when we come more carefully to examine their merits. Elegant exterior has in each case been supplemented by worthy contents, and we may say as a whole that Messrs. Griffith, Farran & Co.'s efforts this year to interest and amuse Christmas jollity-seekers contrast favourably with their enterprise in former seasons, and should result not only in well-deserved gain to themselves but in endless enjoyment and pleasure to their supporters. All the juvenile publications of the house, including especially the beautiful art picture books from the press of Nister, of Nuremberg, show that the fame of Newbery is well upheld at St. Paul's Churchyard.

The first book we take up is **Perils in the Transvaal**, by the Rev. H. C. Adams, M.A. The author has a pleasant graphic style, which he has used to good effect in describing a series of very exciting incidents. The story opens at Arlingford College, where we learn that George Rivers, one of the assistant-masters, is about to sail for South Africa in search of his mother and sister. He is accompanied by his close friend, Reginald Margetts. On the voyage out they make the acquaintance of two Dutchmen—Mynheer Van der Heyden and his friend Moritz. The former proves disagreeable, evidently having a strong dislike to the English, but he has a pretty sister, who proves a very adequate excuse for her brother's moroseness. But the villain of the story is one Bostock, a sailor, who heads a mutiny on board. Eventually, however, the party arrive at Port Natal, and Rivers and Margetts make their way into the interior. From this point it would be unfair to the author to follow their experiences. We have no intention of becoming a spoil-sport. Suffice it to say that the adventures we have indicated are nothing to what follow. The story is one of absorbing interest throughout.

In the **Land of Nod**, by Ada C. Marzetti, will certainly keep young people very wide awake, and we can readily imagine their open-eyed astonishment at the wonders here unfolded.



Myra, a little girl, falls to sleep, and in her dreams passes through a series of very extraordinary experiences, making acquaintance with a number of exceedingly droll characters. Mrs. Bumble Bee, attended by the Letters of the Alphabet, leads the way, and then we come to Mr. Toad the Brewer, Mr. Snail the Royal Academician, the Bat, the Field-mouse, the Blue-bottle, the Blackbird, and a variety of other talking phenomena. Among the startling incidents that take place is a grand review of the Alphabet

mounted on the animals from a Noah's Ark. Our illustration, which depicts Myra's conversation with the Blackbird, resulting in the 'throwing off' of an eloquent poem by that sombre but melodious bird, furnishes a capital instance of F. Carruthers Gould's cleverness in portraying this form of humour.

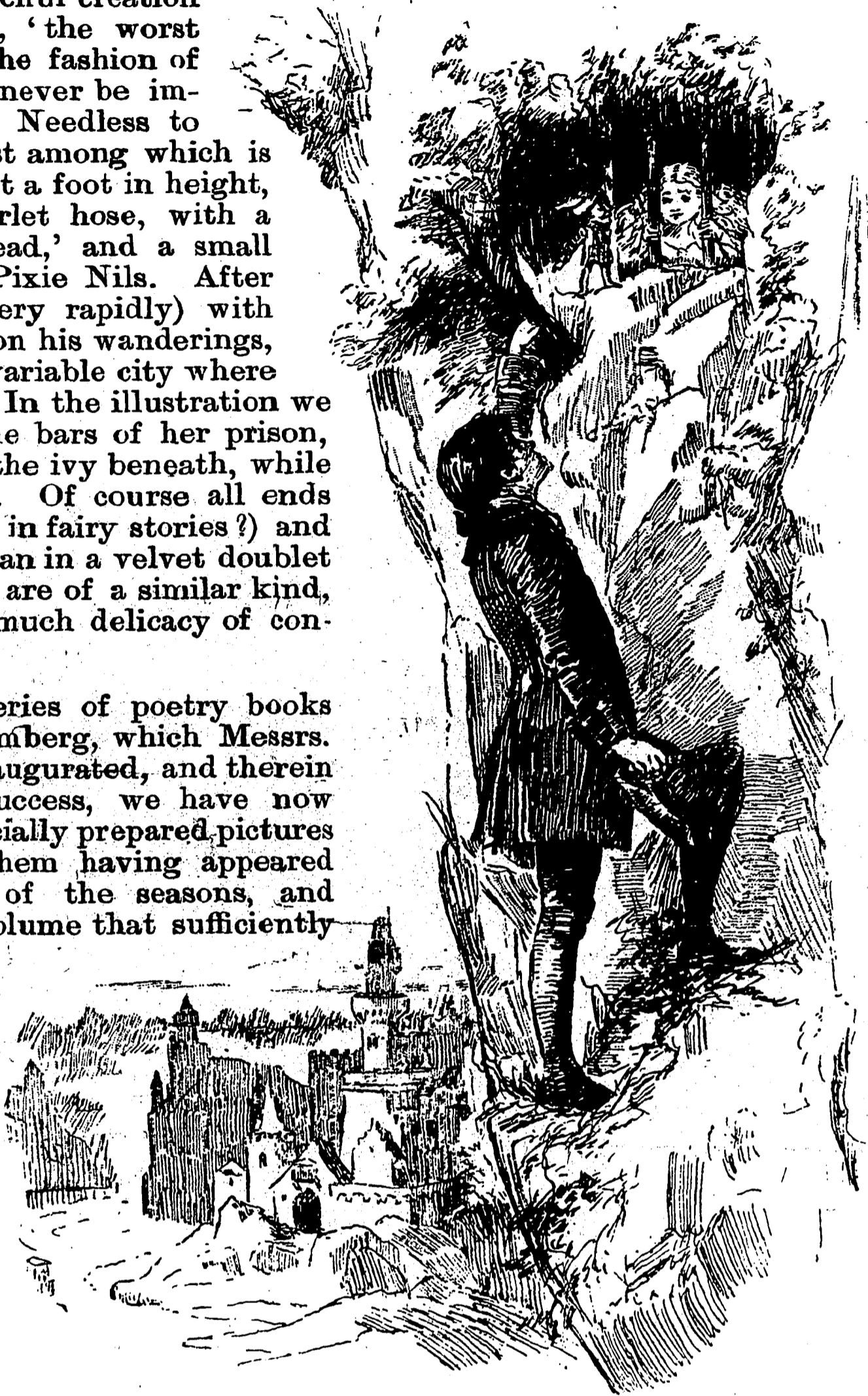
Mr. Paul Blake, who has oftentimes before delighted boy readers by the vigour and intensity of his stories, has this year constructed a romance that fully equals, if indeed in some respects it does not excel, any of his previous efforts. It is entitled **My Friend and my Enemy**, and describes, in the first place, how Dick Clifford, the boy hero, incurred the deadly enmity of a Malay and saved the life of a sailor, Jack Brown. From these events a string of very absorbing incidents arise, and Dick has a number of adventures that would even arouse the interest of a phlegmatic Dutchman. The illustrations are not particularly good, but they at any rate bring out into bold relief the more prominent features of the narrative.

A Country Mouse, by Mrs. Herbert Martin, is a story for girl readers. Mary Brooks, eldest daughter of a country doctor, and shy and reserved, goes up to London to stay with some fashionable relatives. In the trials surrounding her new experiences the chief interest of the story consists. Eventually matters are reversed; the rich relations come down in the world, and Lena Maurice, in her turn, has to seek the protection of Mary's parents. This is not a particularly original plot, but the authoress has invested it with much pleasant piquancy.

From the binding of **The Duke's Own**, by J. Percy Groves, we were fully prepared to find that it was a military story, even if the title had not told us as much. The hero is an Irishman, Peter Daly, whose adventurous spirit and careless disregard of danger cannot fail to inspire the reader with admiration and esteem. The chief scenes of the story are cast in India, during the memorable warfare with Tippoo Sahib. The author has constructed a dashing piece of work, embodying many actual events of history, and this is certain to retain the interest of spirited readers throughout. The volume, appropriately enough, is inscribed to Mr. G. A. Henty. In similar binding, whereof the distinguishing feature is a delicately coloured fan, we have a series of four volumes, each of which furnishes a healthy attraction and promises to be widely read. **Captain Fortescue's Handful**, by Cecil Marryat Norris, is a story for young girls, told naturally and without any of the namby-pambyism which is so common in such fiction. Some good illustrations are supplied by Edith Scannell. Another volume in the series calling for favourable mention is **A Far-Away Cousin**, a story for children, by Katharine D. Cornish, with illustrations by C. M. Stoddart; and the remaining works, which are scarcely less inferior, are **Two and Two**, a seasonable contribution by the author of 'Dethroned,' and **Mademoiselle's Story**, by Mrs. Ryffel, both of which are indebted for their effective illustrations to the pencil of Miss Rope.

Little Margit, and other Stories, by M. A. Hoyer, undoubtedly owes much of its attractiveness to the charming drawings of Mrs. H. M. Paget, of which we supply a specimen. This represents an incident in the fanciful creation of 'The Princess's Earring.' Tom, 'the worst boy in the parish,' goes out, after the fashion of the good old fairy tales, which can never be improved upon, to seek his fortune. Needless to say, he has strange experiences, first among which is his meeting with 'a little man about a foot in height, dressed in a green jerkin and scarlet hose, with a pointed cap on his queer little head,' and a small hammer in his hand, named Nils Pixie Nils. After serving seven years (which pass very rapidly) with the **Elfin King**, Tom again sets out on his wanderings, and in due course comes to the invariable city where the beautiful Princess is immured. In the illustration we see her looking out from between the bars of her prison, and Tom, hat in hand, clinging to the ivy beneath, while Nils stands at the window above. Of course all ends happily (when does it end otherwise in fairy stories?) and Tom returns home 'a grand gentleman in a velvet doublet and a gold chain.' The other tales are of a similar kind, and all display a fertile fancy and much delicacy of conception.

In the exquisitely illustrated series of poetry books printed by Ernest Nister, of Nuremberg, which Messrs. Griffith, Farran & Co. so happily inaugurated, and therein have achieved so remarkable a success, we have now **Through the Year**, a number of specially prepared pictures (not altogether original, some of them having appeared last year) and verses descriptive of the seasons, and **Treasures of Art and Song**, a volume that sufficiently reveals its nature in the title. The latter is an especially beautiful work, whereof the contents have been arranged by Robert Ellice Mack. The contributors of original matter to these volumes are E. Nesbit, Fred. E. Weatherly, Theo. Gift, Caris Brooke, Graham R. Tomson, C. Mainwaring, and George Clausen. Another volume of a somewhat similar though scarcely so gorgeous description, printed at Nuremberg, is entitled **The Old Corner Annual**, and contains a collection of pictures, stories, and

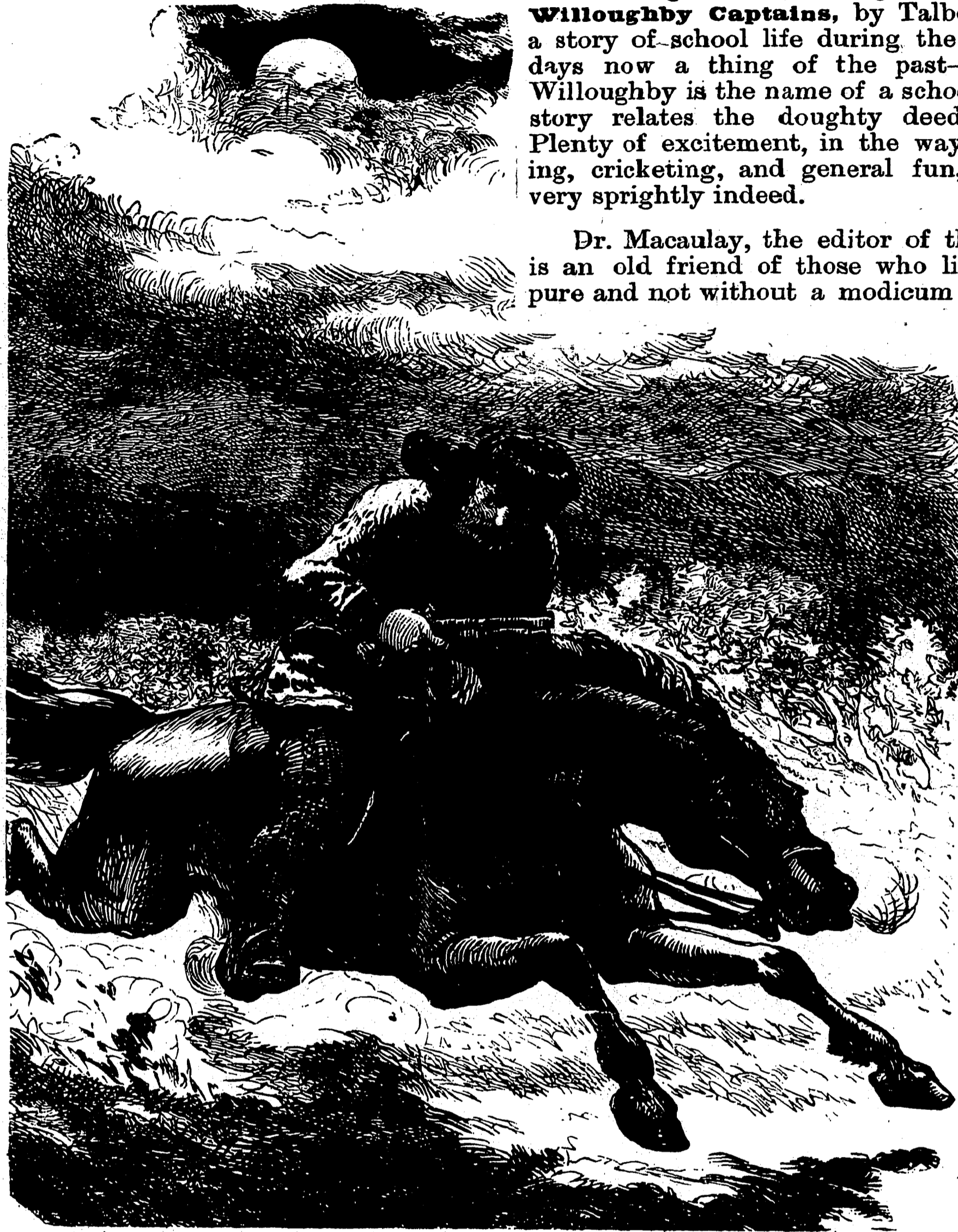


verses for little folk, under the editorship of Arthur Holme. It is bound to become a firm favourite with children this Christmas-tide, a remark which will apply with like emphasis to **His Little Royal Highness**, by Ruth Ogden, beautifully illustrated by W. Rainey. The latter volume, however, will be suited to young people of rather more numerous years.

Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton.

A **SON of the Morning**, by Sarah Doudney, is a gracefully-written story of upper middle-class life in London. In it there is an author, an artist who is the heroine, and her lover, a somewhat morose young man. Complications of an interesting character show literary skill in their treatment, and the whole story may be most favourably spoken of. The frontispiece, by G. H. Edwards, is a delicate example of fine art. Somewhat less robust in style, though sweetly written, is **Barbara, a Story of Cloud and Sunshine**, by Clara Vance, author of 'Strawberry Hill,' and other works. Girls of home-loving temperament will be much interested in the narrative. From the talented pen of Miss Sarah Tytler comes the story **Sukie's Boy**, in which the author shows no diminution in her power of attaching the likings of readers. Miss Tytler is one of our most pathetic writers and has also the gift of making her characters speak very vivaciously at times. These qualities are noticeable in the new story 'Sukie's Boy.'

That tales of school life continue to be popular is evidenced by the number and variety produced. Externally, these volumes are much prettier than they were in days gone by. With regard to the literary matter there seems to exist a fashion which, like our garments, change at intervals. **The Willoughby Captains**, by Talbot Baines Reed, is a story of school life during the miserable fagging days now a thing of the past—thank goodness! Willoughby is the name of a school, and Mr. Reed's story relates the doughty deeds of its inmates. Plenty of excitement, in the way of fighting, boating, cricketing, and general fun, makes the book very sprightly indeed.



PAUL REVERE'S RIDE.

Dr. Macaulay, the editor of the **Leisure Hour**, is an old friend of those who like their literature pure and not without a modicum of the stimulating element. The marvels which he has brought together in the handsome volume, **Wonderful Stories of Daring, Enterprise, and Adventure**, are assured by a character that should be kept under the notice of the people, if we are to continue to honour the bravery of men who risk their lives, not for vain glory, but for humanity's sake. Dr. Macaulay's wonderful stories, as boys will be delighted to know, are *all true*; and the versions given are as engrossing to the reader as any fiction. He tells of Columbus, of the discovery of the Cape route to India, of early French explorers in the New World, of an English lady's experiences among the Ainos, of men like Belzoni, Lord Dundonald, and Sir Richard Burton. We have selected our illustration from the story of 'Paul Revere's Ride,' rendered famous through Longfellow's famous ballad, which tells of the beginning of the American revolution:—

'So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm,—
A cry of defiance and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo for evermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.'

Mr. John Hogg.

A MEMORIAL interest attaches to **A Noble Name**, a new and revised edition of which is now issued. Most readers of fiction will remember 'Jennie of the Prince's,' a novel that when first published some few years ago caused no little sensation. The authoress was Mrs. B. H. Buxton, and it is she who wrote, in conjunction with Mr. W. M. Fenn, the present novel. In the preface Mr. Fenn has given a brief account of how the collaboration came about. The story is a refined piece of work, well constructed and noticeable for considerable character study. It possesses much of the sympathetic grace of the late authoress, combined with the bolder, more vigorous touch of Mr. Fenn. Readers, we are sure, will be glad to renew their acquaintance with a writer who at one time afforded them so much pleasure. A second edition has been published of **Soldiers' Stories and Sailors' Yarns**, a book of mess-table drollery and reminiscence picked up ashore and afloat. The stories are exceedingly entertaining, and not unfrequently highly exciting. As a work to take up during idle half-hours when the mind stands in need of relaxation and amusement, we can award it high praise. The illustrations are by Harry Furniss, D. H. Friston, and Percy Macquoid.

The Wondrous Tale of Cocky, Clucky, and Cackle, translated from the German of Brentano by Charles William Heckethorn, is a fairy story of the old-fashioned kind, simply but none the less effectively told. A marvellous ring occupies a prominent position in the narrative. Several illustrations by H. W. Petherick accompany the text. **Little Neighbours in London**, by E. C. Richards, furnishes very pleasant reading for young people, and is distinguished by considerable skill in construction. The account of the meeting of the dissimilar children, Maria and Millicent, with which the story opens, and the pathetic description of the buns that follows, is well told, and fixes the reader's attention at once. The subsequent pages fully realise the high promise thus excited, and when the book is finally laid down it is with a sense of having been quietly interested and amused. The same author has also written a volume of tales for the young, under the title of **A Strange Exhibition**. It will form a capital fireside companion these long winter nights, and is sure to become popular. A third story for young people is quaintly entitled **If Wishes were Horses, Beggars would Ride**. The author, M. Seymour, has had wide experience in the concoction of literary dishes to suit a juvenile palate, and her present preparation proves piquant and appetising.

Mr. William Isbister.

A S a popular work of biography we know of few books exceeding in interest, **Leaders Upward and Onward**, one of the volumes of 'Isbisters' Home Library.' It contains a series of short notices of several eminent and well-remembered men. The selection of the editor, Mr. Henry C. Ewart, has been in every respect excellent, and a volume furnishing a condensed account of the lives of such notable workers as Charles Kingsley, Dean Stanley, Professor Maurice, Archbishop Tait, Bishop Fraser, Dr. Arnold, Edward Irving, Norman Macleod, Thomas Guthrie, Principal Tulloch, and John Curwen, may well be placed on our library shelves and treated with esteem. A portrait in each case accompanies the biography, and numerous illustrations—evidently reproductions from the pages of *Good Words* and the *Sunday Magazine*—adorn the text. The latter are for the most part very good, and their variety adds interest and realism to the reading. The writers engaged on the work are Professor Blaikie, Walter C. Smith, D.D., Professor R. H. Story, Donald Macleod, D.D., the Bishop of Dover, Alexander H. Japp, LL.D., Mary Harrison, Norman J. Ross, and the Editor. On the whole, we prefer Professor Story's 'Dean Stanley,' Dr. Smith's 'Norman Macleod,' and Professor Blaikie's 'Thomas Guthrie.' Mr. Ewart's biographies are also written in scholarly style. Mary Harrison's 'Bishop Fraser' is a little disappointing.

Every-day Christian Life; or, Sermons by the Way, by Frederic W. Farrar, D.D., F.R.S. The world at the present time stands greatly in need of earnest out-spoken utterances from the pulpit. That clergyman is the most highly respected and as a rule the most popular who speaks plainly and practically, thoroughly identifying himself with the thoughts and yearnings of the people. Archdeacon Farrar in this little volume has given us a series of sermons that are almost typical of what such addresses, for an educated body of hearers, should be. Doctrinal and practical teaching are so happily blended together as to be in due proportion, neither over-balancing or being more prominent than the other. Throughout, the admirably distinct and well-known explanatory power of the author is preserved, and his reasoning is clear, earnest, and convincing.

Round the Globe, another volume in the same library, and edited by W. C. Procter, consists of a number of articles by well-known writers, each dealing with some interesting



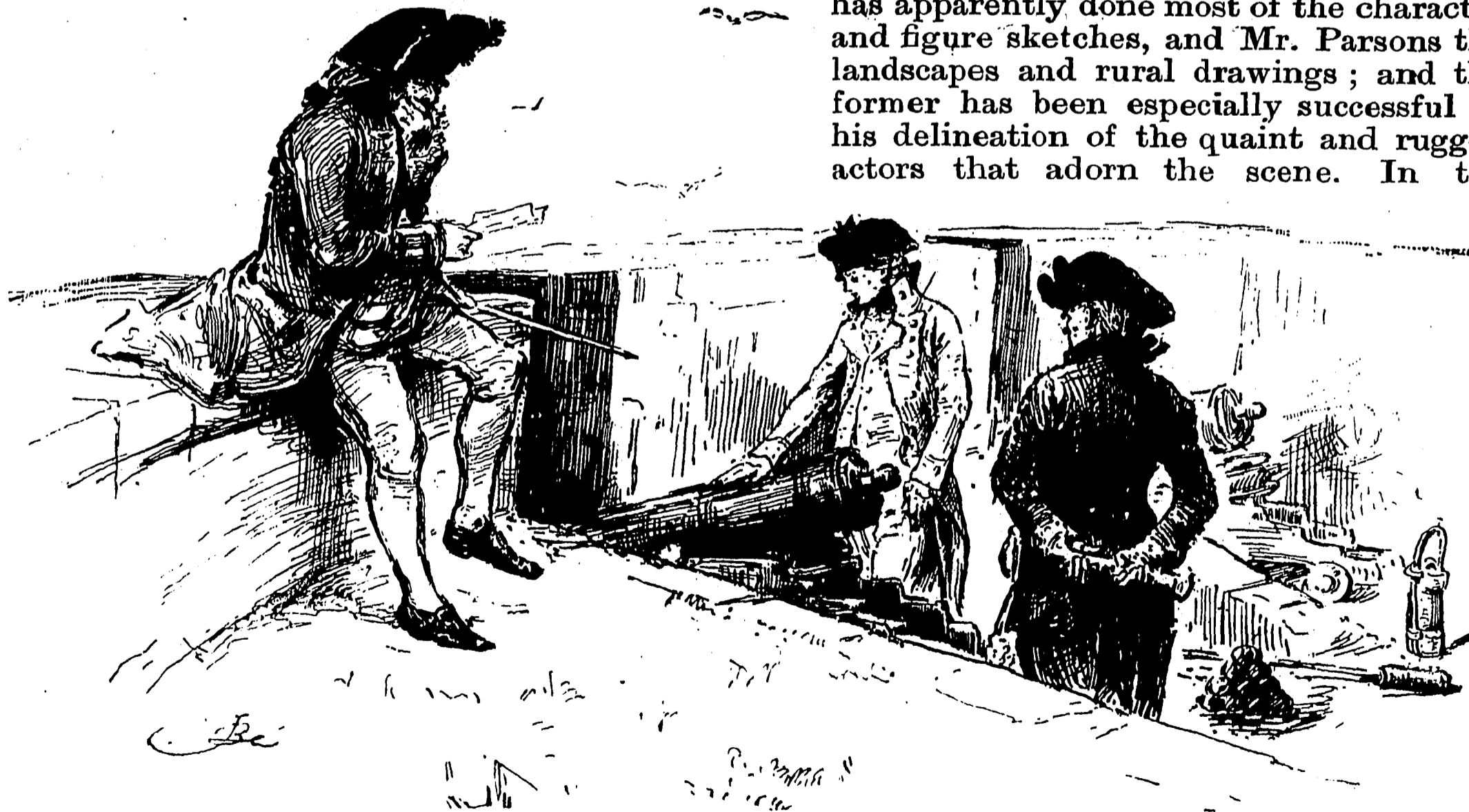
portion of travel. Thus the Bishop of Rochester writes in observant manner of 'Westward to Niagara,' describing Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, and a variety of other places; the Marquis of Lorne relates the history of 'Our Railway to the Pacific,' and takes us very pleasantly along the line; C. F. Gordon Cumming discourses agreeably of 'The Fiji Islands,' and Professor H. A. Strong, Dr. M. A. Sterring, the Rev. Francis Gell, M.A., George Merevale, H. W. Lucy, Lady Barker, Mrs. Murray Mitchell, and Flora L. Shaw write sensibly and practically of other portions of the hemispheres. Numerous illustrations, descriptive of the various localities mentioned, are displayed throughout the pages of the book, and the accompanying small woodcut, which depicts a scene on the Fraser River, will sufficiently

attest the character of the illustrations introduced in the text. The volume forms a worthy addition to an excellent series.

Messrs. Sampson Low & Co.

READERS of R. D. Blackmore's delightful novel of **Springhaven**, which may, in its way, be considered historical, since its plot is based on the attempted invasion of our shores by the first Napoleon, will hail with cordial feelings a new and profusely-illustrated edition, in one volume, of their favourite. The artists engaged on the work are Alfred Parsons and Fred. Barnard, and their efforts have imparted a life and semblance to the text that will materially increase the interest, we believe, for new readers, and add fresh vitality to the story for those who are already acquainted with Mr. Blackmore's masterly fiction. Mr. Barnard

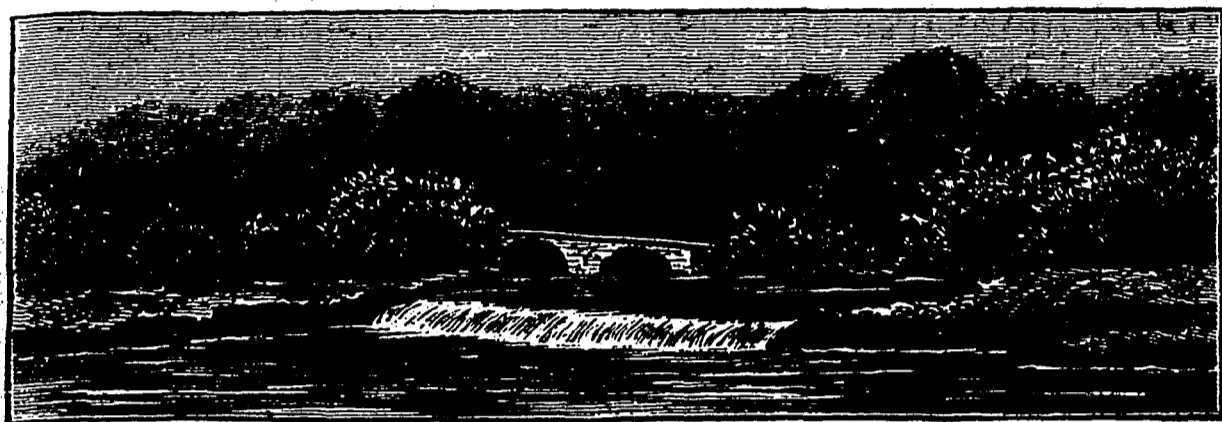
has apparently done most of the character and figure sketches, and Mr. Parsons the landscapes and rural drawings; and the former has been especially successful in his delineation of the quaint and rugged actors that adorn the scene. In the



accompanying woodcut we offer a specimen generally of the talent shown in the illustrations. It represents the arrival of young Blyth Scudamore with a letter from his commander, Captain

Honyman, who has been seriously wounded. 'Why, you are the luckiest lad I ever saw!' ejaculates Captain Stubbard, while Admiral Darling is reading the epistle. 'Sure to go up at least three steps! How well you must have kept out of it! And how happy you must feel, Lieutenant Scudamore!' 'I am not at all happy at losing dear friends,' the young man answered gently, as he turned away and patted the breech of a gun, upon which there was a little rust next day; 'that feeling comes later in life, I suppose.' Blyth Scudamore was a hero completely after one's heart.

We have had an opportunity of seeing early proofs of some of the plates and woodcuts which appear in the magnificent new edition of Walton and Cotton's **Compleat Angler**, edited by Mr. William Senior ('Redspinner'), angling editor of *The Field*, and Mr. R. B.



Marston, editor of the *Fishing Gazette*. New and perspicuous notes are introduced by the editors, and Mr. Marston has written an entirely new life of the gentle Izaak, containing many particulars which have not been embodied in preceding biographies. The edition, which is

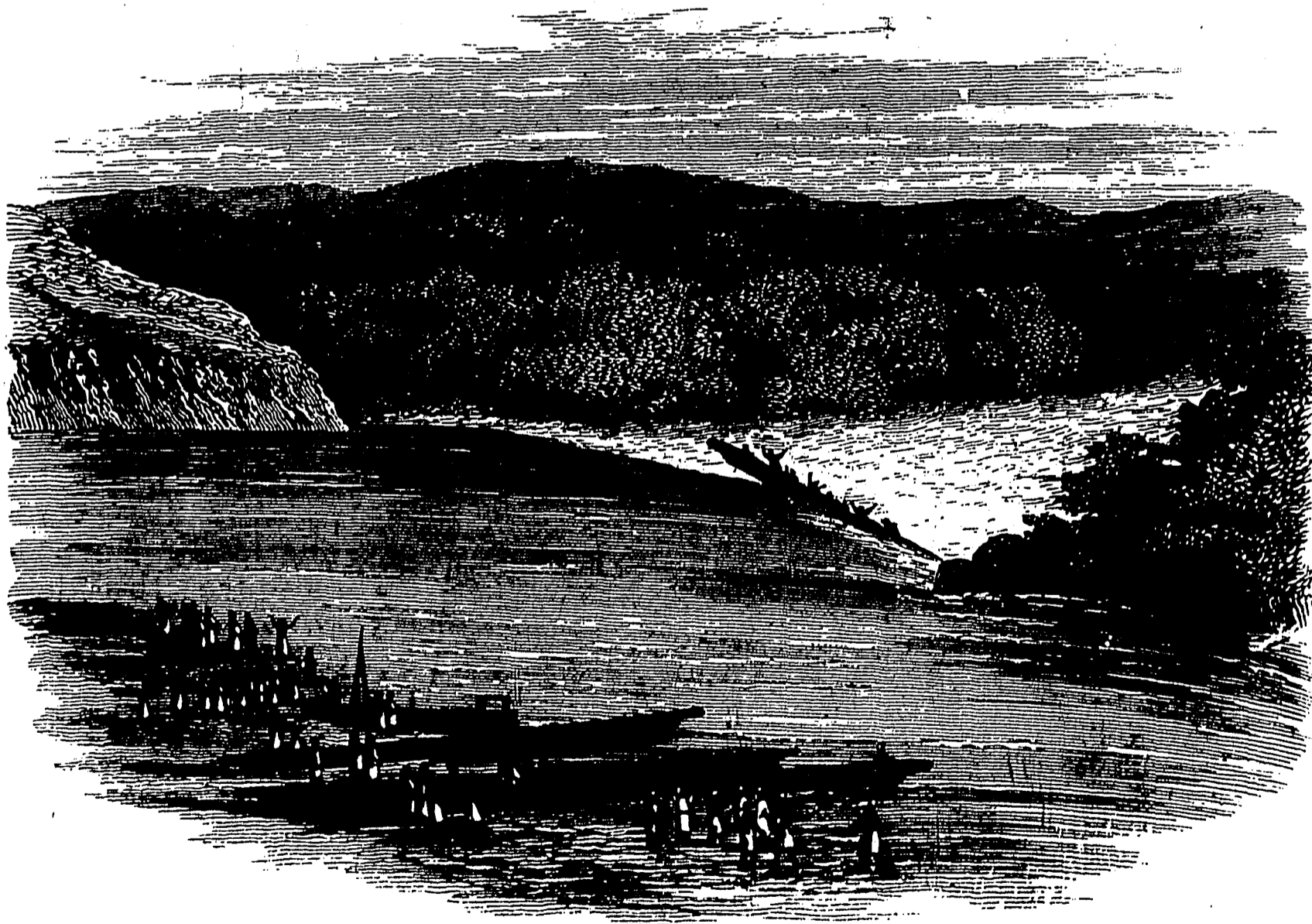
wholly new, will be called the 'Lea and Dove Edition.' All the great illustrated editions of this famous work are scarce, having long been out of print. This being the one hundredth edition of the long-lived book, care has been taken to make it worthy of the occasion, so that we find the illustrations to be far above anything that has been produced in recent years. The views of the delightful sylvan



scenery on the rivers Lea and Dove are specially taken for the work; those on the Lea by Mr. P. H. Emerson, B.A., M.B., and those on the Dove and Wye by George Bankart. The publication of so elaborate a hundredth edition seems to confirm the literary immortality of the great eulogist of angling, who speaks of the joys of 'such days and times as he laid aside business, and went a-fishing with honest Nat and R. Roe.'

Africa is again attracting the attention of the civilised world. Brave deeds are being done in the centre of the Dark Continent. Soon we hope to hear of the happy and peaceful deliverance of the man who has so bravely wrestled against the tyranny of savagery for so many years.

Boys should listen to the story with amazement; but they require some groundwork of knowledge. For this they must needs read many books, if they be unaware that a book which will give them in brief all that is wanted is ready at their hands. Here is the title, **The Boy Travellers on the Congo**, by Thomas W. Knox, which recites the adventures of two youths in a journey with Henry M. Stanley. The scenes are chiefly selected from Mr. Stanley's books, and the result of stringing together certain portions of his narratives is very satisfactory, and it reads almost like a romance. Illustrations of a much higher order than those usually found in stories are supplied.



DEATH OF KALULU.

So far as we have seen, the finest art book of the year is **She Stoops to Conquer**, with drawings by Edwin A. Abbey, and decorations by Alfred Parsons. The enrichment of this masterly comedy by the refining beauty of true art gives us a new interest in the work. Mr. Abbey's drawings, it is needless to say, are exquisite. His conception of Tony Lumpkin may not satisfy everyone, but the character of roystering Tony affords room for many ideals. All things considered, it is sufficient to say that no English comedy has been illustrated, so far as we remember, with better effect both in truth and humour. No lover of the grand old play can take up the book without having his affection for it revived. The introduction could not have been penned by a better hand than that of Austin Dobson. The dons in the audience at the performance are brought before us in these lines:—

'Look, look,—there is WILKES! You may tell by the squint;
But he grows every day more and more like the print
(Ah! HOGARTH could draw!); and behind, at the back,
HUGH KELLY, who looks all the blacker in black.
That is CUMBERLAND next, and the prim-looking person
In the corner, I fancy, is *Ossian* MACPHERSON.
And rolling and blinking, here, too with the rest,
Comes sturdy old JOHNSON, dressed out in his best;
How he shakes his old noddle! I'd wager a crown,
Whatever the law is, *he's* laying it down!
Beside him is REYNOLDS, who's deaf; and the hale
Fresh, farmer-like fellow, I take it, is THRALE.
There is BURKE with GEORGE STEEVENS. And somewhere, no doubt,
Is the Author, too nervous just now to come out;
He's a queer little fellow, grave-featured, pock-bitten,
Tho' they say, in his cups, he's as gay as a kitten.'

Through Central Asia, by Henry Lansdell, D.D., F.R.G.S., &c., is a reproduction, in popular form, of the author's previous work on 'Russian Central Asia, including Kuldja, Bokhara, Khiva, and Merv.' To this has been added an appendix, showing the events that led to the appointment of the Afghan Boundary Commission, with the diplomatic correspondence relating thereto. A map is also included. In the present edition most of the notes in the larger volume are omitted, excepting such as refer to patriarchal and Persian customs, and whole chapters have been cut away, thus reducing it to a more personal narrative. In



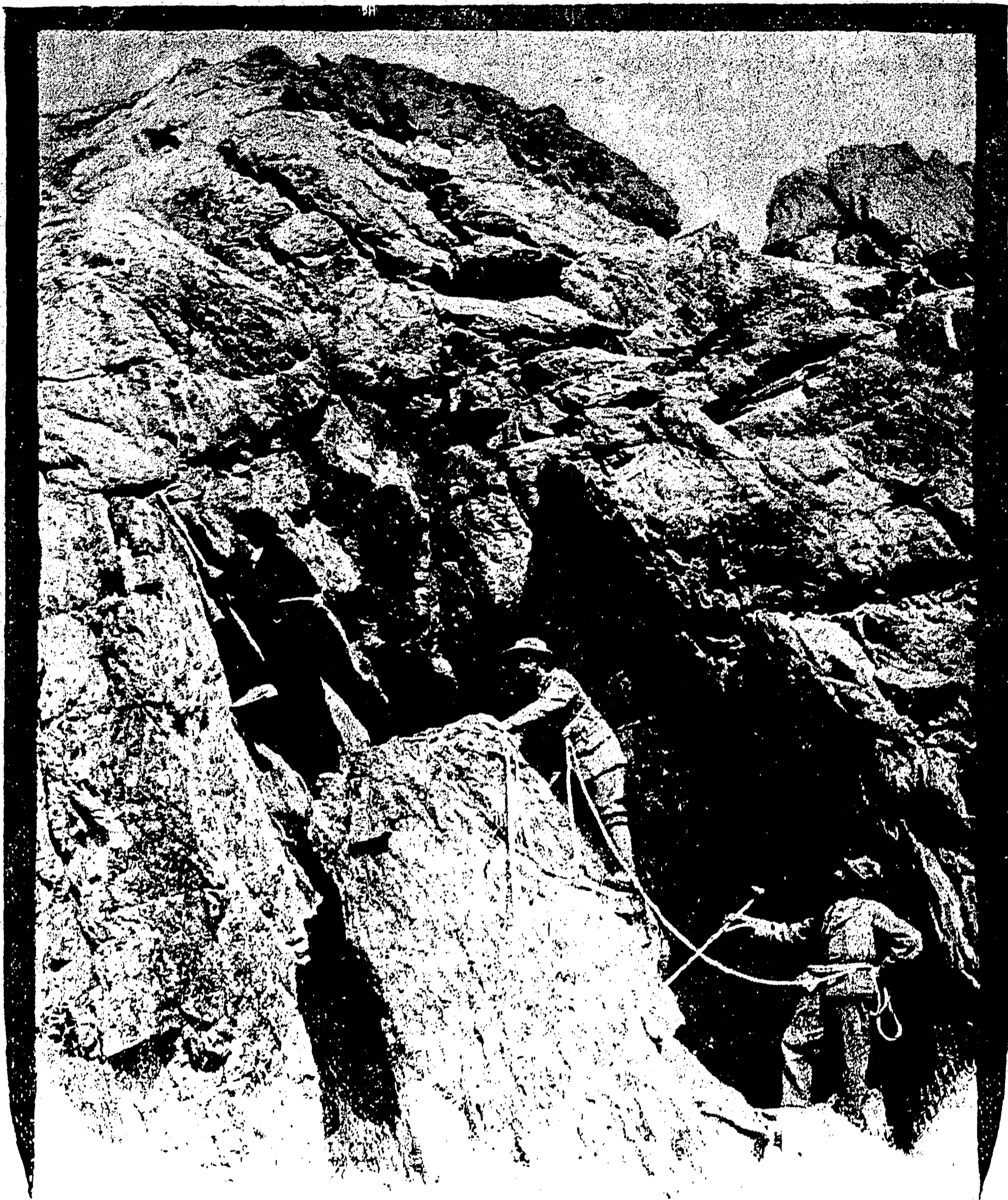
some respects the curtailment has been an advantage to the volume, causing it to read more closely and with better effect. The work itself is most interesting and possesses all the charm that lively original incident and a good descriptive style can lend. Most of the illustrations—which are very numerous—have been engraved from the author's photographs. It is to be presumed that he did not take the portrait of himself as reproduced in our pages.

The reader who takes up **Their Pilgrimage**, by Charles Dudley Warner, will at first, we believe, be inclined to listlessly turn over the pages and admire the delicate and exquisitely drawn illustrations of C. S. Reinhart. By and by, however, when he comes to settle down to a steady perusal of the work, he will find that the story is well worthy of so able an artist. It is an American tale of varied scene and incident, and the author has thrown into his description of the different characters a genuine amount of interest and humour. The story is almost panoramic in its numerous

changes from locality to locality, but running throughout is a distinct thread of narrative which carries the reader along with pleasant attractiveness to the end. Irene Benson, the heroine, is an excellently drawn character, and we are glad to find that after the usual

obstacles and misapprehensions so essential to the course of true love, she and Stanhope King come to thoroughly understand one another at the finish and are happily wedded.

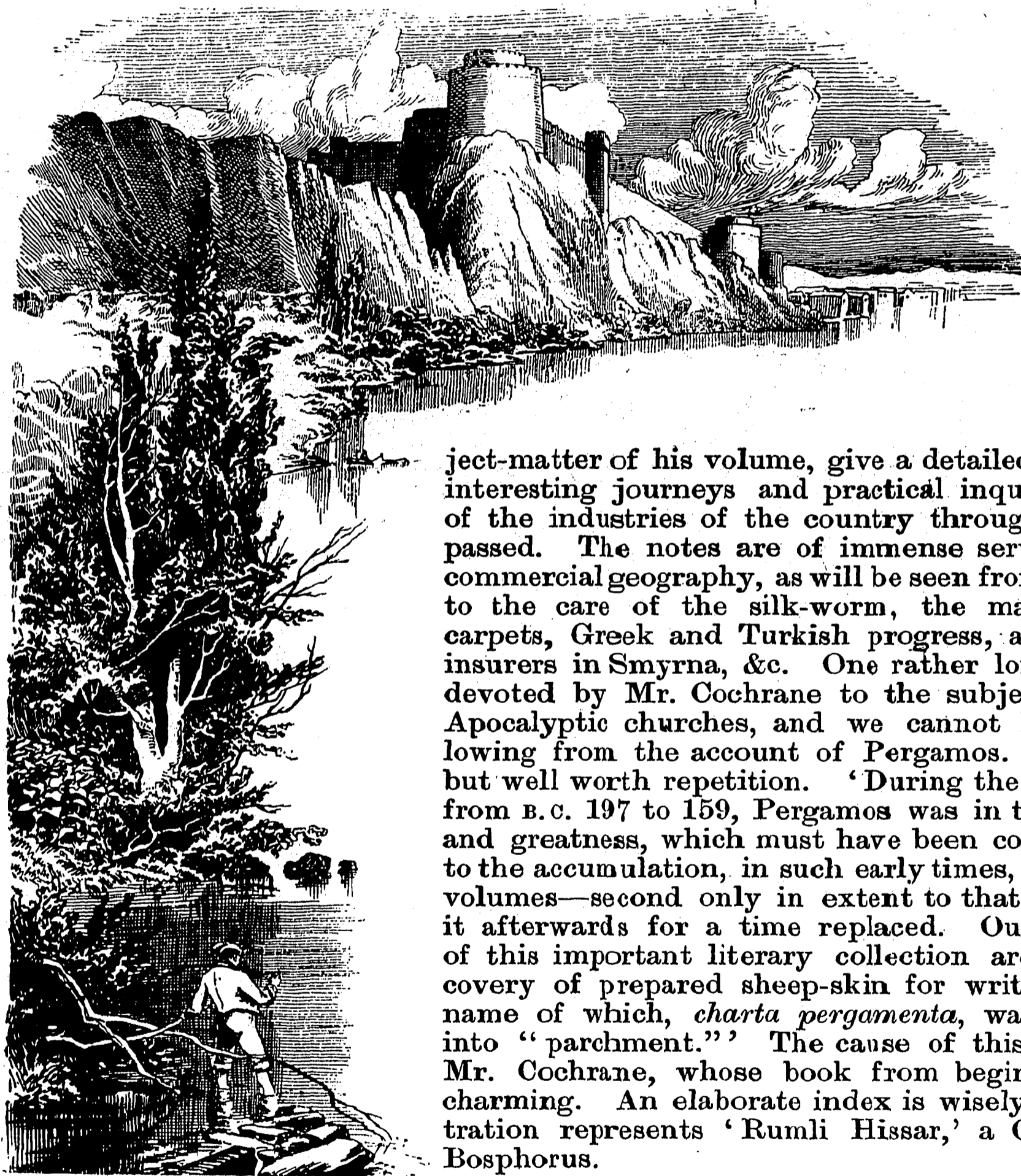
Those who are interested, either from experience or in consequence of their reading, in mountain-climbing, will be greatly taken with a handsome quarto on **The Pioneers of the Alps**, by C. D. Cunningham and Captain Abney, R.E. The purpose of the work is to supply a number of sketches of the lives of those who first explored the great peaks, and, by their courage and dexterity, opened out the mountain highways, thus rendering the pastime possible for some hundreds of their fellow-beings every year. Accompanying each sketch is a portrait, produced by photogravure; and it is interesting to note in the likenesses of these hardy guides how each has that keen steadfast look, that appearance of always being on the out-look, which seems to be inseparable from their calling. The captain often has



the same expression as he paces the bridge on a squally day, and so has the engine-driver as he directs his iron steed. We are sorry we are unable to reproduce one of these portraits and so give the reader a sufficient idea, inadequately described in words, of the beauty and delicacy of the work. But we give one of the smaller illustrations that so plentifully adorn the book and add grace and lustre to the text. Of the latter we are able to speak in high terms. The notices are excellently written in sober English, without any appearance of undue adulation. The book is one that will give pleasure to many thousands of readers, and even by those unacquainted practically with Alpine climbing its artistic merits will render it assured of esteem.

William I. and the German Empire, by G. Barnett Smith. This biographical and historical sketch is, perhaps, somewhat out of place among Christmas books, but there can be little doubt as to its place among the season's books. The author is modest in terming the work a sketch. Brief though it be, it is an accomplished and sagacious study of the life of a great Emperor and of the aspirations of a great Empire. The peculiar and almost dramatic career of William I. is well worthy the attention of the historian. Contemporary judgments may not always be accurate, but in a book of this kind we see, and can in a manner verify, a pregnant chapter in the history of Europe. Mr. Barnett Smith traces the life-story of the Emperor from his birth until the present time. Three wars occupy a goodly share of the book, namely, those with Denmark, Austria, and France. The great achievement of the epoch was, as a matter of course, the consolidation of the German Empire, which gives a speaking lesson to those who in this country preach the doctrine of disintegration. After describing with some minuteness and force the course of the Franco-German War, the author treats the subject of consolidation at some length. His chapters on the Emperor's later years and on his personal characteristics are clear, and tend to give a better idea of the subject than any work we know of. A chapter on the Statistics of the German Empire, and a good index, make the work useful for immediate reference.

Pioneers of commerce in comparatively unknown lands have frequently produced most entertaining accounts of their experiences. The writer of **Pen and Pencil in Asia Minor** has built his book with materials gathered whilst he was investigating the subject of whether



silk and tea could be produced in some British possessions. The practical significance of the work is second only to its fascination as a narrative. Mr. Cochrane, the author, is an observant traveller, and has the gift of expressing his views with fluency and force. These notes on the Levant, which form the sub-

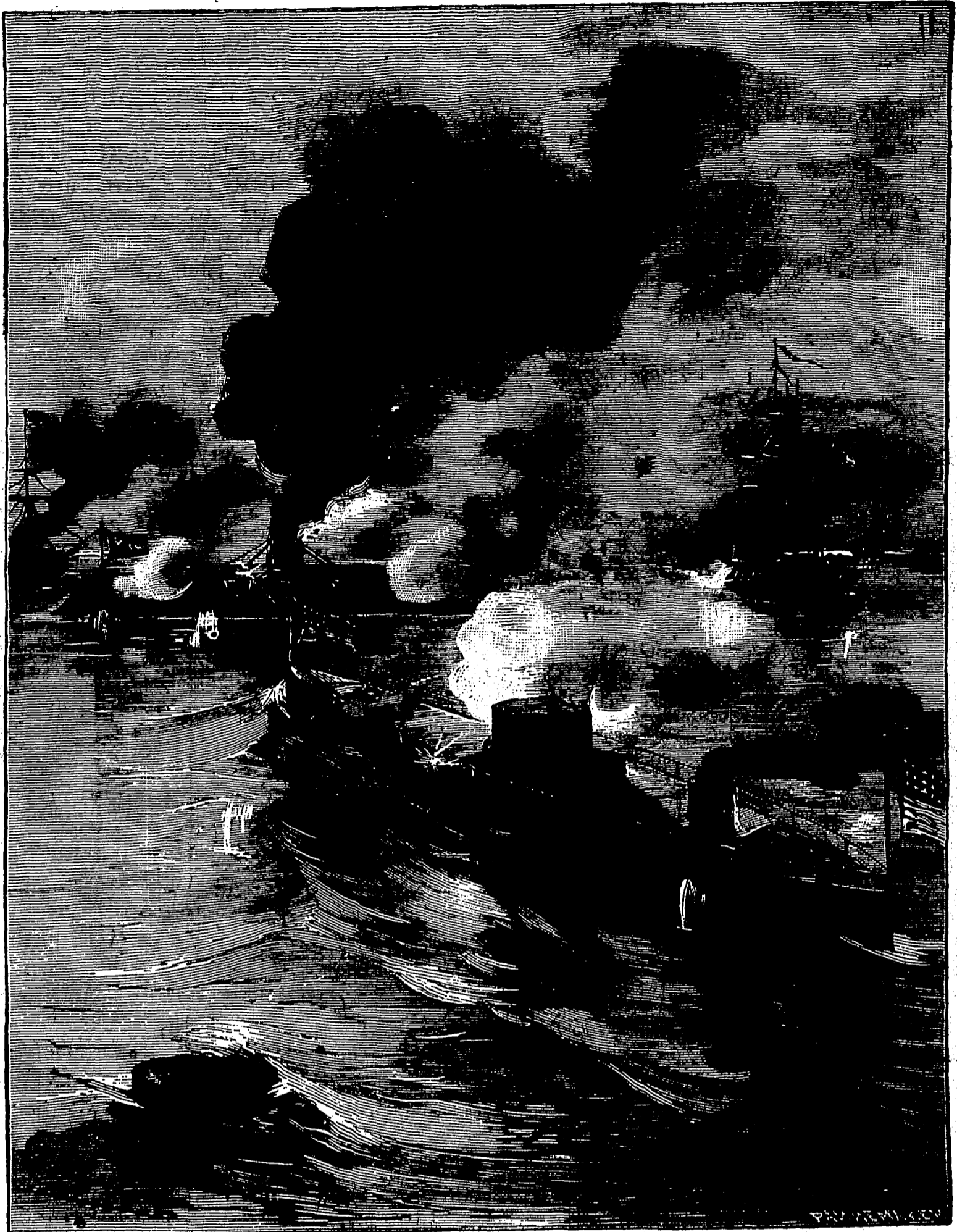
ject-matter of his volume, give a detailed account of singularly interesting journeys and practical inquiries into the subject of the industries of the country through which the traveller passed. The notes are of immense service to the student of commercial geography, as will be seen from the chapters relating to the care of the silk-worm, the manufacture of Turkey carpets, Greek and Turkish progress, agriculture, fraudulent insurers in Smyrna, &c. One rather long chapter is worthily devoted by Mr. Cochrane to the subject of the sites of the Apocalyptic churches, and we cannot help quoting the following from the account of Pergamos. The story is familiar but well worth repetition. 'During the reign of Eumenes II., from B.C. 197 to 159, Pergamos was in the height of its glory and greatness, which must have been considerable to have led to the accumulation, in such early times, of a library of 200,000 volumes—second only in extent to that of Alexandria, which it afterwards for a time replaced. Out of the requirements of this important literary collection arose the valuable discovery of prepared sheep-skin for writing upon, the ancient name of which, *charta pergamentæ*, was afterwards modified into "parchment."' The cause of this is fully explained by Mr. Cochrane, whose book from beginning to end is most charming. An elaborate index is wisely supplied. Our illustration represents 'Rumli Hissar,' a Genoese castle on the Bosphorus.

Mr. J. Stanley's illustrations to Longfellow's poem **Maidenhood** are as dramatic and lovely as anything of the kind that we have seen. The delicate imagery of the poems is thoughtfully considered, and much feeling and happy fancy is shown in the pictorial accompaniment to the verses. It is difficult to say which character of illustrations will be held in highest esteem; but our opinion is that the monotint pages should be preferred. At the same time the coloured pages are as beautiful as anything that has been produced this year, even in face of the fact that rapid progress is being made in this branch of book production.

The American Civil War is the subject of Jules Verne's latest book, **North against South**. We have scarcely turned a page before we are involved in excitement, and go on reading for the marvels that are to be disclosed in adventure and war. The narrative begins at the period

shortly after the opening of hostilities, and M. Verne, with all his force of story-telling and strong creative ability, interweaves the most exciting incidents of the war on sea and land into his graphic fiction. The story of the characters introduced keeps the reader's attention fixed throughout. No work relating to the war has been written with such force, and it is curious that the book should come from the pen of a Frenchman. Perhaps it is natural that Americans should write with deep gravity upon this subject, and this may be the cause why most of their war-novels which we have read are more sentimental than manly. Our illustration depicts the first appearance of the famous *Monitor*.

'The second fight in Hampton Roads had been different from the first. On the morning of the 9th of March, when the *Virginia* was preparing to attack the *Minnesota*, one of the two Federal frigates, an enemy, whose presence was unsuspected by the Southerners, suddenly appeared before her. A strange machine came



away from the frigate's side, a "cheese-box on a raft," as the Confederates called it. This "cheese-box" was the *Monitor*, commanded by Lieutenant Warden. He had been sent to destroy the batteries on the Potomac, but on reaching the mouth of the James River had heard the firing in Hampton Roads, and during the night had brought the *Monitor* on to the scene.'

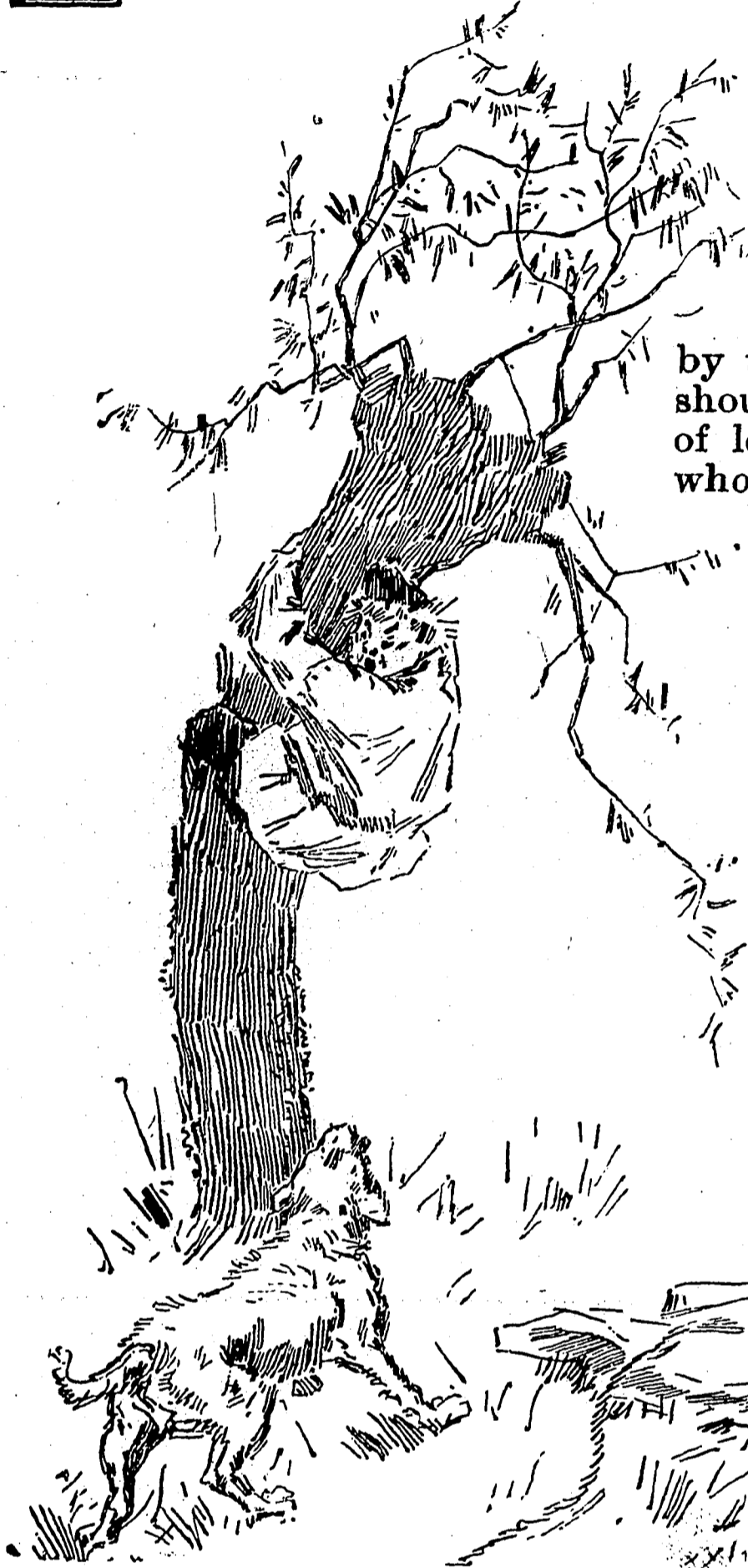
Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.

BIRD life is daintily shown by picture and story in **Letters from Birdie Land**, by Mrs. Jarvis, who will be remembered through her other works on kindred topics. 'Letters from Birdie Land' is a singularly pretty book, and the text being replete with pleasant anecdote, makes it a very appropriate gift for young lovers of their feathered friends.

Equal to the Occasion, by Edward Garrett, is a moral story which appeared in the **Quiver** some years ago. Honest Hans Krinken is an excellent character, and well deserves the affection of a girl so good as Chrissy Miller. Adherence to duty is the teaching of this agreeably written story. Those who know the pastoral beauty of the valleys of south Scotland will understand how many fine scenes they offer for a romantic story such as **In Cheviot's Glens**, by Jane T. Stoddart. The author proves herself equal to the task of writing stories of quiet rural Scottish life, and does so with simplicity and directness. **Matthew Dale, Farmer**, by Mrs. Sanders, is forcibly written, but somewhat melancholy even for a story with strong religious tendencies.

Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co.

JOHNNY Nut and the Golden Goose is the sort of book that should make people hold up their hands and, like Dominie Sampson, say 'Prodigious!' The figure here shown



is not Dominie Sampson but the Vicar of Condé, who was forced to follow Johnny and the Golden Goose. Children who are not delighted with the story and its scenes must be very ill or very morose. Even the sick and the surly will not fail to be amused

by this clever book, and parents should be thankful that true men of letters still like to bring good wholesome stories to the learning of little folk. Mr. Andrew Lang has done 'Johnny and the Golden Goose,' not in a culinary way, but in good Saxon from the French of M. Charles Deulin, bright illustrations being furnished by



Am. Lynen. Johnny's adventures, through his absorbing desire to partake of roast goose, are of the merriest description. The second picture we reproduce here shows the hero of the story in a sad fright taking refuge up a tree against the pursuit of Polydore's yellow dog, Rumble. This is an age when children's thoughts are more than ever stimulated by means of fascinating pictures. To some extent this is as it should be; but we hold an old-fashioned opinion that children are good judges of the prose and verse which are supposed to cheer them. Let us by all means have good work in this respect as well as good pictures. 'Johnny Nut' is a worthy example.

Sir Richard Webster's introduction written for the new volume of the 'Badminton Library' is a strong example of the spirit which energises the interest in the physical exercises of the English

people. Athletics and Football form a subject that one would hardly expect to find

introduced to the public by a preliminary notice from the pen of an Attorney-General. But such is the case in the present instance; and no one will dispute that their introduction has been conceived by a sympathetic mind, eager to direct the thoughts of others to the immense advantage of pursuing athletic sports. Clubs for this purpose are not of ancient origin. Sir Richard Webster says that he has seen the foundation of the present prosperous clubs at Cambridge and Oxford. Further, he remarks, that with the exception of the crick-run at Rugby and the steeplechase



at Eton, prior to 1850 no public school had any established athletic contest. In this respect there is a great difference nowadays, when nearly every organisation of a social or educative character has its athletic club. We would attribute much of this to the manly spirit of the volunteer movement, although the editor of the new Badminton book speaks of it otherwise. The book on 'Athletics and Football,' which is now under notice, is written by Mr. Montague Shearman, and has two divisions, referring respectively to Athletics and Football. An historical introduction is supplied for each, and these are written in a style that at once commands attention. The practical details given in the volume call for no notice beyond saying that those who desire information or are in any way interested in the subject will find that Mr. Shearman has brought together the very best facts that could be found. This indeed is the characteristic feature of the Badminton Library. Mr. W. Rye (President of the Thames Hare and Hounds) is the writer of the clever and interesting account of paper-chasing and cross-country running. One of the most commendable features of the new volume is, in our opinion, the wood-engravings from instantaneous photographs; these are of a most truthful character, and quite new in the delineation of human attitudes in active exercise.

Mr. Rider Haggard's utilisation of experiences of African travel in the construction of his marvellous fictions is comparable to M. Jules Verne's appropriation in like manner of practical and, so to speak, speculative science. With strength of will and imagination, both writers broke the surface of untilled but fertile literary fields. But Mr. Rider Haggard, whose book **Allan Quatermain** more especially concerns us at present, can never hope to invest Africa and African life with the romantic interest which spurs the Saxon towards what seems to be the great aim of his life—colonisation. 'Allan Quatermain,' as all the world knows, is a sequel to 'King Solomon's Mines,' the best of this author's works. Again are we introduced to Sir Henry Curtis, Captain John Goode, and the hero, who are following their search for a white race in the dark continent. The relation of the marvellous adventures of the company and the herculean Umslopogaas shows the puissance of Mr. Haggard's genius, while the softer scenes of affection manifest a depth of tenderness that is unusual in modern fiction. The whole story is full of fascinating mystery, not perhaps pleasing to the dry philosopher, but delightful to those who love the revels of quick imagination. Perhaps Mr. Haggard may say farewell to African scenes: his imaginative power is far too impassioned to be confined.



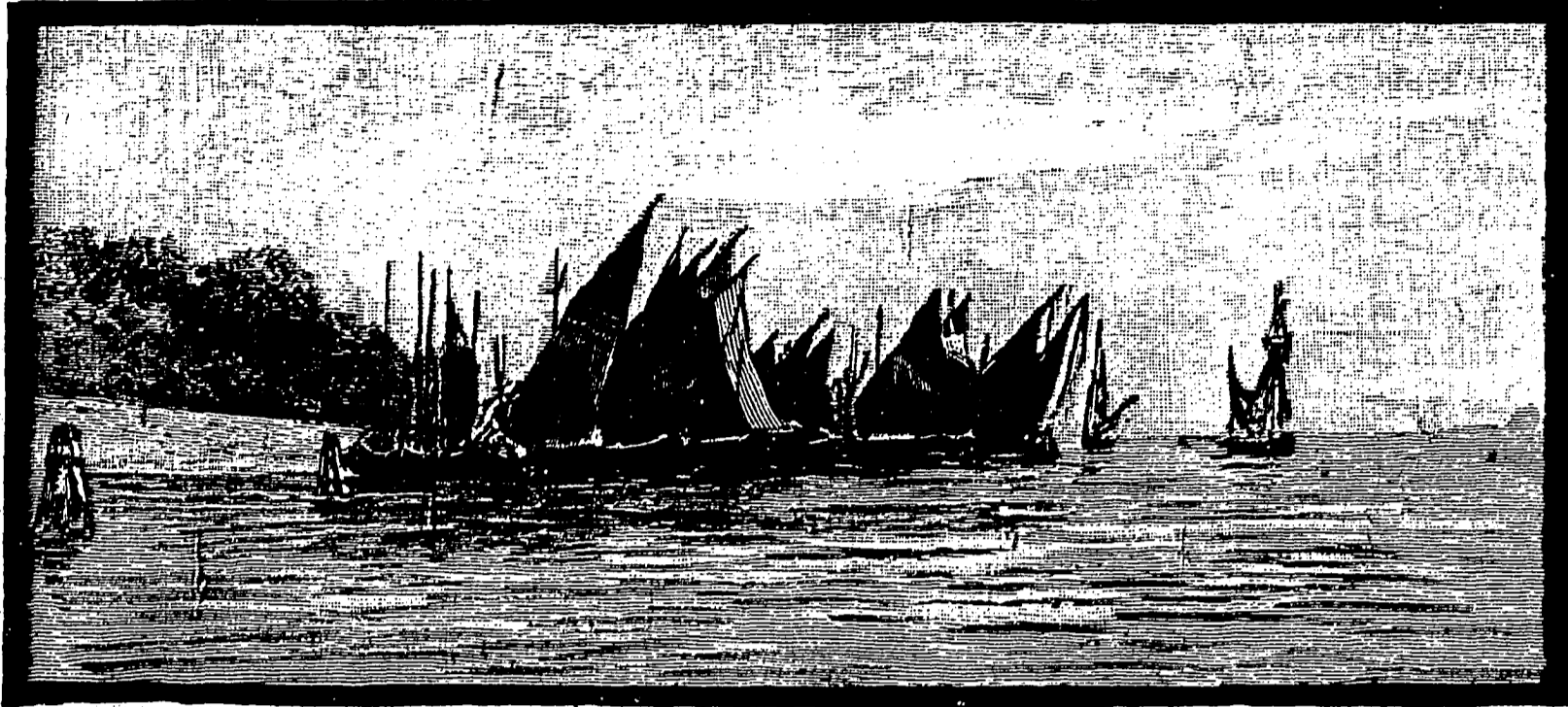
'I AM NO LONGER A QUEEN.'
(Allan Quatermain.)

Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

THIS year Messrs. Macmillan do not appear to have many illustrated gift-books, but those we have seen are especially notable for the literary merit and beauty of appearance. Elsewhere we speak of the splendid volume of the *English Illustrated Magazine*.

Mrs. Oliphant's story of **The Makers of Venice** takes up one of the grandest themes in European history. The author is well equipped to take in hand a subject of so much importance and to give the results of research with all the subtle charm which characterises her writings one

and all. The story of Venice! What a picture of grandeur, prosperity, glory, ambition, disaster, and decay! One is awed by the thought of it, and turns with more than curiosity to see how any modern writer can tell the story; not a story for dry chroniclers, for it has too much poetry for them, but a story that calls for the highest human sympathy in minds strong in belief, lofty in admiration, and firm in sentiment. The very title, 'The Makers of Venice,' shows that Mrs. Oliphant has seen the desirableness of putting the dry chronicler aside, and,



following in the same lines shown in her impressions of Florence, she has given the world a poetical and, withal, a deeply-interesting historical and descriptive account of the City of the Seas and its people. Comparing Venice with Florence, Mrs. Oliphant says: 'Nature at first, no doubt, must bear the blame, who gave no Dante to the State which might, perhaps, have prized him more highly than his own; but the same paramount attraction of the idealised and sovereign city, in which lay all their pride, turned the early writers of Venice into chroniclers, historians, diarists, occupied in collecting and recording everything that concerned their city, and, indifferent to individuals, devoted only to the glory and the story of the State. In later days this peculiarity, indeed, gave way, and a hundred piping voices rise to celebrate the decadence of the great Republic; but by that time she has ceased to be a noble spectacle, and luxury and vice have come in to degrade the tale into one of endless pageantry deprived of all meaning—no longer the proud occasional triumphs of a conquering race, but the perpetual occupation of a debased and corrupted people. To the everlasting loss of the city and mankind there was no Vasari in Venice.' Is it not the case that the inhabitants of most

beautiful cities become infected with the same trouble as the Venetians? The literary people of most of these cities are commonly employed in glorifying their history. We would say that Mrs. Oliphant's book is one that will give knowledge to those who thirst and new pleasure to those who already have been refreshed at the spring.

Our illustration is selected from one of the brightest and best books of the year, namely a cheap edition of **Bumblebee Bogo's Budget**, by a Retired Judge. The fond mother speaks to

BOBBY, MY BOY.

What shall I sing to thee,
 Bobby, my boy?
 While thus I cling to thee,
 Bobby, my boy.
 My heart beats so loudly,
 My thoughts soar so proudly,
 Bobby, my boy.
 I've such fond fancies,
 While watching thy glances,
 Bobby, my boy.

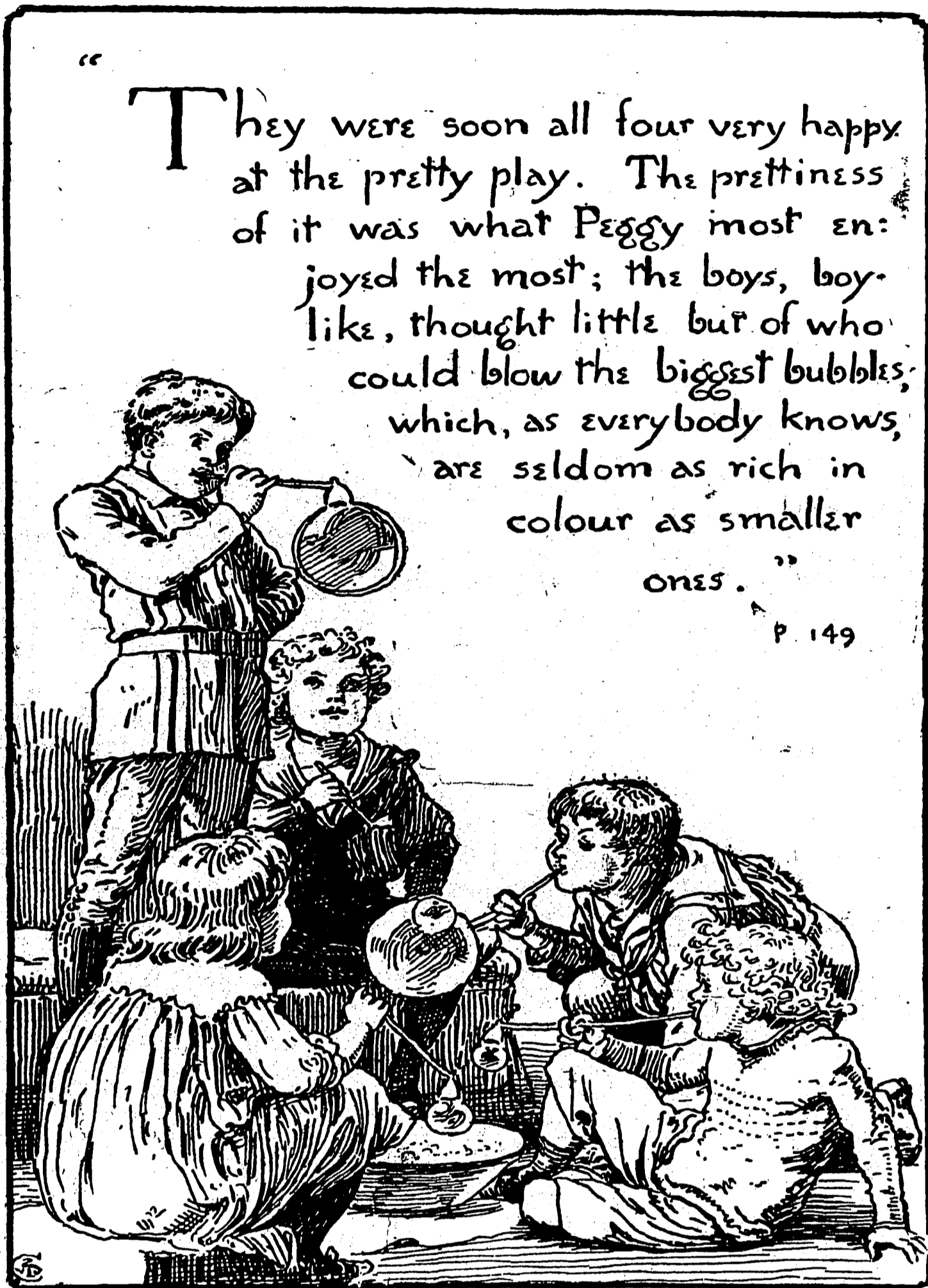
These verses begin a very beautiful poem in which the mother addresses words of love and wisdom to her child. Most of the poems, however, are of a blithe description, rattling along in the rolling rhymes that delight the ears of children, who as a rule are not to be



despised as critics; for at least they know their likes and dislikes, even in literature. The services of Miss Alice Havers, whose experience and ability in illustrating works for young and old are so well known, have been enlisted in the preparation of the volume.

Mrs. Molesworth's children's Christmas book, illustrated by Walter Crane, is entitled **Little Miss Peggy**. It is a nursery story written in the style in which Mrs. Molesworth alone can write. On the very

first page we get a description of infantile pranks which would be difficult to excel. The children are at breakfast. 'The two oldest boys sat opposite nurse, and beside nurse was Baby, who required a great deal of room to himself at table, baby though he was. He had so many things to do during a meal, you see, which grown-up children think quite unnecessary. He had to drum with a spoon, first in one fat hand and then in the other; he had to dip his crust first in nurse's cup of tea and next in Hal's jug of milk to see which tasted best, and there would have been no fun in doing either if he hadn't had to stretch a long way across; and besides all this he felt really obliged now and then to put his feet upon the table for a change, one at a time, of course, for even he, clever as he was, could not have got both together out of the bars of his chair without toppling over.' The story bristles with lively incidents of young life, and the adventures and sayings of Peggy are not the least amusing trait of the volume. This year the same style of bright binding has been adhered to, and with Mr. Crane's illustrations **Little Miss Peggy**, is a good addition to a little collection of books which are very valuable.



Mr. Murray.

MR. SMILES is one of the practical disciples of Carlyle in preaching from the Virgilian text, *Labor omnia vincit*. His books are not only biographical. They are eminently historical, reflecting light upon the industrial progress of the age, so that readers in future times will know more of the national life of the Victorian epoch than present-day readers know of the national life of the remote past, the story of which tells of little else than war and court intrigues. Mr. Smiles' new book, **Life and Labour**, is a stimulating work, containing fresh examples of what may be accomplished by honest force of will and steady perseverance. The author's grasp of the subject is comprehensive; he has gathered together such a mass of information that readers will be as astounded at the solidity of the book as they will be charmed with its pleasant and thoughtful style. Unlike some of Mr. Smiles' former works, which dealt with heroes of the mechanical world, this new book treats in a large measure of moral and hygienic conditions of life, and examples of successes and failures are made texts for Mr. Smiles' delightful discourses upon the questions he has before him.

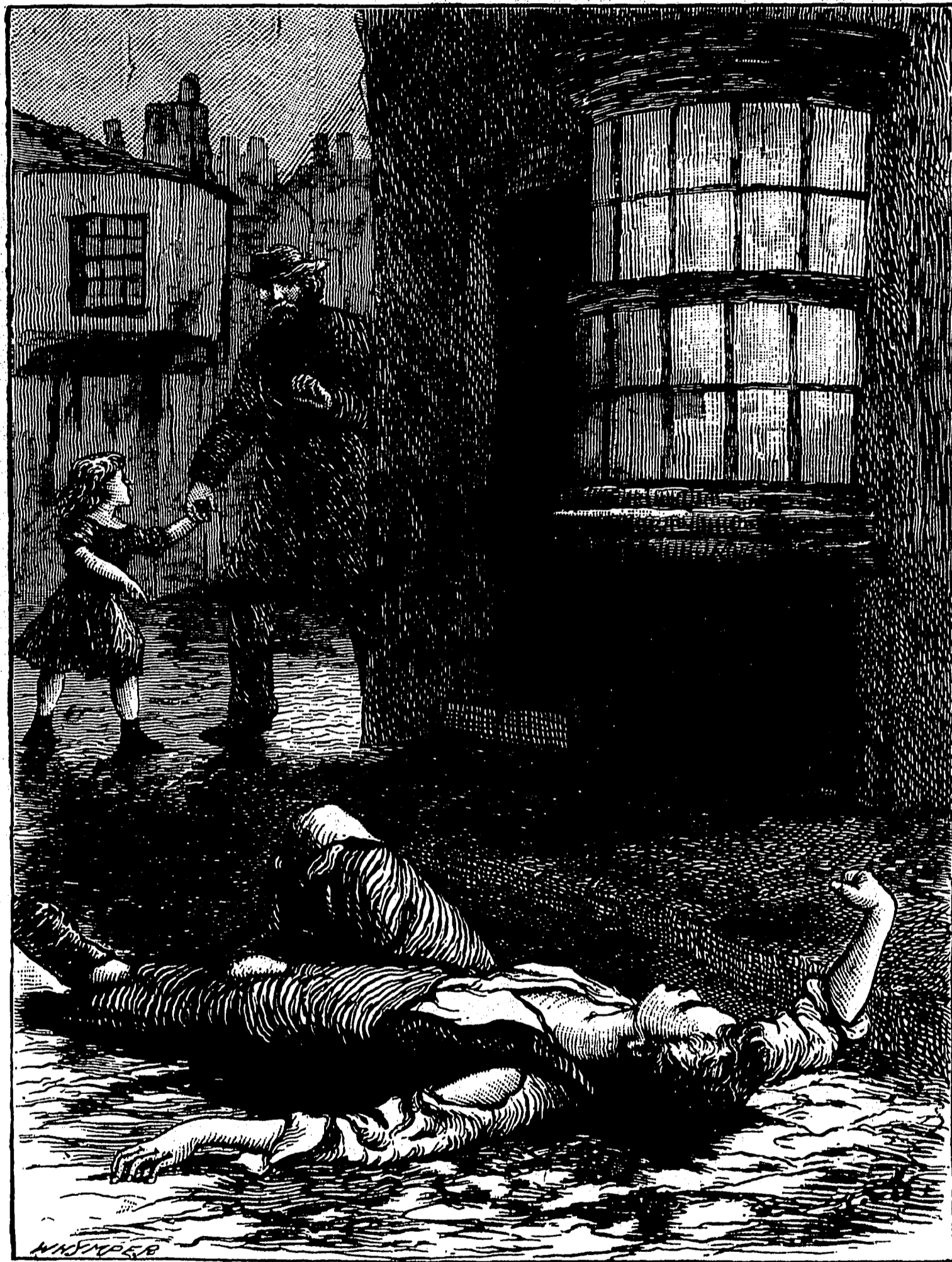
The chapter on the literary ailment, 'Over Brain-Work,' should be read by everyone busily engaged in work which demands continued thought. 'The action of the brain,' says Mr. Smiles, 'is a sort of vital combustion. It gives off fire and heat, and in doing so burns away like coals in a grate. Provided the fuel of food, sleep, and rest are regularly supplied,

brain-work is salutary, but when the fuel is deficient through dyspepsia, want of exercise, or sleeplessness, brain-work is exhausting and eventually destructive. The shrewd George Stephenson knew the mischiefs of trying to take too much out of one's self. When he found his friend Lindley exhausted and depressed by too excessive application to engineering, which is also a work of the brain, he said to him, "Now, Lindley, I see what you are after; you are trying to get thirty shillings out of your pound: my advice to you is, give it up."

Mr. Smiles' book, from beginning to end, is full of anecdote, example, and good counsel. That it should be as widely popular as its predecessors goes without saying.

National Temperance Depôt.

TEMPERANCE authors have a fine field for sentiment, but since the time of Mrs. Henry Wood's great success there have been few vigorous works of fiction inculcating the doctrines and exemplifying the advantages of abstinence which have



(From *St. Chris.*)

been remarkably successful. Imaginative prose, like song and verse, seem to have got into a groove in the temperance world. **St. Chris**, by E. Van Sommer is in many respects like other books of its kind, though, in justice, it must be said that it possesses more power, more directness of purpose, and more human influence than many hundreds of the stories which aim at similar objects in the crusade against the immorality of inebriation. The story is of East London life and its horrors under certain unhealthy conditions which need not be specified. The scenes which are 'of to-day' are portrayed with skill, and sometimes bring strong emotion to the reader's mind.

The best book, however, to show the advance of temperance principles is the annual volume of **The National Temperance Mirror** which is an illustrated magazine for the home circle. All the stories, poems, and songs, relate to the soul and work of the greatest of English social missions. The Society has done well in giving the book so attractive an appearance externally. It is a pretty gift-book.

National Society.

FOR this Society Miss Charlotte M. Yonge has written a story entitled **Under the Storm**. It has all the charm of Miss Yonge's writings, and shows that there is still force and truth in the pen of the author of 'The Heir of Redclyffe,' 'The Dove in the Eagle's Nest,' &c. The scene of the story is laid in the vicinity of Bristol, the period is that of the civil war, the characters come chiefly from the families of farmers. Like all Miss Yonge's stories, 'Under

the *Storm* conveys useful and thoughtful lessons, and her pictures of the period, being generally free from anachronisms, may incite young readers to a new interest in the history of their fatherland. **A Promise Kept**, by Mary E. Palgrave, author of 'Under the Blue Flag,' is a spirited and graceful story of rural life. Through speculations by a rector, he and his family have to practise that economy which is so difficult to practise in such circumstances. How many families reared in comfort, if not affluence, find it so! The poor but high-souled son of the rector, of course, falls in love with a daughter of the wealthy proprietor of the manor, who jilts him after inciting him to the duty of entering the African mission-field. He goes out alone to Africa and she marries another man who has wealth and position. **A Little Step-Daughter**, by the author of 'The Atelier du Lys,' is a story of the early part of the eighteenth century in the south of France. It is cleverly constructed and is remarkable for the excellence of its conversational parts and the effectiveness of its scenes. The story oddly called **For Half-a-Crown**, by Esmé Stuart, makes a very pretty book and a very entertaining one too. The narrative is taken from humble life, its title being derived from the sum paid for the maintenance of a little waif, Natalie, who had been sold by her father. There is undoubtedly much interest in the story, which manifests an extraordinary amount of genuine devotion to the cause of duty. Another story, whose scenes and incidents are placed in England and Russia, and which gives a good idea of social life a generation ago is **Uncle Ivan**, by M. Bramston. The author has produced a fiction of conspicuous merit, in so far as excitement is healthily blended with the scenes of domestic peace. In **Prentice Hugh**, by Frances Mary Peard, we find a vigorous tale of the reign of Edward I. Notwithstanding the difficulties which surround the satisfactory accomplishment of a narrative historically placed, the present author has no reason to question her powers in that direction. The scenes of the story are placed mostly in the city of Exeter. Hugh and his father have several adventures, and ultimately a ship in which they have sailed is wrecked on the coast of Devon. The father dies and Hugh becomes a 'prentice, and rises so rapidly in ability that he carves two of the corbels in Exeter Cathedral. A good deal that is interesting in local ecclesiastical history appears in the book. **Sunday School Lessons on the Church Catechism**, by the Rev. John Watson, M.A., is a manual that will be found very useful by Church teachers and also young clergymen who have the religious educational care of children.

Oxford University Press (London: Mr. H. Frowde).

AS in previous years Mr. Frowde must have satisfaction in placing his unsurpassed collection of beautifully bound Bibles, Prayer Books, and Hymn Books before the public. The appearance of the present year's productions excels anything of the kind that we have ever seen. Nothing has been left undone in order to make the books accord with the advance of artistic taste which is so noticeable in these days in certain departments of book production.

Elegance, however, does not predominate over usefulness. We observe this particularly in the **Oxford Reference Bible**, a nonpareil octavo printed on thin India paper and interleaved throughout for MS. notes. This book is bound in levant morocco, with flaps, and calf-lined pockets. Another book of importance from a utility point of view is the **Oxford Bible for Teachers**, an octavo printed on thin India paper, bound in levant morocco, with flaps, and lined with calf. Scripture teachers could not have a better book, for the Helps to the Study of the Bible which have been introduced are far better, more concise, and more direct than any we have ever seen in print. A smaller size, not interleaved, is also published.

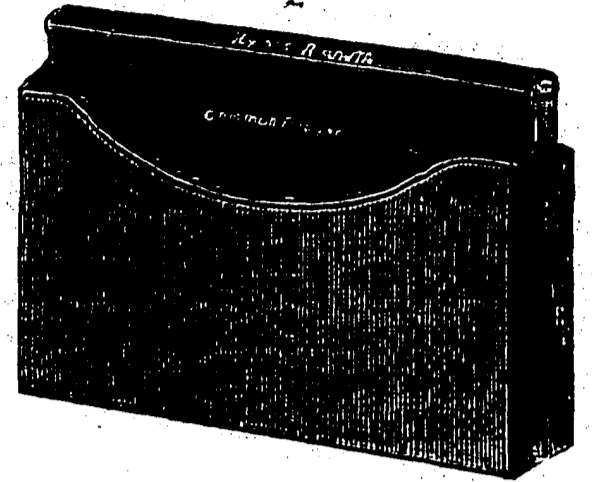


the beauty of their aspect, excellence of printing and binding, and the accessibility of their form. They are placed in plain and elegant cases, and may be had bound in different kinds of the better-class leathers. We like especially the **Prayer Book and Hymn Book**, limp with rounded corners, in an Oxford combination case, having an offertory pocket, and secured by expanding lock and telescope handle; several books similar in character deserve laudatory notice.

The 'Church Services' sent us by the Oxford Press are also very fine. One of these with 'Hymns Ancient and Modern,' with red rubrics and red line, rounded corners and red and gold edges, is a chaste piece of workmanship, two volumes in finger case. Another 'Church Service,' a single volume, royal 32mo., is more ornamental, but still in good taste; it is in levant morocco, with bevelled boards, rounded corners, and with engraved gilt corners and clasp.



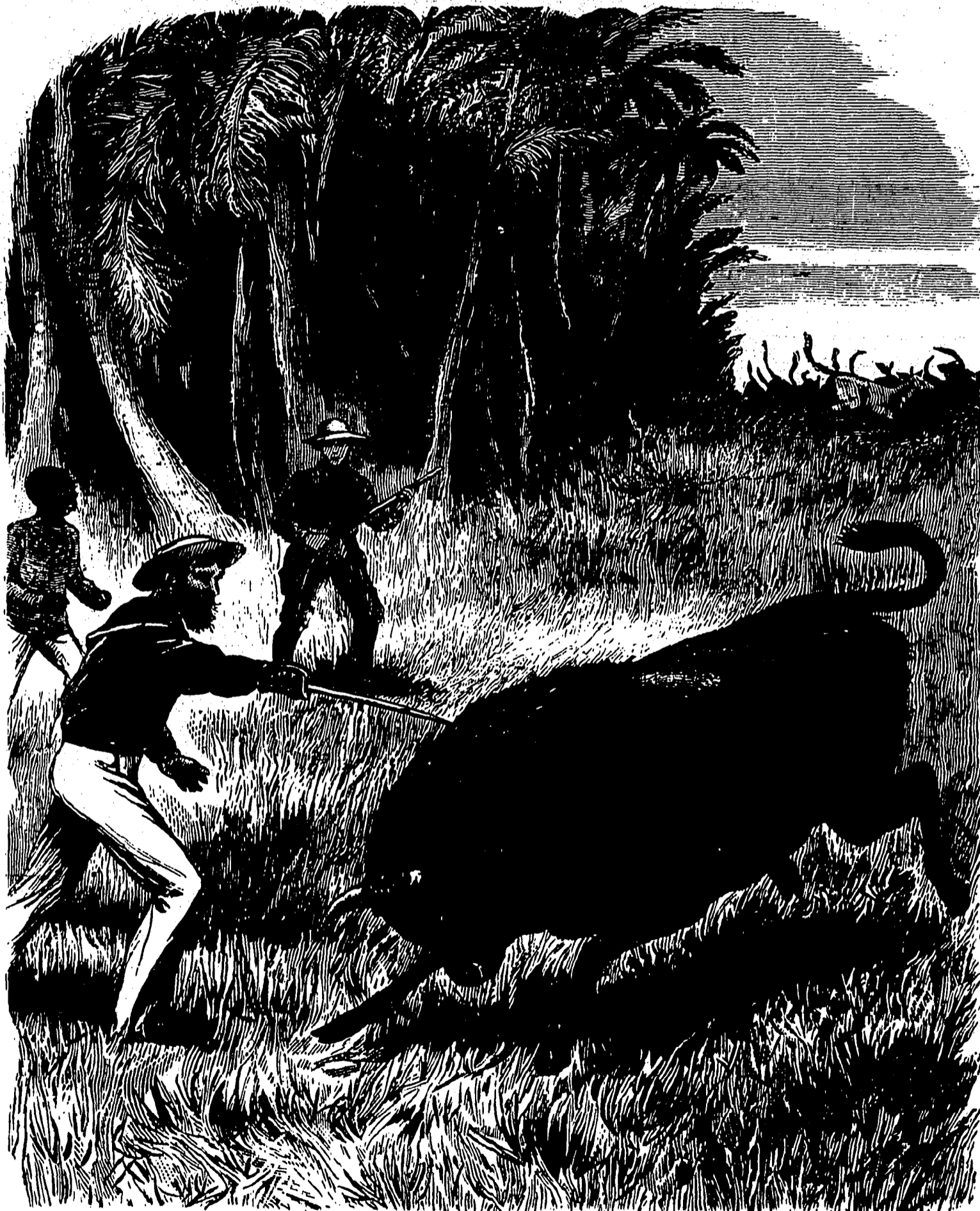
The Prayer Books are numerous, and nearly all new in design. For a wedding or birthday present the minion 32mo. in royal blue morocco, silk lined, and sterling silver clasp, could not be surpassed. A nonpareil 32mo., in levant morocco, with flaps, is sewn with the best silk and lined with calf; a strong, handsome, and useful book. Another nonpareil 32mo., in limp russia leather, with round corners, gilt roll, and red and gold edges, is a book that should be liked by all who see it. India paper has been well used in the production of a minion 32mo. Prayer Book, making a remarkably thin volume suitable for carrying in the pocket; it is in levant morocco, silk sewn, and edged in red and gold.



We must not conclude our notice without mentioning the 'Smallest Bible in the World' and the 'Smallest Prayer Book in the World.' These are wonderful examples of the printers' and binders' workmanship, and of the enterprise of the time which brings such wonders before the public. By this time they are familiar, but always revive astonishment when they come under notice.

Messrs. James Nisbet & Co.

THE long experience of these publishers in suiting the tastes of their Christmas patrons could scarcely better be evidenced than by their present collection of books, all of which prove of most suitable kind and amply fulfil the high hopes raised by their



tasteful exteriors. Prominent among them we notice a capital story by our old and highly-reverenced friend, R. M. Ballantyne. It is entitled, **The Fugitives; or, The Tyrant Queen of Madagascar**, and is replete with those exciting adventures of peril and sport, civilised and uncivilised life, which all boys regard with delight and are longing to emulate. Then, to render matters still more absorbing—if, indeed, that were possible—we have a series of realistic illustrations (of which we attach a specimen) that give point and brilliancy to the text. And throughout—best feature of all—there is much wholesome teaching in the story that should effectually deter any too easily impressionable youth from running away to sea or in other way imprudently seeking to achieve distinction by causing anxiety to his relatives and friends. A similar compliment can hardly be paid to all the boys' books we have read.

The Lads of Lunda, by Jessie M. E. Saxby, consists of a series of healthy, invigorating stories of events supposed to have occurred in the Shetland Isles. The authoress, in a few

graceful, womanly lines, characterised by much feeling, dedicates the book to her son, now abroad ; and there is indeed much poetry in this idea of a fond mother writing and sending her work from civilised Great Britain to her boy in the wilds of the 'Far North-west.' How he will enjoy it ! though the perusal should often cause his eye to glisten and his thoughts to revert sadly to the family circle at home. But the enjoyment is not likely to be confined to himself, for other boys will revel in the pictures of Mrs. Saxby's creation, and her work is certain to find many an appreciative young reader this coming Christmastide. The stories are thoroughly interesting and wholesome, and by her direct simple style and knowledge of boy nature, the authoress succeeds in enchaining the reader's attention throughout.

Another story excellently adapted for this class of patron is **Winning his Laurels ; or, the Boys of St. Raglans**, by F. M. Holmes. It describes, with much skill, the school experiences of two boys, Reggie and Bertie Linburn ; and the account, though not particularly original, proves highly amusing and interesting. Master Bertram seems to have been a particularly smart young gentleman if one may judge from the following remarks addressed at an early age to his sister : 'Pooh ! you do talk nonsense. I wish you'd shut up ; you're only a mealy-pealy little girl, afraid of beetles and crickets and rats and mice, and all those things. You've as much courage as a kitten but double the old cat's spite.' After this we are glad to find at the end that he manages to conquer all his evil tendencies and to emerge from the struggle a firmer and more resolute character.

The Old Violin ; or, Charity Hope's Own Story, by Edith C. Kenyon, is an unaffected little tale in which the loss of a violin forms a prominent feature, and music tones the recital throughout. Eventually the matter is cleared up, and Christie, the supposed culprit, is absolved from blame and happily marries Charity.

A New Exodus ; or, the Exiles of the Zillerthal, by Catherine Hay, gives some account, in pleasant narrative form, of life among the Protestants of the Tyrol. This is a fairly interesting story and generally well written. In the 'Golden Ladder Series' a tale by Anna B. Warner has been published. It is entitled **Cross Purposes**, and reveals, with much force, the troubles and dangers arising from hasty misconception. It is a subject that has frequently been treated before, and, indeed, enters into the plot of most fiction, but the authoress has managed, with well-worn material, to weave a comparatively new pattern.

Among the books of more serious moment, well suited for conveying the truths of Scriptural doctrine at this season of the year we have **St. Paul in Athens**, from the capable and experienced pen of J. R. Macduff, D.D., excellently printed and very neatly bound ; **Lessons on the Works and Claims of our Lord**, by Flavel S. Cook, M.A., D.D. ; and a new volume of 'Nisbet's Theological Library,' **The Levitical Sin Offering : its Christian Fulfilments and Uses**, by the Rev. Henry Batchelor. An interesting volume, too, may be mentioned in **How I reached the Masses**, being some account of the writer's missionary work among the poor of Birmingham, by the Rev. Charles Leach, F.G.S.

In **Eminent Workers**, the Rev. A. W. Murray gives a series of short notices descriptive of leading features in the lives of well-known men. The book is calculated to be of much service in encouraging readers to aspire to a lofty ideal. **The Autobiography of Maria Vernon Graham Havergal** supplies some account of a good woman's life, distinguished by great piety and purity of thought. The editor is her sister, J. Miriam Crane, and the same lady has collected in neat volume form a number of poems for young children, by the late Frances Ridley Havergal, under the title of **Streamlets of Song**. Like all the other verse proceeding from this gifted authoress's pen, they are graceful and melodious in style, and reveal much delicacy of expression and refined feeling.

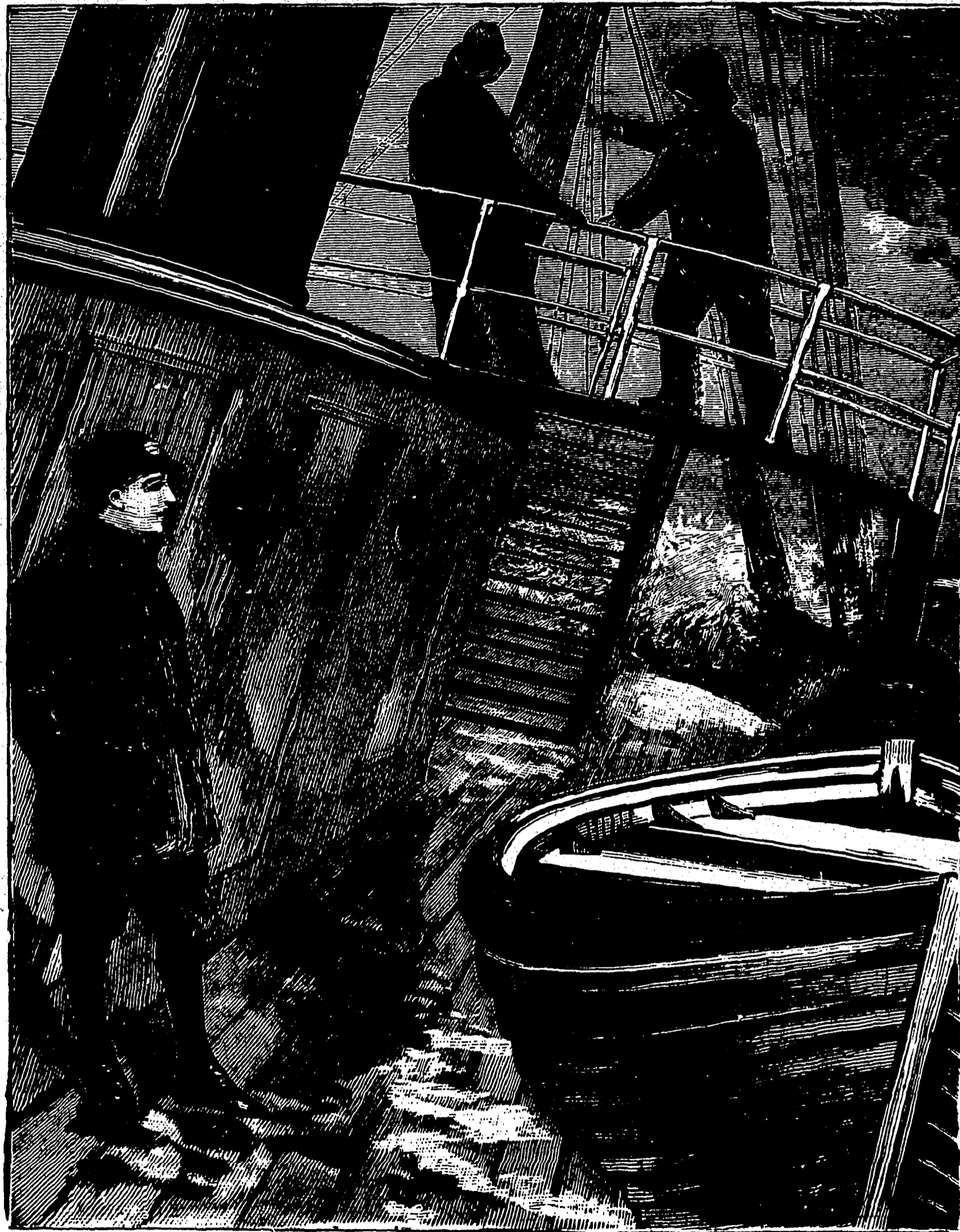
Life in the Red Brigade, by R. M. Ballantyne, embodies the result of the author's close experience of the London firemen. The leading character, a steady industrious man named Dashwood, is a member of the Fire Brigade, and advantage is taken in relating his experiences to introduce several stirring descriptions of firemen's work. Of course he has enemies, and these attempt to do him harm, but their machinations are discomfited and all ends happily. Included in the same volume is another story entitled 'Fort Desolation ; or, Solitude in the Wilderness,' an account of life among the Red Indians and fur traders of Prince Rupert's Land. **Mistress Matchett's Mistake**, by Emma Marshall, of which a second edition is now issued, is a pleasant story of old-fashioned type, dealing with people who lived before most of our readers were born. Mrs. Marshall may be said almost to excel in this species of work, and her present book possesses many and powerful charms. Four little volumes convey in the form of fiction excellent lessons and wholesome advice. They are respectively entitled **Both Sides**, by Jessie W. Smith ; **Judith the Stranger**, by the Hon. Gertrude Boscawen ; **Primrose Garth**, by J. Jackson Wray ; and **Stephen Gilmore's Dream**, by Jessie W. Smith. **Sermons Preached in Worcester Cathedral**, by the Rev. Edward V. Hall, M.A., should be productive of much healthy and elevating influence.

Mrs. Marshall has again given us one of those old-world chronicles with which she has so frequently charmed us in the past. **The Story of John Marbeck** carries the mind some three hundred years back, to the time when her subject was organist of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and suffered much persecution for his advocacy of the true faith. On this framework of actual fact, the authoress has woven a tale of quaint interest and wholesome teaching,

which also conveys a fair amount of historical instruction. Few men's lives have so deeply impressed the world by their uprightness and utter disinterestedness as that of the late Prince Consort. It is therefore with peculiar pleasure we welcome a volume, more especially adapted for youthful readers, descriptive of his noble qualities. It is entitled **The Story of the Life of the Prince Consort: Told for Boys and Girls all over the World**, by the Rev. W. W. Tulloch, B.D. The book has had the special advantage of being revised by Her Majesty the Queen. At this date it would be idle to speak of the many estimable lessons that this story teaches, of the acts of unselfishness, self-denial, and patriotic duty that it relates, but we may at least bear testimony to the well-studied and practised skill of Principal Tulloch in arranging his work, and of the complete success that has attended his efforts. It is a book that is sure to be widely read, and that could scarcely be unproductive of good results.

Messrs. W. P. Nimmo, Hay, & Mitchell.

SACRED history forms the groundwork of many stories which are issued about the Christmas season, and find many admirers, provided they exemplify truly and with force the great truths of religion. **Naomi; or, the Last Days of Jerusalem**, by Mrs. J. B. Webb,



ALONE IN MY GLORY.
(Schoolboy Stories.)

is a thoughtful and massive work, the scene of which is placed in the Jewish nation during the height of its splendour. From the story of that great epoch much interesting matter may be gleaned, and Mrs. Webb has interwoven some very telling incidents in the construction of her narrative. Good intentions are observable in every page of the book, and the author should be pleased should her object in directing thoughtful notice to the subject of which she speaks be realised.

Stirring Adventure in African Travel is an interesting work, but it is hardly a satisfactory compilation. Exploration has been so rapidly, widely, and adventurously carried out during recent years that in a work of this kind one would expect to find mention made of some pioneers who have of late performed prodigies of valour in African fields.

Mr. Charles Bruce,

who is the author of the volume before us, might see his way to extend his views of African life. His present work is interesting for young readers, but the subject is too important to be lightly treated.

A better book is **Graphic Scenes in African Story**, by the same author, who in these pages gives accounts of the settlers, of slavery, of missions and missionaries, of battle-fields, &c. Here the descriptions are brought up to the war in the Soudan. Both of Mr. Bruce's books are prettily got up.

Two new books by Ascott R. Hope show that the author is still the friend of boys. They are both volumes of stories written in the vein which has made the writer's style familiar to a generation of readers. Considerable advances have been made in the character of boys' books, but the writer is still vigorously to the fore. **Dick's Dog** is a small book of short stories, all entertaining and pointed. The acknowledged literary style, however, of the author is seen better in the other volume, namely, **Schoolboy Stories**, a larger book. The author says in the preface that during the last twenty-five years he has written so many stories of schoolboys that some might think he had nothing new to say. One must agree with him in his declared denial that the theme is worked out; the simile of the kaleidoscope is a good one in connection with the experiences of boys and their different notions and aspirations. 'Schoolboy Stories' is a book that is full of the spirit of juvenility—sparkling, salutary, and exemplary.

Text-books and birthday books are not so numerous this year as they were before, and this may be a cause for surprise, since many of them are now sent in a complimentary way instead of cards, and we think the taste in this way might be reasonably encouraged, though it would be rather embarrassing to get a dozen or so of birthday and text-books all on a Christmas morning. Messrs. Nimmo have sent us two new and very tasteful booklets **Bible Words for Birthdays**, and **Birthday Chimes from Burns**. Neatly bound in leather, these are very nice books for presentation. **Crowning Mercies** is the title of a small illuminated text-book, arranged and illustrated by J. Stanley, M.A.

The Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, which have been added to these publishers' series of poets, should be much esteemed. The life of the poet, with anecdotes, characteristics, tributes and criticism, which has been written by the editor, Mr. Robert Cockrane, shows great taste and studious judgment; it is, indeed, a very careful and readable piece of literary workmanship.

Messrs. Hegan Paul, Trench & Co.

LITTLE Peter: a Christmas Morality, by Lucas Malet. 'He was the youngest of the children by a number of years, and was such a small fellow that Susan Lepage, his mother, could make him quite a smart blouse and pair of trousers out of Antony's cast-off garments, even when all the patches and their places had been cut out. He had a black, curly head and very round eyes—for many things surprised him, and surprise makes the eyes grow round, as everybody knows—and a dear little red mouth, that was sweet to kiss, and nice fat cheeks. . . . ' Such is the author's description of the small boy whose sayings and experiences form a marked feature in this charming story; and if our readers should desire an even closer portrait, they may look at the accompanying illustration, which is one of several that brighten the pages of the volume. It represents little Peter returning in the snow from church. This snowstorm was a terrible event, for our hero, his mother, brothers, and servant were lost in it, and though eventually rescued—thanks to John Paqualin, the wild uncivilised man of the story—poor little Peter eventually sickened and died. So, too, did the untidy, unkempt, but human-hearted charcoal-burner, John Paqualin; and in their death he and the little boy, whom he loved so well, were united. But their influence they left behind them, since from that time Master Lepage, dropping politics and wine-shop company, became a humbler and more religious man, and attended church like his wife. The story is a delicious blending of the humorous and pathetic, peculiarly suitable to Christmas-tide. Perhaps the most distinct evidence of the former quality is the cat, Cincinnatus, whose dignified behaviour and feline ways are depicted with excellent comic gravity.



Mr. John C. Nimmo.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the beautiful new edition of Dr. Doran's 'Annals of the English Stage,' which we noticed in our last issue, Mr. Nimmo published a most amusing book by the author of 'Flemish Interiors,' under the title, **De Omnibus Rebus.** The work, which recounts an old man's discursive ramblings on the road of everyday life, is full of lively descriptions of the men and women whom we come across in that humble but useful conveyance, the omnibus; and, beyond that, it supplies many fascinating incidents of travel, and curious reflections on the oddities of the travelling public at home and abroad. No one who uses the omnibus in the great metropolis, and who is possessed with the slightest perception of the curious in mankind, ever lacks entertainment



even in the course of short journeys. Observations of this kind form the entertainment offered by our author, and so delightfully have they been chronicled that it is difficult to set aside the book once the reading has been begun. The anecdotes are related with rich vivacity. We regret that we have space only for a brief example. Mrs. Hogpen is in an omnibus when a gentleman opens a paper and reads out that the Czar was dead, adding: 'Oui, Messieurs, à huit heures du soir sa Majesté a rendu le dernier soupir.' 'Well, now I ham glad!' burst in the good lady, to the infinite surprise of all. 'Glad, Mrs. Hogpen! glad! did you say? Are you a Nihilist?' 'No, sir,' she replied with warmth, 'which I am not a Niliss, but I'm glad, and so ought you to be glad, all the same, to think the poor soul got the last supper before he died; oh, I understand French enough for that, though some people may fancy they're better hedicated!' The illustrative sketches, which are lavishly interspersed throughout the text, are often highly humorous, and one might add that, with few exceptions, they show much piquant originality.



Messrs. S. W. Partridge & Co.

THESSE youth-pleasing publishers present their usual store of good things for the season. Messrs. Partridge have, so to speak, an individuality in the publication of children's books, but although they adhere to a special and recognised style, they march with the times in matters of taste and judgment.

We have before us **Born to Wander**, by Dr. Gordon Stables, a poetic and romantic story of nomadic adventures. Quaint fancies abound in the book, and the stirring incidents are told with dramatic force. The copious supply of illustrations forms a feature in the volume. Mrs. Emma Hornibrook has been successful in the composition of **Transito**, a story of Brazil. Mr. Wells' recent work on that country strengthened public interest, and we note with satisfaction the appearance of a story whose scenes are laid in that delightful country. **Transito** is a girl foundling, and the story of her chequered life is touchingly told in the volume. Mrs. Hornibrook is thoughtful and sometimes philosophic, but it is unnecessary in a narrative of this nature to say 'the old priest, who fattened on the misfortunes of others, and grew rich on the funds supplied by the charitable for the institution.' **Edwin, the Boy Outlaw**, by J. Frederick Hodgetts, is a story of the twelfth and thirteenth century days. Robin Hood, the central figure among English outlaws of that period, is introduced in the story, and something is said with a view to changing the opinion as to the predatory habits of the noted bandit

of Sherwood Forest. It is curious to note how Time removes the rough edges of a daring man's character. Some graphic illustrations are supplied in this clever and historically instructive volume. **The Story of the Bible** is a large and handsome volume, telling the truths of the Scriptures from **Genesis to Revelation**. The language is simple in expression, and, though suitable for young people, is not less acceptable for readers of older years.

James Chalmers, Missionary and Explorer, is an exceedingly charming little volume, telling the exciting story of our earliest attempts at civilisation in New Guinea, in which place Mr. Chalmers may justly claim to be a pioneer of European influence. The little book under notice tells us of his earnest missionary work and of his wonderful explorations and adventures. It is illustrated from sketches reproduced from larger works relating to Mr. Chalmers' labours. Mr. W. Robson, who has compiled the work, has managed to give a graphic account of a remarkable man and a remarkable country. **Nan; or, The Power of Love**, is an affecting story. The author, **Eliza F. Pollard**, writes carefully and well, and the reader is moved to compassion by a perusal of the trouble, trials, and triumphant release of a struggling family, once rich but for a time stricken by poverty, the hardest fate known in the social



world. **Vincent Earl's Atonement** is a brisk story of boys, and gives moral lessons which ought not to be neglected, showing the growth of indulgence and its evil results. Mr. W. J. Lacey is the author. **A Boy's Friendship**, by Jesse Page; **Sweet Nancy**, by L. T. Meade; and **Little Mother**, by M. S. Haycraft, are one and all stories which show that the authors know the wants of their young clients.

Beyond ordinary publications we have this firm's notable volumes of annuals, such as the **Infants' Magazine, Children's Friend, Mothers' Companion, Family Friend, Friendly Visitor, Band of Hope Review, The British Workman, and Illustrated Missionary News**. These are perennial favourites, whose bright illustrations and pleasing contents charm many households during the close of the year.

The best class of woodcuts seem now to be ignored in more ambitious works, and are finding their way into books for the very young. No finer work of this description could be seen than that shown in some of the pictures in a series of books issued by Messrs. Partridge, which include **The Mothers' Picture Alphabet, Bible Pictures, Pretty Pictures for Tiny Pets, Stories and Pictures of Birds, Beasts, and Fishes, and Pets Abroad**.

The Religious Tract Society.

AMONG the many excellent and appropriate works published by this Society we notice two companion volumes more especially adapted for juvenile readers. The one, **Our Little Dots**, is what it actually professes to be, a book for the smallest of literary students, happily diversified with suitable and attractive illustrations; the other, **The Child's Companion**, furnishes reading of a rather more advanced nature, and is intended to combine instruction with its well-selected contents. In the connection of books for children we may also note with commendation a small volume by E. M. Waterworth, entitled **Sunday Afternoons at Rose Cottage**, in which a number of religious conversations between a mother and her offspring are pleasantly recorded.

The stories offered by the Society are peculiarly bright and absorbing, while in each case teaching of a healthy and elevating kind is enforced. **Brook and River**, by Ellen Louisa Davis, is the well-told narrative of two girls who, with only an invalid aunt to look after them, went to 'Brinemouth,' and there had some rather unfortunate and fortunate experiences which influenced their future lives. The authoress writes in a distinct womanly style, and her book displays considerable knowledge of the work. In **The Fortunes of the Frejhalts**, Mary E. Ropes tells an interesting story of Russian life, and, in the course of her narrative, conveys much information regarding home existence in the country of the Czar.

The Black Troopers, the first of a new issue of the favourite 'Leisure Hour Library,' is a volume of stories of much interest but rather unequal merit. 'The Forged Will' is about the best. Other works of a like description in the same collection are 'Strange Stories of Peril and Adventure,' 'Remarkable Adventures in Real Life,' and 'Adventures Ashore and Afloat.' These books afford the healthiest reading for boys. They are elegantly bound in the most attractive style for presentation.

The Rev. T. S. Millington, whose work in previous years is pleasantly recollective to us, has again used his welcome energies on behalf of boy readers. His present volume, entitled **A Great Mistake**, is distinguished by the many striking qualities that have marked his



previous volumes. One of the author's main charms is the direct and natural manner in which he writes, and this is likely to be peculiarly acceptable to school-boys, who, as a rule, possess but scant reverence for the high-falutin. Moreover, the story is excellently illustrated—as will readily be gathered from the appended woodcut—and its incidents are such as particularly appeal to youthful enthusiasm. In the latter respect, a tale by Harriette E.

Burch, entitled **Count Renneberg's Treason**, calls for like, though scarcely equal, commendation; but it is, perhaps, scarcely fair to compare the two books, seeing that they are generally very different in character. Miss Burch's work is descriptive of the Siege of Steenwick, and relates incidents that possess a character of well-marked interest. Like the preceding volume it is well illustrated.

Short Biographies for the People conveys its character in the title. The present constitutes the fourth volume of the series. The notices are written concisely and with accuracy, the selection being excellent. Chalmers, Livingstone, Isaac Watts, John Foxe, Michael Faraday, and Palissy are among the eminent men mentioned. **The Tract Magazine**, of which the annual volume lies before us, consists of excellent and sufficiently varied contents that should be productive of much healthy influence. The writers are for the most part men well known in the field of religious literature, and their efforts have been singularly fortunate. The illustrations are also very good.

In the charming 'Pen and Pencil Series' the quaintly picturesque country of Holland has this year been made the theme of observation. **Pictures from Holland**, by Richard Lovett, M.A., fully sustains the high reputation acquired by the previous volumes. The author writes in a pleasant, readable style, happily free from any affectation of superior art knowledge, and has plainly devoted much care and study to the land of dykes and windmills; while the artists, by their skill, have splendidly succeeded in intensifying his efforts. Of the illustrations we give a characteristic example in the accompanying woodcut. It represents a Dutch Skater, aided, in the fashion which is readily perceptible, by the wind. The natives are not much inclined to fancy skating—indeed, the skates themselves, generally speaking, are not adapted for this form of artistic performance—but they certainly know how to acquire a tremendous rate of speed. Speaking generally of 'Pictures from Holland,' it may be recommended as an extremely interesting work, generally excelling in both literary and artistic work.



The anonymous author of **Joyce Graham's History** has endeavoured to show, by weaving

together such incidents in the experiences of the heroine as best point the lesson, that good deeds will eventually overcome evil antagonism. The story is an acceptable one and should succeed in arousing much interest. **Hope Reed's Upper Windows**, by Howe Benning, shows the influence of religious teaching on a young girl, and what a comfort and guiding star she became at home and to her invalid mother. 'If all my patients had such daughters,' said the family doctor, in hearty appreciation of her conduct, 'I should be obliged to go out and live on my farm to earn my bread.' Darley Dale, in **The Glory of the Sea**, has happily combined pleasure and instruction, and in the form of a narrative has conveyed some excellent information regarding the various shell-inhabitants of the sea.

We have had several opportunities of speaking of the juvenile books of Miss Evelyn Everett-Green, the author of 'The Mistress of Lydgate Priory.' A new book by this lady is entitled **Joint Guardians**. The story is somewhat complicated but very full of entertainment. Naturalness gleams in the conversation, for the author is an adept in the difficult art of recording the colloquies of characters in fiction. 'Joint Guardians' is one of the best of books for girls. Boys will be pleased with **The Fifth Form at St. Dominic's**, a school story by Talbot Baines Reed, which originally appeared in the *Boy's Own Paper*. One reason for republishing the work in volume form is that the numbers of the *Boy's Own* containing it are out of print, and the story has been frequently asked for. A prefatory note by G. A. Hutchison speaks in fair laudation of the book, which is indeed so graphic and lighthearted that boys in their very own phraseology will call it 'mighty fine.' As a book that may instil lessons of fairness and honour among lads, we have seen few that will equal 'The Fifth Form at St. Dominic's.'

Messrs. George Routledge & Sons.

THE beautifully bound books of this firm form a tempting spectacle for the youngsters this Christmas, and we can well imagine how their eyes will sparkle and their faces light up with excitement as they view the treasures placed before them. Several of the volumes are such as will interest older readers as well; and we are pleased to be able to confess that we ourselves have not yet got over all partiality for a good story of boyish adventure, and in fairy tales we are almost as much interested as ever. But alas! we hardly get so much time for the enjoyment of this form of literature as we once did.

In imaginative lore, Messrs. Routledge come out rather strong. Almost the first book we examine proves to be a translation of Edouard Laboulaye's **Fairy Tales**. It is a work of quaint conceit and droll merriment. The beauty of fairy stories generally is that they present so many different aspects to the reader, and while the more juvenile revel in the surprises and wonderful adventures they unfold, the elder derive pleasure from the old-fashioned humour of the tales, or, if particularly advanced in years, see an allegorical or philosophic meaning underlying the words. Edouard Laboulaye's fanciful stories differ somewhat from the ordinary run of such works, and we miss the quiet simplicity usually considered so essential to purely imaginative literature; but this, though probably a disappointment to some, will to others be a source of relief, as affording a change from the routine of fairy tales. M. Laboulaye's volume is profusely illustrated with engravings that bring out the humour and startling character of the text. In the matter of illustrations, however, we think that the **Fairy Tales** of the Countess D'Aulnoy, now presented to the English reader for the first time in their entirety, prove even still more successful. They are by that master of clever effect, Mr. Gordon Browne, and though unequal in merit, happily illustrate the marvels of the text. The stories themselves are delightfully interesting, and they possess a refined charm that greatly increases their powers of attraction. Readers will recognise some familiar friends among the contents, such as 'The Yellow Dwarf,' 'The White Cat,' and so on. The translation is one undertaken by the late J. R. Planché, whose indebtedness as an author of extravaganzas to such sources has resulted in a very refined, appreciative rendering.

A number of books designed for children display bright sparkling pictures and appropriate contents. One of the prettiest is **Sunny Childhood**, the illustrations of which (by S. McCloy), are coloured, while the reading has been supplied by Mrs. Sale Barker. This is a peculiarly elegant little gift-book. Four volumes appear in the 'Master Jack' series for young people, and are respectively entitled **Holiday Stories**, **Pet's Pastime**, **Sunbeam Stories**, and **Sunshine and Storm**. The contents are excellently selected, the type clear and large, and in regard to the illustrations it is but necessary to say that R. Barnes, Harrison Weir, Hal Ludlow, A. W. Cooper, W. Rainey, and artists of equal excellence are responsible for them. We almost envy children the possession of **Our Darlings**, a beautiful volume pictorially descriptive of their doings in town, at home, at the seaside, in the country, and at the play, and are jealously disposed to think it is far too good for them. Certainly there is an amount of humour underlying some of the delicately-executed designs that only their elders will understand. 'I forbid you to look at my doll in that manner, Miss!' one angry little girl is represented as saying to another. 'And why, Miss?' is the reply. 'Because you frighten her.'

Youngsters' Yarns, by Ascott R. Hope, is a brightly bound volume relating the actual experiences of youthful adventurers in various parts of the world, partly compiled from their own stories, and revised by the light history and contemporary records have thrown on their deeds. The 'Yarns' are interesting and brilliant, with spirited incident. **Children of the New Forest**, by Captain Marryat, reappears in a new dress, with illustrations by Sir John Gilbert and Paul Hardy. It is an agreeable tale, written with all the characteristic frankness and vigour of the author. It may also be interesting to some people to contrast a boy's story issued many years ago with similar productions of the present day. Commander V. Lovett Cameron has often evinced his ingenuity in the construction of fiction for youngsters, and in his latest effort, **The Adventures of Herbert Massey**, he distinctly shows that his hand has not lost its cunning, and that his imagination remains fertile and vigorous as ever. The 'scene' of the story is laid in Eastern Africa, and the narrative is full of incident and adventurous experience.

New illustrated editions appear of two of Miss Edgeworth's books—**Harry and Lucy** (the same volume also containing 'The Little Dog Trusty,' 'The Orange Man,' and 'The Cherry Orchard'), and **Rosamund, and other Tales**. The illustrations in each case are by F. A. Fraser and the accompanying woodcut will furnish a fair idea of their skill and effectiveness. In **Play and Earnest**, Mrs. O'Reilly relates pleasantly and with much humour the story of Jack and his little sister who would insist on turning reality into romance, and the world into a land of wigwams, bisons, Indians, 'natives' whom it was necessary to 'propitiate,' and other fancies dear to an imaginative boy's mind. We have been heartily amused by Mrs. O'Reilly's booklet, and have little doubt our readers will be the same. Those young people who are interested in animal life will be delighted with a volume entitled **Illustrated Natural History**, by the Rev. J. G. Wood. It places the facts of the subject in an attractive and practical manner before readers, and the illustrations are numerous and well drawn.

The Young Lady's Book, edited by Mrs. Mackarness—perhaps better known as the author of 'A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam'—affords in well-arranged form a variety of exceedingly useful information on matters connected with nursing, cooking, household management, home studies, indoor occupations—i.e. wood-carving, mosaic work, needlework, knitting, &c.—out-door occupations, indoor amusements, and outdoor games. From the enumeration of these details it will be seen of what a serviceable character the work is, while, if anything more were needed, it is shown by the fact that the book has now reached a fourth edition. The illustrations are many and to the purpose. **Round Nature's Dial**, by Helen Marion Burnside, is a collection of verses by well-known authors, descriptive of the seasons, interspersed with contributions from the editor's own pen, the whole being accompanied by coloured pictures, some of which are very good, others indifferent.

Randolph Caldecott's **Last 'Graphic' Pictures** are distinguished by all the humour and playful fancy so characteristic of the late artist. Who, for instance, could more laughingly depict the comicalities of 'A Lover's Quarrel,' or so effectively exhibit the humorous aspects of a hunting-field? Each of these pictures conveys a little narrative in itself—a portion in the general story which the reader, according to his individual imagination and sense of the ridiculous, will fill in for himself. Randolph Caldecott's works are so well known nowadays that it would be worse than idle to pass any criticisms on them, but it may at any rate be added that these, his latest drawings, fully come up to the high standard set by himself.

Among the smaller books published for the season by Messrs. Routledge we may mention **Loving Links**, a series of tastefully printed Scripture texts with appropriate verses and most beautifully executed designs accompanying them; a work of similar kind by F. E. Marsh, depicting the **Shall Not's of the Bible**; two little books of original verse by Mrs. Sale Barker, the one entitled **Our Pets** and illustrated by Paul Hardy, the other **Our Friends**, illustrated by F. A. Fraser; and, lastly, a neat edition of our old and ever-welcome friend **Sinbad the Sailor**, whose wonderful voyages have this time been illustrated by Maurice Ray.



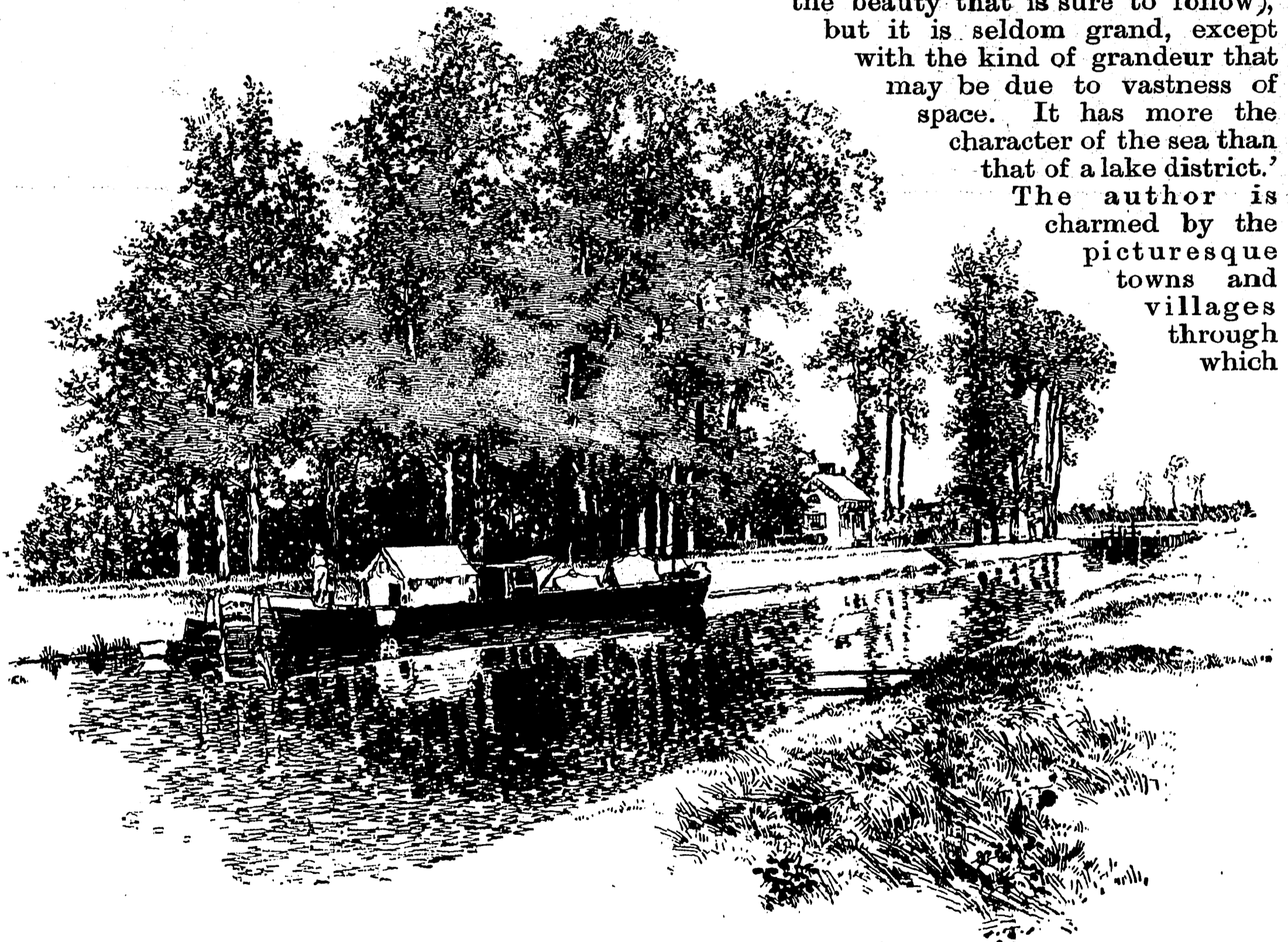
Little Wide Awake, edited by Mrs. Sale Barker, has for long been a favourite with children, and the pages of the annual volume now published show with forcible effect what good cause they have for their fondness. Under the control of the experienced editor, the contents are admirably selected and well varied, and the subjects as a rule are well within the comprehension of the juvenile reader. Fiction, of course, is largely represented, and the stories by turns are amusing, pathetic, and mildly sensational. A commendable feature in the magazine is a section 'for very little people,' and other attractive distinctions may be mentioned in the puzzle pages and 'Editor's Corner.' **Every Boy's Annual**, resplendent in a gay binding of red, green, and gold, represents a grand storehouse of reading for youngsters. The contents are supplied by writers well experienced and popular in this form of literature, and of wide reputation. Naturally, fiction occupies a considerable portion of the volume, and in the hands of Ascott R. Hope, Henry Frith, Lieut. C. R. Low, Madame De Witt, and Major-General A. W. Drayson, this important department is well cared for. The papers on 'Famous Artists' afford considerable information in regard to Hogarth, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Turner, Cruikshank, Landseer, Bewick, and Dante Rossetti, but we doubt whether the knowledge thus attainable will be eagerly taken advantage of by boy readers, and it might, we think, have been given in more appreciable form. The papers on 'Earthquakes,' translated from the French of Arnold Boscowitz, by C. B. Pitman, are good, but it is in the fiction that the volume has its chief charm. The illustrations are numerous and of an exciting character.

Messrs. Seeley & Co.

EVERY book published by this firm shows true taste in production. When Christmas-tide comes round we look with interest for the appearance of the group of handsome volumes which emanate from the Essex Street house. Of course the chief book this year is **The Saône, a Summer Voyage**, by P. G. Hamerton, illustrated by Joseph Pennell. This is no commonplace itinerary, but a clear and beautiful narrative of rare experiences and observations in a very delightful country. 'The landscape of the Saône,' says Mr. Hamerton, 'is alternately beautiful and dull (the dull parts giving the voyager a renewed appetite for

the beauty that is sure to follow), but it is seldom grand, except with the kind of grandeur that may be due to vastness of space. It has more the character of the sea than that of a lake district.'

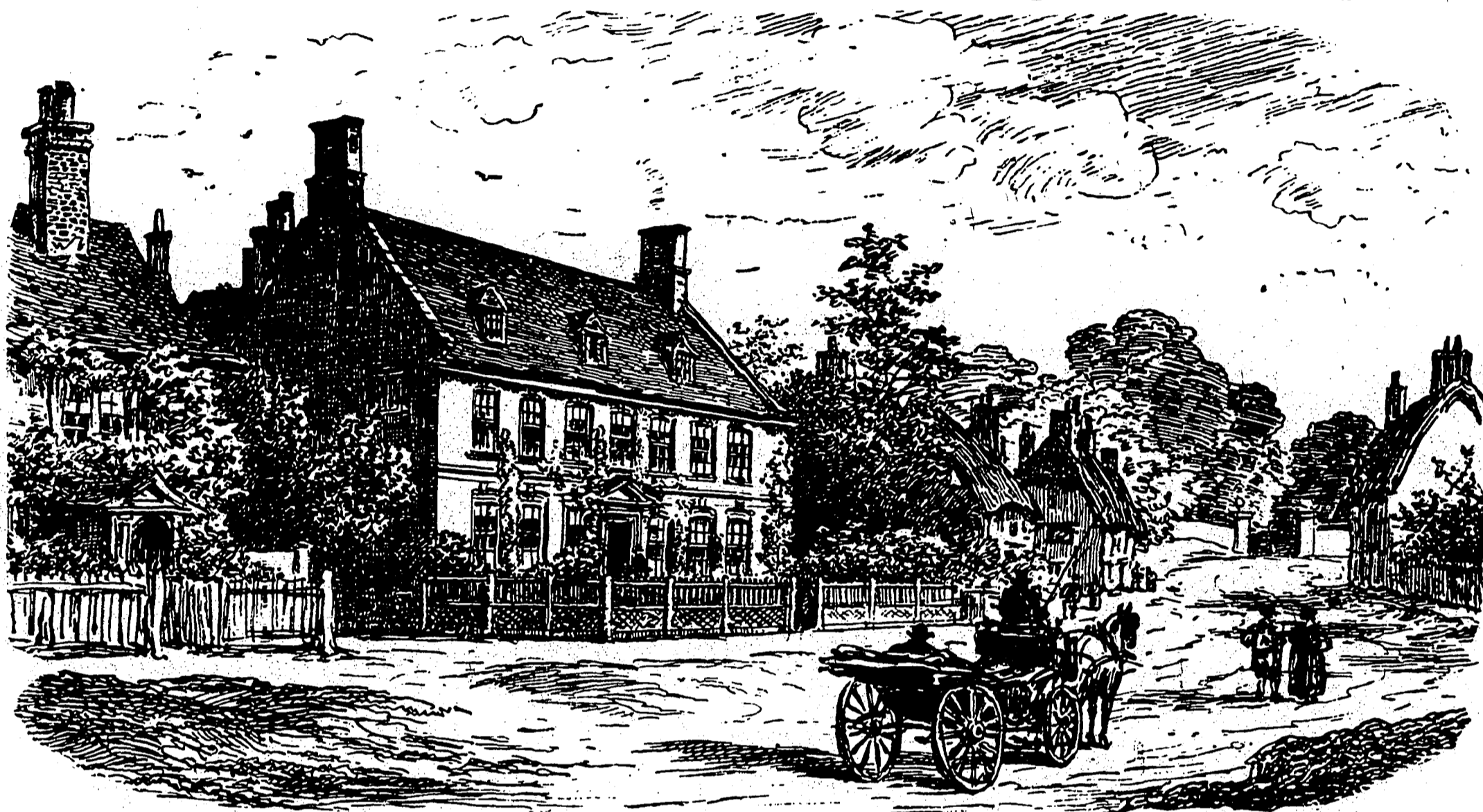
The author is charmed by the picturesque towns and villages through which



the Saône passes; but though they are rich in interest for the artist and archæologist, 'sketching is scarcely tolerated'; indeed, Mr. Hamerton and his friend the artist were arrested, and had some difficulty in getting out of the dilemma. We are pleased, however, to know of their release, and that they have been enabled to benefit the artistic reading public with so

delightful a record of travel in localities which include the whole navigable portion of the Saône. Those who are acquainted with Mr. Hamerton's previous books will understand that the illustrations are in every way exquisite. Messrs. Seeley have produced the volume in the rich raiment which we expect in every book they publish.

From a collection of gift-books published by this firm we take up **Cædwalla**, by Frank Cowper, M.A. This is a story of the Saxons in the Isle of Wight, the period being the seventh century. Not a little difficulty exists in vitalising the dry bones of that period and creating a coherent narrative in fiction which can be read with anything like pleasure. Mr. Cowper has done his work in a masterly way, his romantic story being executed without anachronisms which jar on the senses, and yet with picturesque effect very pleasant to the reader who has even dipped into the records of the remote past. **Both Sides of the River**, Mrs. Selby Lowndes' new story, is a pastoral story written in quiet and musical prose. It



tells of the complications arising from concealment of the past in love affairs, and of an unfortunate attachment. The end, however, is bright, and we close with regret a remarkably pleasing volume. An illustration which we here introduce shows the poet Cowper's house at Olney. It appears in a story written by Mrs. Emma Marshall and entitled **On the Banks of the Ouse**. Life in Olney a hundred years ago is the gist of the story, and the rural beauty of the surrounding country gives the author an opportunity to write some very enchanting descriptions. Scenes of country life are usually depicted in a humdrum fashion, but the grace of Mrs. Marshall's writing gives the reader an interest in this story which he would not have had, had it come from the pen of a less able author. Of course the associations add much to the charm of the story. The illustrations are each and all most beautiful, certainly better than anything we have seen in the stories of the day. Professor Church claims attention for a remarkable tale, **The Count of the Saxon Shore**, which relates something of the story of the departure of the Romans from Britain. The title 'Count of the Saxon Shore' was bestowed on an officer whose duty it was to protect the coasts of the Roman possessions in Britain and Gaul from the Saxon depredators. Speaking of a very exciting epoch, though little is known of its incidents, Professor Church and his collaborator, Miss Ruth Putnam, have produced a story of stirring and lasting interest. Cries of battle ring through its pages. Soft scenes of affection melt the reader to pity and sympathy. He who peruses the book will assuredly be richly rewarded, and if he has read little regarding the times spoken of, he should be a wiser man when the last page is finished.

Messrs. E. & F. N. Spon.

ANYONE who may be thinking of giving a present to a young housewife should go direct to a bookseller and ask for a sight of **Spon's Household Manual**. It is the very best and most complete compendium for domestic guidance that we have ever seen. Nearly a thousand pages of well-written, clearly-printed matter give all forms of domestic receipts, and hints for home management in cooking, sanitation, furnishing, clothing, marketing, nursing, washing, reading, gardening, and the innumerable subjects for which, in emergencies, a reference book is indispensable. The extent of the information may be imagined when we say that the index of the manual embraces close upon thirty-five thousand different items.

Messrs. James Sangster & Co.

MR. Francis Watt's previous works have done much in the way of 'popularising' exact history. His facility in selecting important records, and grouping them in narrative form, is remarkable. No



compilations are better qualified to be of service to the people. The latest book, entitled **Pictorial Chronicles of the Mighty Deep; or, the Sea, its Ships and Sailors**, is a commendable addition to Messrs. Sangster's series of volumes. Mr. Watt has taken plums from many books, and has thus provided a rich feast for his readers. The matter is not wholly historical, for many 'yarns' are introduced with good effect, so that the volume, though in the main true, contains as much exciting reading as the most powerful of our great sea romances. In the contents are found narratives of great voyages and discoveries, of sea fights in ancient and modern times, of mutinies, piracies, wrecks, and so forth. Nor are the humours and traditions of sea life forgotten. Although the illustrations of the book are not wholly new, they are very abundant and appropriate, so

that the volume, in its brilliant binding, compares favourably with other gift-books of a like nature. The literary matter is far superior to the general run of popular instructive books.

Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

THE books issued by this Society are for the most part of a kind well adapted to advance the teaching of Holy Scripture and to please those readers who are interested in the quieter forms of fictional literature. If occasionally we notice an unfortunate tendency to protrude the moral to the disadvantage of the story which might more advantageously be left to speak for itself, this may readily be forgiven in the earnestness and well-meaning that the writers display. In the matter of binding and external appearance—questions of no slight importance in Christmas works—the Society's books show no falling off from previous years.

A set of nine volumes are bound in a neat covering of dark green, enlivened with designs of peacock feathers. We do not know whether this will cause them to be looked upon by the superstitious as unlucky, but since we remember the same binding last year, it would seem that the publishers have found it the reverse. In **A Steadfast Purpose** Mrs. Isla Sitwell happily depicts the life of one who throughout life strove, not to acquire wealth or position, which he

might easily have gained, but to do what was honourable and right, no matter at what cost. The story is well illustrated by Frank Dadd. **The Christmas Present**, by A. Eubule-Evans, opens seasonably enough at the dinner-table, with a discussion on turkey and champagne by two bachelor friends who live together. The one unexpectedly receives a letter from his brother, confiding a daughter to his care. This is the Christmas present, and the story goes on to show what a good influence the little maiden exercised over the pair. It is a charming little fiction if not very original, and the illustrations are excellently designed by J. Nash. Another volume in the series is entitled **Foxholt, and the Light that Burned there**. The writer is the Rev. Edward N. Hoare, M.A., who has constructed a clever and effective little story, being artistically assisted by Frank Dadd. **With Hooks of Steel**, by Crona Temple, is a Scottish tale, the main events of which happen near to Tobermory, in the island of Mull. The authoress has a pleasant, graceful style, and possesses some ability in construction. **Out in the Cold**, by Annette Lyster, is likely to meet with much acceptance among the lovers of homely fiction. It is an interesting story, told with sympathetic skill and considerable piquancy. **Hawbrook Farm**, by Laura M. Lane, is chiefly made up of an account of Esther Gaunt's wooing, and this furnishes material for a very agreeable narrative. It is prettily illustrated by John Nash. **True to Training**, by F. E. Reade, forcibly emphasises the advantage of a religious education, and otherwise succeeds in mildly interesting the reader throughout. Remaining volumes in the series are: **Mrs. Barth's Girl**, wherein we are made acquainted with an attractive blue-eyed little creature named Cuppy; and **Stories for Sunday Scholars**, which the authoress of 'Helpful Sam' has written with much suitability and good feeling.

Queer Chums, by C. H. Eden, F.R.G.S., is likely from the varied character of its incidents to become popular with youngsters. The illustrations of W. H. Overend add realism and vigour to the text. The same artist is represented in **Tre, Pol, and Pen**, a story, it is needless to say, of Cornish extraction. The author, F. Frankfort Moore, has constructed a highly interesting and satisfactory work, and what with smugglers, wreckers, and other villains generally, the reader is kept fully on the alert throughout. The story also contains the realistic account of a battle at sea. Of a much quieter kind is **Kathleen**, by Cecilia Selby Lowndes, and for this reason it is probable that the tale will chiefly find readers among the fair sex. Mrs. Lowndes' fiction, if comparatively uneventful, is characterised by a quiet charm and grace of diction that fully compensate for the want of more stirring incident, and many readers will certainly prefer it to a book of more sensational description. **Adam Gorlake's Will**, by C. E. M., tells how Arthur Gorlake, the deceased man's nephew, to whom the money came, was suspected, at the instigation of one Mr. Joseph Porter, of having destroyed a later testament by his uncle, and how eventually matters were cleared up, and the missing will discovered behind an old wainscot. The illustrations are by W. S. Stacey.

Mère Suzanne, by Katharine S. Macquoid. Under this title the authoress gives us a collection of charming little stories, for the most part descriptive of French provincial life. To this branch of work Mrs. Macquoid has for some time devoted herself, and most readers of fiction will scarcely require to be told how delightfully she can depict a scene in Normandy, or the surroundings of a country household. Her present work is equal to anything which has gone before, and the same delicate hand and sympathetic touch is apparent as ever. **Her Will and Her Way**, by Mrs. Newman, is a pleasant, readable story, exhibiting much unaffected skill in narration and power of expression. It is excellently illustrated by Frank Dadd. **Primroses and Vows**, by Helen Shipton, displays this graceful authoress almost at her best, and shows how possible it is to weave a thoroughly interesting tale from what to most people would seem unsuitable and not original material. 'Promises and Vows' is sure to be a welcome guest in many a Christian household this coming Christmas season. A work of more serious kind, worthy of close and attentive perusal, is **Martyrs and Saints of the First Twelve Centuries**, by the author of 'Chronicles of the Schönberg-Cotta Family.' The writer has manifestly expended much time and loving labour over her book, and the result is one of which she may reasonably feel proud.

Among the smaller volumes we have a favourable word to say for a prettily-bound series of six:—'The Goldmakers,' by Esmé Stuart; 'The Best Book,' by the author of 'Higher and Higher'; 'A Treasure Lost,' by C. E. Smith; 'A Tale of a Country Village,' by Sibella E. Bryans; 'Nell's Bondage,' by the author of 'Clary's Confirmation'; and 'Rex,' by the author of 'A Hero Poet.' They are appropriately illustrated by Frank Dadd, J. Nash, and another. A second and still smaller series comprises 'From the Bench to the Bible,' by Lady Dunboyne; 'Was he a Fool?' by Julia Goddard; and 'Walter Morris,' by F. E. Reade. Both these series are admirably produced and extremely well illustrated, and as class presents or for distribution among the poor we can scarcely imagine anything more suitable. Other small volumes adapted for a similar purpose and of interesting kind may be mentioned in 'A Minor Chord,' by Niall Herne; 'Two of Them,' by the author of 'Mike and his Brother Ben'; and 'That Vulgar Girl,' by Emma Leslie.

In 'The People's Library,' three lectures by Professor H. G. Seeley, dealing with the important subjects of Health, Food, and Education, have appeared. The volume is appropriately styled **Factors in Life**, and contains much excellent advice and information that it behoves all people to know. Another useful work, though of totally dissimilar kind, is **Pictorial**

Geography of the British Isles, by Mary E. Palgrave, containing a series of well-executed illustrations and letterpress descriptive of the various places of interest. The volume is arranged in various sections, one representing the coasts of the British Isles, another the mountains and hills, a third the plains and rivers, and so on. As a method of impressing the facts of geography on the mind it should be found extremely serviceable.

Among books more especially adapted for juvenile amusement we have **The Child's Pictorial**, a capital source of youthful fun and merriment, the coloured pictures being excellent and the letterpress appropriate and admirably written. The principal contributors are Mrs. Molesworth, Mrs. Selby Lowndes, Mrs. Sitwell, Mrs. Macquoid, Mrs. Halward, and the Rev. J. G. Wood, and their efforts have resulted in a fine treat for the youngsters this Christmastide. **The Dawn of Day** volume for 1887, and Harrison Weir's **Bird Stories, Old and New**, worthily bring to a close a collection that possesses many distinctive features of merit.

Messrs. John F. Shaw & Co.

THE works of this publisher promise rare enjoyment for youngsters this Christmastide, and we confidently anticipate that readers of maturer years will be found to take pleasure in their perusal.

All are tastefully and elegantly bound, the designs in one or two instances being particularly effective. A marked example may be noted in **Right Onward; or, Boys and Boys**, by Ismay Thorn. The author has succeeded in writing a story that will undoubtedly please all young rollickers, and the brightness of the exterior is fully equalled by the spirited



character of the contents. Another book whose smart binding attracts the eye is entitled **Barney: a Soldier's Story**. It pleasantly relates the experiences of a faithful fellow who enlisted in order that he might follow the fortunes of his young master. In **Golden Gates; or, Rex Mortimer's Friend**, M. L. Ridley has equalled his successes of previous years, and woven a story that will delight the large circle of his readers beyond measure.

In the **Dashing Days of Old**, by Gordon Stables, M.D., R.N., reveals this popular author in a fresh light. Dr. Stables has in his time performed many kinds of literary work, and he now shows us that he can construct a boy's story of frolic and adventure with the best of his rivals. But it would be strange indeed if an 'old salt' failed to interest the youngsters. **His Adopted Daughter; or, a Quiet Valley**, by Agnes Giberne, is a pleasantly told story that evinces much tenderness of feeling and refined thought. It is sure to be appreciated by a large body of readers. Mrs. Stanley Leathes's **Over the Hills and Far Away** is a book of more humorous power, and the vigour and breeziness of the title seems to have spread to its contents. There is not much in the plot, but the account of little Lion is highly diverting, and there is a more emotional interest in the story beside. The illustrations might with greater point have emphasised the humorous aspects of the story.

Cousin Dora; or, Serving the King, by Emily Brodie, narrates the experiences of a young girl who went to stay with an aunt at the seaside, and was thrown into more worldly society than she had hitherto been accustomed to. Eventually matters come right, and a happy marriage ensues. **Armour Clad; or, Arthur's Victory** is the story of a boy's struggles in life and his ultimate conquest over the evils that assail him. The narrative runs on somewhat familiar lines; but is nevertheless interesting. The same remark applies equally well to **Joyce Tregarthen**, by E. Chillon, but after all the teaching of a good lesson can never be too frequently enforced, and in this respect the story is highly acceptable. Favourable mention may also be made of **Dora Ashley**, by C. E. Irvine.

Poor little Dickie! he certainly had a hard time of it. The account of his woes is pathetically related in **Dickie's Secret** from the practised pen of Catherine Shaw. It may perhaps be necessary to say that the hero in question was a little blind boy. However, he

seems to find a safe haven at last, and the sympathies of the reader are not roused in order, as so frequently happens, that they may be disappointed by an affecting death-scene. We warmly approve of 'Little Dickie's Secret.' Another story for which we have a word of commendation is **Acting on the Square**, by Harriet Boulwood—a tale of school-boy life; and books that possess scarcely inferior claims to notice are **Charlie's Success**, by M. Seymour; **Tim's Treasure**, by Alice Lang; and **Left Behind**, an excellently told story by Jennie Chappell.

We have also received the annual volume of **Our Darlings**, a weekly publication edited by Dr. Barnardo. The contents are such as will readily interest children, and the illustrations, if not original, are numerous and varied. Many of the writers whose works we have noticed above are contributors to its pages, and with such assistance a successful and honoured career for the magazine should result.

In Convent Walls, by Emily Sarah Holt, has for its chief character Isabelle of France, and the purpose of the story is to show how punishment for her misdeeds eventually overtakes that treacherous woman, and thus to enforce the lesson that wicked doers do not prosper. **The Shepherd's Darling**, by Brenda, is the story of a simple country girl, who, being tempted from home by an unscrupulous companion, eventually joins a travelling circus, from which she is only rescued by the zeal and devotion of her friends. Another work by the same authoress is entitled **Froggy's Little Brother**, of which an illustrated edition is now published. It is a pathetic little story, and reveals much observation of child life and character. A good word may also be said for the engravings, which are bright and effective.

A pleasant little fiction, quietly interesting throughout, has been written by L. Marston. It is entitled **Mr. Bartholomew's Little Girl**, and it shows how a small dame of seven so crept into an old bookworm's heart that she brought him to a knowledge of God and completely altered his disposition. It is an affecting story, and is likely, we should think, to be productive of much healthy influence. **The Story of Little Hal and the Golden Gate**, by Maude M. Butler, is evidently designed for children of early age, and in the account of the nursery at Lyndleigh Manor House, with its youthful inmates, readers are sure to be exceedingly interested. Numerous illustrations, too, of a character likely to rivet their attention, adorn its pages. **City Snowdrops; or, the House of Flowers**, shows a very popular writer—M. E. Winchester—almost at her best, and the story carries the reader along with absorbing attraction from first page to last. A delightful little book entitled **Playfellows** has been written by Catherine Shaw. Exterior, contents, and illustrations are alike admirably adapted for the gratification of young folk, and we can promise them hearty enjoyment in its perusal. Part of the same work is issued under the title of **Puss at Play**; and we have also a word of commendation for a similar production by Grace Stebbing, entitled **Somebody's Home**.

Sunday School Union.

A MAGAZINE volume which ought to have been included in our earlier pages is the handsomely produced annual store of **Young England**. Occasionally throughout the year we have to speak words of praise respecting this periodical, but when it is seen in its gift garb, if such a term may be employed, we are all the more pleased that our passing notices were justified. The stories and sketches in the 1887 volume are simple and, to use a Yankee word, 'fetching.' Without an undue amount of sentimentality they strike to the heart's core, and give to young England a wholesome feast of literary food. 'Insights into English Authors' is the name given to a series of articles which speak of Sir Thomas More, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Charles Lamb, and Goldsmith. Papers with such good intentions as these should be of service to youthful readers in directing the course of sober study.

Among the story volumes issued by the Union we first take up **In the Land of the Great Snow-Bear**, by Gordon Stables, M. D., R. N., &c. This tale of love and heroism from the pen of so gifted a writer should not fail to please. The story reminds us of some of Ballantyne's earlier works, but without following any comparison we may say at once that there is energy in Dr. Stables' book, and its record of adventures is about as stirring as could well be imagined. Mr. Gordon Browne has given additional interest to the book by means of several illustrations, but the majority are not from the graphic pencil of this artist.

All who study such matters will be especially pleased to note the effort that is being made by the Union to produce books that are true and pure, and yet free from the unmanly spirit which brings such works into ridicule from the thoughtless. **Pleasant Papers**, by Ancient Simeon, is a book of this description, and may be commended safely as one of the best of Sunday-school gift-books. In the **Allens of Netley Manor** we have a story of Christian life and labour in a country village, by Robert Tuck, B. A., author of 'Will Jones's Workshop,' &c. 'The one aim of these sketches,' says the author, 'is to awaken sympathy, and to remind busy,

bustling, energetic townfolk of the heroic souls who are doing God's work of grace in lonely hamlet and in scattered village.' The **Autobiography of an Acorn** is a more serious book, and has more sound intentions than the works of fiction. Mr. James Crowther is the author, and he takes the story of the acorn as the title of a book which contains descriptions of many things besides: pearl, pebble, gold and silver, honey bee, leaf, wheat grain, feather, sunbeam, and so forth, all together forming a delightful book of Nature. **Keena Harmony**, by Eliza Kerr, is the story of an Irish orphan girl, a dreamy, fanciful child, whose sorrowful life becomes happy when the book ends. Another story in this volume is entitled 'Mervyn's Meed.' **Sandy; or, the Mystery of the Box**, by Lucretia Maybury, is an ingenious and inspiring story, and in the same volume we notice another equally good by the same author, namely 'The New Year Waifs.' The **Bright Star Series** includes 'True Friendship' and 'Gretchen's Holiday,' by Emma Leslie.

The delightful volumes of **The Child's Own Magazine** and **Child's Own Poetry Book** are worthy of high commendation.

Messrs. Suttaby & Co.

ENGLISH girls, who ought to know as much as possible about the girls of other countries, should have **The Girl's Handy Book**, by Lina Beard and Adelia B. Beard, placed in their hands. By a perusal of its pages they will find out how their American sisters employ themselves, what their amusements are, and their more serious occupations during each season of the year—spring, summer, autumn, and winter, spring beginning on the 1st of April. The hints for recreation and work which may be gathered from the pages of this book are innumerable; in fact, if American girls can do a half or a fourth of the things that are here described they are far ahead of the daughters of England. **The Girl's Handy Book**—by the way, the apostrophe ought to be Girls'—is luxuriantly illustrated for practical purposes and for pleasure.

Daily Truth is a book of selections from Holy Writ for every day in the year. The compiler is Mr. H. Bickersteth Cook, and a devotional preface is supplied by the Lord Bishop of Exeter. The little books are to be had in two volumes, morning and evening, and also bound in one volume. Messrs. Suttaby publish them in very pretty bindings, both cloth and leather, so that they form acceptable gift-books.

Messrs. Marcus Ward & Co. (Limited).

THE books received from this house are, as usual, very elaborately and chastely ornamented. New in design and bright in accomplishment they strike the fancy at once, and we are compelled to turn over the pages again and again. One of the best books the firm has published this year is Longfellow's **Evangeline**, decorated with leaves from the Acadian forests. These pages are very charming, the different shades of colouring and the form and delicate tracery of the leaves harmonising with rich effect. Donors of artistic gift-books will not lightly pass by this volume.

The children's books of Messrs. Ward are quite new in story and design. They are chiefly of the merry order of narration. Playful verse is intertwined in designs either of romping children or comical little animals in all sorts of funny positions. We are especially struck with the truthful drawing in these picture-books; in the colour-printing they are unsurpassed. The titles of the new books are: 'Skipping Time,' 'Bubbles,' and 'Oranges and Lemons.'

Messrs. Ward & Downey.

THE works issued by this firm are marked by a highly seasonable appearance, which an investigation of their contents shows to be fully justified. But it would be strange indeed if with such an experienced and popular body of writers at their command the publishers had not scored a distinct and well-merited success. Mr. George Manville Fenn, whose reputation as a provider of Christmas literature stands deservedly high, is the author of the first volume we examine. It is entitled **The Story of Antony Grace**, and it describes with powerful emphasis and striking effect the life of a delicately-nurtured, sensitive lad, deprived at an early age of both parents, and thus consigned to experiences which must, for the most part, have been extremely unpleasant to himself, but now prove exceedingly

interesting to the reader. Mr. Fenn possesses such graphic skill in depicting the sur-

roundings of a story, and has, moreover, so powerful an imagination in constructing the details of a plot, that his present work, which exhibits him in one of his happiest humours, is sure to be widely read. Poor little Antony! his life with Mr. Blakeford, the lawyer, was certainly not overflowing with peace and comfort, and had it not been for Mary the servant and the daughter Hetty, his case would certainly have been hopeless. Eventually he runs away, and—but there, we are revealing the plot, a proceeding we are most loth to do. It will be sufficient to say that it is made up of the most thrilling episodes, arranged with deft skill and knowledge of dramatic effect, and that readers are certain to be breathlessly excited throughout. Mr. Gordon Browne, who has so frequently illustrated Mr. Fenn's works, again shows by his clever designs how capable he is of conveying a forcible idea of the author's meaning. The accompanying woodcut represents the rascally Blakeford receiving chastisement at the hands of an enraged client; Antony meanwhile, in a state of affright, looking on.



But poor lad! he received his own share of blows afterwards for having said that the lawyer was at home.

A pleasant, readable story, perhaps not particularly exciting, but pregnant with human interest, comes to hand from Katharine S. Macquoid. It is called **At the Red Glove**, this being the sign of a shop belonging to one Madame Bobineau in the Spitalgasse at Berne. But before we become acquainted with Madame Bobineau's establishment, we have been introduced to the beautiful Elvire, one of the principal characters in the story, who has been married to a man much older than herself, Monsieur Carouge, who shortly afterwards dies. Between the widow, Madame Carouge, and Marie Peyrolles, cousin of Madame Bobineau, the chief feminine interest of the story lies, while for men we have Rudolph Engemann and the stout Captain Loigerot. Amongst them all a very pretty story of love and misconception is brought about, and Marie, who is passionately in love with Rudolph, has a very close shave of being married to the vulgar Captain Loigerot. However, all's well that ends well, and with the last chapter we leave our characters in conditions of conventional happiness. The illustrations are by C. S. Reinhart. The **Memoirs of an Arabian Princess** consist of a series of sketches descriptive of the author's life in the island of Zanzibar and adjacent parts, and are admittedly written for children. We think they will also have an interest for grown-up readers. The

descriptions, embracing a variety of detail concerning the customs, life at court, schooling, and position of women generally in the East, are well written and exhibit much thought and acuteness of observation.

John o' London, by Somerville Gibney, is a pleasant story of bygone metropolitan life, in the days when Henry III. was king and Roger Bacon was a giant in the land. The hero is John Marmion, sometime apprentice to an armourer, and Mr. Gibney has invested the account of his adventures and ultimate marriage to Blanch Scoyll with much quiet interest and historic charm.

In **Through Green Glasses**, by F. M. Allen, we feel from the outset that we have made acquaintance with a writer whose genial humour is infectious and his sympathies widespread. The sulkiest of readers would break down under the unaffected, rollicking influence



of these stories of true Hibernian wit and drollery; and the most dyspeptic of mortals would expand in a happy smile. Originally, no doubt, they came from 'the little old man whose mind was a storehouse of strange legendary lore,' but infinite credit is due to the author for the appreciative manner in which he has retailed the old gentleman's stories. Perhaps the highest compliment we can pay Mr. Allen is to say that the 'yarns' fully satisfy the great expectations raised by his preface, and that Dan, who 'was thoroughly illiterate, but had contrived to pick up in some way a peculiar collection of quasi-historical facts and fables, which he winnowed through his brain, rejecting the greater part of the corn and retaining all the chaff,' has no reason, like so many other celebrated personages, to be ashamed of his interpreter. Even the solemn style of the narrator, which we are told was one of his chief characteristics, is retained, and the book is one succession of uncontrollable laughs from first page to last. It would be difficult to say which are the best of the stories where all are

so good, but for ourselves we have been most amused by 'Andy Mirrigan's Great Discovery,' 'King John and the Mayor,' 'Raleigh in Munster,' and 'From Portland to Paradise.' The account of 'Walther Rolly's' interview with 'Queen Elizabeth,' and the 'undertaking' contract they enter into, is richly delicious. Our illustration represents a somewhat novel view of the well-known cloak incident; and, like the remainder of the engravings in the book, it is from the pencil of M. Fitzgerald.

Verdi, Milan, and Othello, by Blanche Roosevelt, furnishes a delightful account of the Italian composer's life and career. Special reference is made to the operatic production of Shakspeare's great play, and portraits are given of the more celebrated singers who have appeared in the musical interpretation. Other illustrations also appear. The volume is one of much interest, and the authoress, in a refined, agreeable manner, has added to the wealth of musical attraction by her charming style. **Ignorant Essays** are extremely readable, and in some respects highly ingenious. They deal with a variety of subjects, ranging from 'The Only Real Ghost in Fiction'—we leave our readers to guess what this can be—to 'The English Opium Reader.' A perusal of this little volume will well repay the disposal of a leisure half-hour.

Messrs. Virtue & Co. (Limited).

IN the hands of this firm the art of book illustration has been brought to a high degree of perfection. As publishers of the **Art Journal**, they have experience in artistic work which few other publishers possess. For the present season Messrs. Virtue have issued a very charming series of picture-books, comprising **Frank Juggershall; or, the Lightship**, by W. H. G. Kingston, **Stories of Foreign Lands**, **Short Stories for Sunday Reading**, and **Our Noah's Ark**. These books, though moderate in price, are not common in appearance, for they contain some of the most exquisite examples of wood engraving that could be found. Purchasers having taste in this direction will readily perceive this excellence.

A very handsome book is **The Rhine from its Source to the Sea**, translated by G. C. T. Bartley, M.P. The work now appears as a new and revised edition. In history, romance, and scenery, no river in the world can outrival the glorious Rhine, which, since the days of Cæsar, has been a watchword among nations. The legends and romances of the river have



influenced the poetry and music of the world. There it was that the Lorelei sang her fateful song, and the Castle of the Nibelungen stood upon its bank. Names like this awaken wondering thoughts of the folk-songs of old, and of the masterly and magnificent music of the great tone poet who went to

eternal rest only a year or two ago. Mr. Bartley's work, which is very well known, does not call for a renewed examination, its position being established among the books of its kind. Like other writers on the scenery of rivers, Mr. Bartley follows the course of the stream, telling, as he proceeds, the story of its banks, and describing the changing aspect of the surrounding scenery. He is strongly imbued with an intense love of the subject, so that we are not surprised when occasionally his descriptions rise to the dignity of poetry.

My Pleasure Book, edited by Wallace L. Crowdy, is a book containing a collection of original tales suitable for little boys and girls about the time they are beginning the 'teens. As a rule, the stories are ripe enough to read, and the reading will, unquestionably, occupy some happy hours. The strongest point about the book, however, is seen in its illustrations, which have been selected from high sources and printed with the care which their merit and beauty deserved.

Messrs. John Walker & Co.

IF anyone wishing to give a substantial and useful present what could be better than a good and easily accessible atlas? Such a work is before us in the form of a **Handy Reference Atlas of the World**, which contains a complete series of maps illustrating physical and political geography by John Bartholomew, F.R.G.S. It seems marvellous that a work so complete in itself, and one that charts the whole world, could be prepared in a size no bigger and quite as light as an ordinary single volume novel. Yet this is the case with the clear and comprehensible work now under notice. The maps are so well up to date that Emin Pasha's country is indicated. Has the time not arrived when African territories may be more minutely mapped than by the mere Northern, Equatorial, and Southern zones? We think that such countries as Egypt, the Congo Free State, Cape Colony, and other regions are now of sufficient importance to give them a separate place even in small atlases. There is one

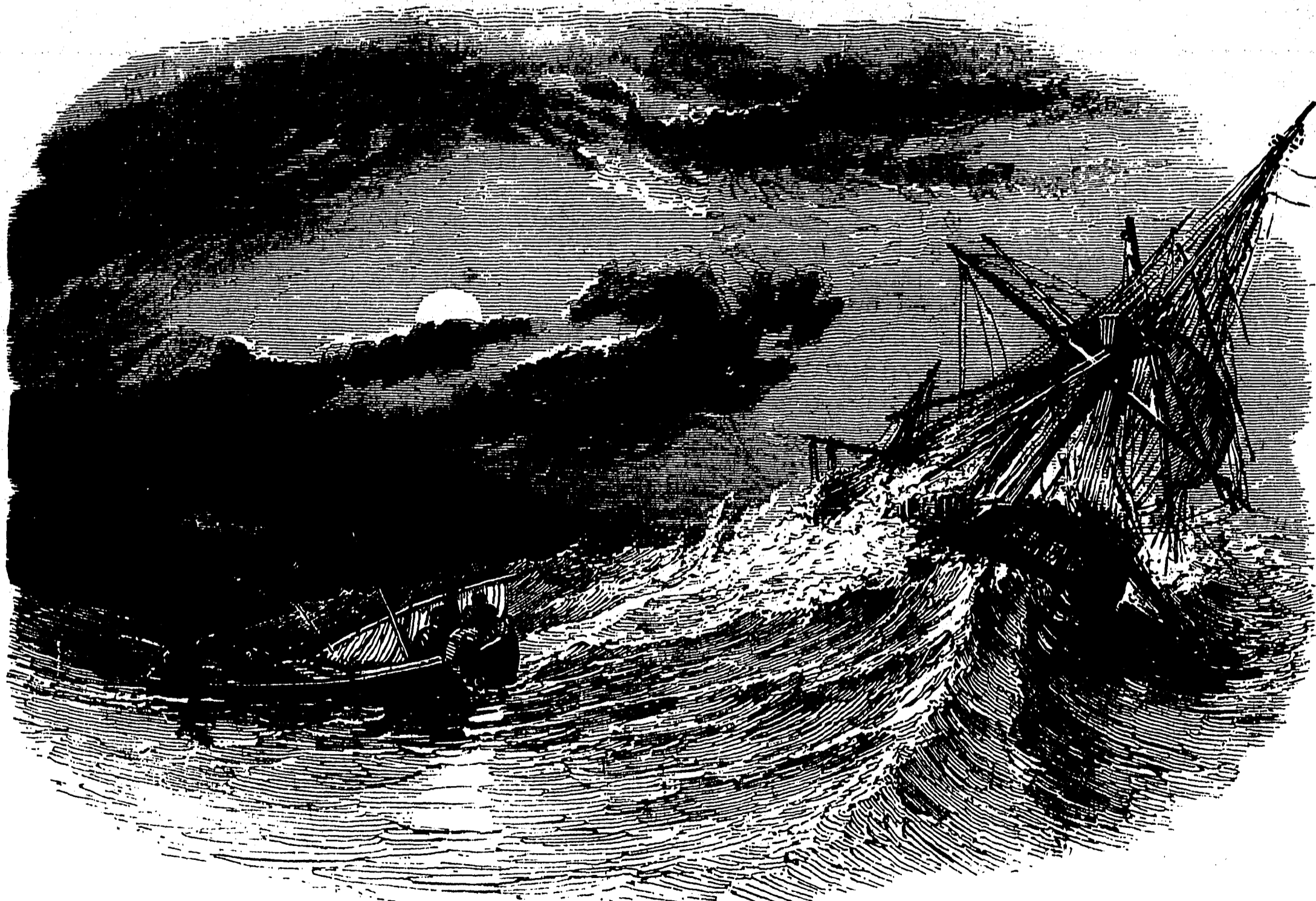
thing we strongly object to in nearly all modern atlases, and this one, to some extent, is no exception to the rule. Why cannot map-makers adhere to uniform modes of spelling? They are doing great harm to the cause of geographical education by perpetuating disparity. For example, we find in the present map of the continent of Asia very different spellings from those which appear in the sectional maps. Hunter's orthography, in so far as India is concerned, seems to have been adopted in the latter, while in the former the old spellings are retained. Thus the learner may be confused by Beloochistan and Beluchistan, Hyderabad and Hydrabad, and so forth. Africa may be referred to in the same way; variations being noticeable in the spellings on the continental map and the maps of regions, *e.g.*, Matabele, Matabili, &c. This is, perhaps, a minor fault in a handy atlas, especially one which, like the present, is most comprehensive and true in geographical detail. Upon the whole it is the best book of its kind that we have seen.

Messrs. Walker's **Miniature Golden Floral Series** has reached such a degree of popularity that any mention of the books seems almost superfluous. Trade terms would be 'sell at sight,' or 'they advertise themselves.' Whether in cloth or ornamented leather, they are extremely pretty, internally as well as externally, the monotint illustrations greatly improving the conception of poetical meaning in the fine works which they adorn. The first of the series, 'Curfew must not ring to-night,' will be pleasantly remembered; but since then we have had 'From Greenland's Icy Mountains,' 'Bingen on the Rhine,' Gray's 'Elegy,' 'Tam o' Shanter,' 'Home, Sweet Home,' 'A Lakeland Story,' and 'The Homes of England.' All these poems are peculiarly suitable for illustration in a tasteful way, and Messrs. Walker have done exceedingly well in the production of these elegant booklets.

Two series of **Christmas and New Year Booklets** are likely to prove powerful opponents to the Christmas cards of the season. Each booklet is beautifully illuminated on the outside, and the words of familiar folk-poems are set in choice designs in monotint. The verses include 'Comin' through the Rye,' 'The Last Rose of Summer,' 'Ilka Blade o' Grass,' 'The Meeting of the Waters,' &c.

Messrs. J. Warne & Co.

POOOR JACK, the unfailing favourite of boys, is issued by Messrs. Warne in new and 'stylish' form. Captain Marryat was at his best when he wrote this exciting story of adventure, in which humour and hearty sympathy are so generously blended.



The other day we saw a youth in a railway carriage reading one of Marryat's novels evidently for the first time, and we half envied his fresh delight. 'Poor Jack' in its new form,

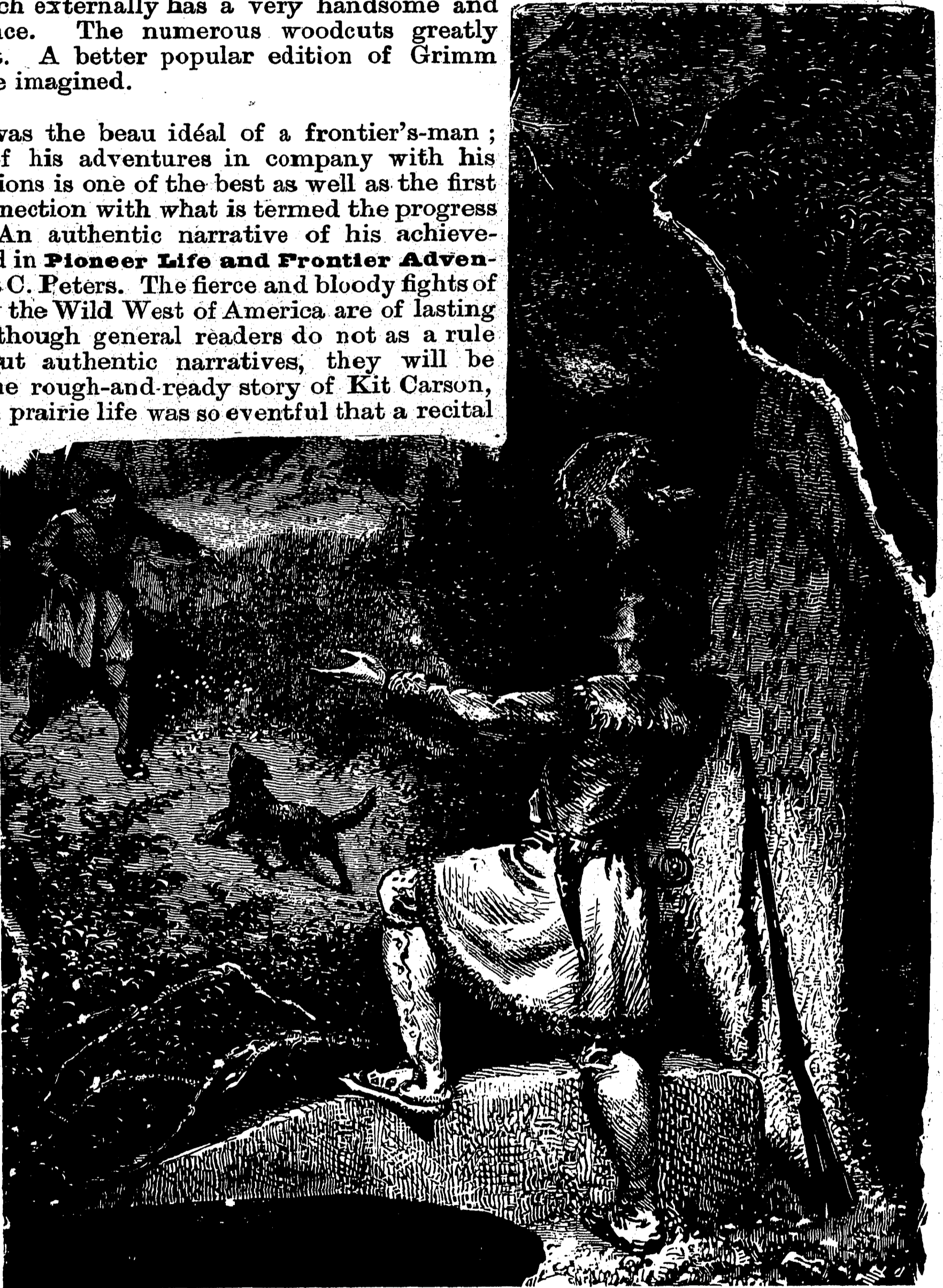
enlivened by spirited illustrations after designs by Clarkson Stanfield, R.A., merits the welcome accorded to old and tried friends.

Two established favourites are again reissued in new and attractive shapes, **Gulliver's Travels** and **Robinson Crusoe**. Very bright and graceful illustrations are the best recommendations of these volumes, which, with their brilliant covers, lay strong claims to boyish admiration.

A new edition of **Grimm's Fairy Tales**, translated by Mrs. H. B. Paull, deserves notice as a fit companion book to 'Gulliver's Travels.' Original coloured illustrations are abundant in the volume, which externally has a very handsome and bright appearance. The numerous woodcuts greatly enliven the text. A better popular edition of Grimm could scarcely be imagined.

Kit Carson was the beau idéal of a frontier's-man; and the story of his adventures in company with his intrepid companions is one of the best as well as the first on record in connection with what is termed the progress of civilisation. An authentic narrative of his achievements is supplied in **Pioneer Life and Frontier Adventures**, by Dewitt C. Peters. The fierce and bloody fights of early pioneers in the Wild West of America are of lasting interest, and although general readers do not as a rule care much about authentic narratives, they will be charmed with the rough-and-ready story of Kit Carson, whose forest and prairie life was so eventful that a recital of its incidents refreshes and invigorates the mind.

A large number of illustrations, many of them coloured, and a cheerful-looking binding make the new edition of the **Arabian Nights** a very desirable presentation volume, the printing, too, being excellently done. The Rev. George Fyler Townshend, M.A., has edited the work, which he has revised and annotated. The edition is eminently popular, in so far as it is adapted for youthful readers. Mr. Townshend in



(Pioneer Life.)

his preface gives a slight and sketchy account of the Tales, which, although interesting, is too imperfect to be of special value. On the whole, however, the new edition takes a fair place among its numerous rivals.

What a pleasant old-fashioned jingle there is about **Young England's Nursery Rhymes**! They seem to carry us back at once to the domesticity of the home circle, to the days when we were young and knew no care but want of sugar-plums. Naturally in such a work much

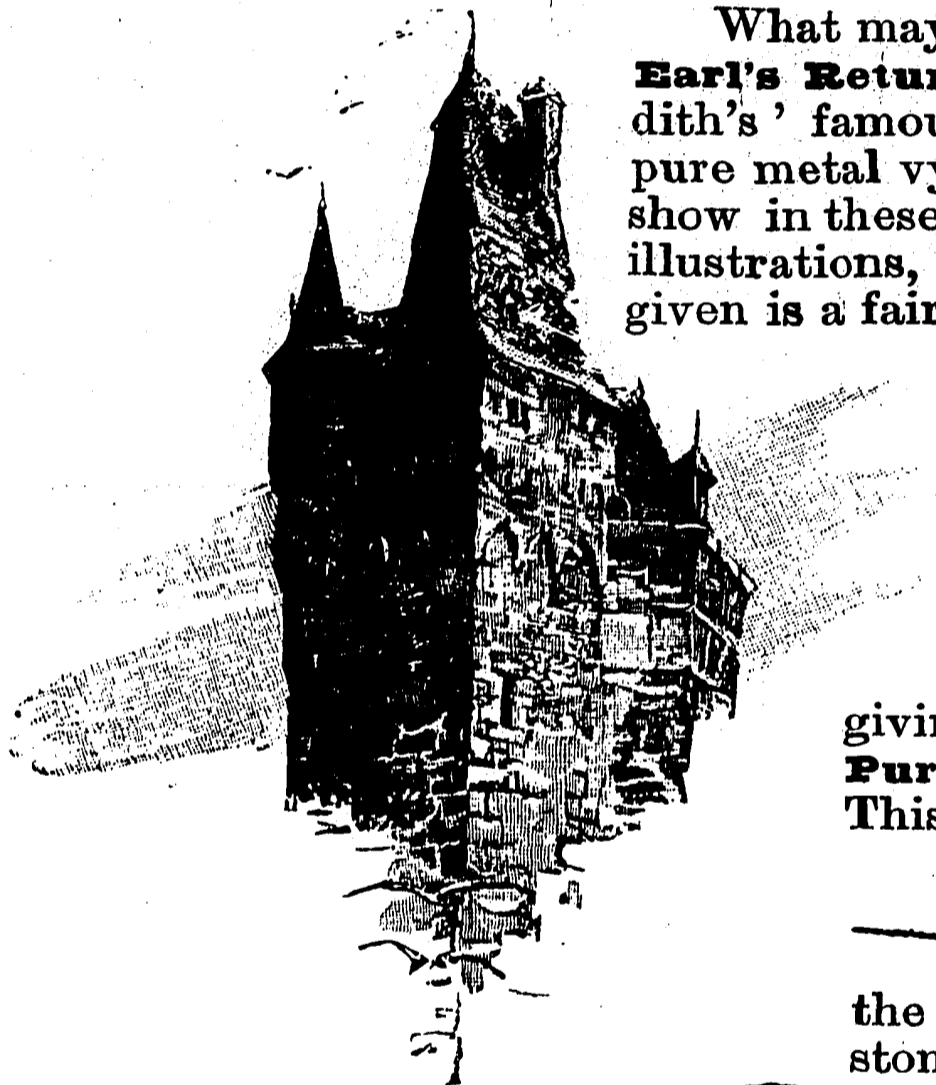


The drawings, we should add, are by Constance Hazlewood.

will depend on the character of the illustrations, and these in the present volume have been exceedingly well looked after. Unfortunately, in the accompanying woodcut we are unable to reproduce the colouring which forms so effective a feature in Messrs. Warne's little book, but if readers will kindly imagine the three old gentlemen attired in garb of sober brown, to be sailing in a pot-coloured vessel, with faces very red and beards very white, they will have a suitable idea of the comicality of the illustration. The verse runs thus :

Three wise men of
Gotham
Went to sea in a bowl :
And if the bowl had
been stronger
My song would have
been longer.

What may be called the prettiest book of the season is **The Earl's Return**, with drawings by W. L. Taylor. 'Owen Meredith's' famous poem could hardly be set in brighter gems, the pure metal vying with their brightness. We are sorry we cannot show in these illustrated pages the exquisite tone of the monotint illustrations, which are numerous and good. The woodcut here given is a fair example of the beauty of the engraver's work.



A group of shilling stories in tasteful cloth binding deserves to be particularised. They are not of the 'goody-goody' order, but are pithy and stimulating. **Ebb and Flow**, by R. André, is a study of home and abroad. Indian scenes and adventures occupy a fair share of the author's attention. Another story

giving descriptions of wild life in the far West, is **The Pursued**, by W. J. Gordon. This is a cleverly told tale of

the Yellow-
stone region.
**The Major's
Campaign,**

by J. Percy Groves, revives the stirring incidents of the Peninsular War, and much of its matter seems truthfully to follow the fortunes of the old 66th, the Berkshire Regiment. Stories of the coal mines and their hard-working, danger-threatened labourers have much in them to interest the young folk of this country; and **The Blind Brother**, by Homer Green, is told with spirit and will exercise a healthy moral influence.

Japple-Chapple is a new picture-book of a most comical description, telling the queer story of a Japanese doll who falls in love with an English lady of wax, paint, and golden hair. The pictures are most brilliant and funny; and the story, told in very good rhyme, keeps attention alive to the end, when the dolls, after the usual incidents of fiction, are married and 'done for.'



Mr. George Allen, Orpington, has issued new small editions of Mr. Ruskin's minor works, such as 'Sesame and Lilies,' 'Munera Pulveris,' 'The Crown of Wild Olive,' 'The Eagle's Nest,' and other books of the same size. They may be had in cloth plain or in roan with gilt edges. Mr. Ruskin's multitudinous admirers will not grudge the price.

Messrs. W. H. Allen & Co.—This house has published several books suitable for the season, though the majority are of more permanent importance. 'Como and the Italian Lake-Land,' by T. W. M. Lund, M.A., is illustrated by Miss Jessie Macgregor. 'The New Paris Sketch Book,' by J. G. Alger, with its sketches of men, manners, and institutions, should attract some attention. 'Service Afloat, or the Naval Career of Sir William Hoste,' and Mr. Coxwell's 'Life and Balloon Experiences' are books of note. The 'Eminent Women Series' should be kept in mind during the gift season: the new volume is 'Madame de Staël,' by Bella Duffy.

Messrs. S. Bagster & Sons.—The Bibles issuing from this house are still to be had in all the varieties of bindings which have given renown to the name. A new edition, with red lines, of 'Daily Light on the Daily Path,' in the very words of Scripture, will be in request as a seasonable present.

Messrs. George Bell & Sons have a catalogue in which will be found books suitable for old and young in all stations of life, and all degrees of understanding. Bohn's Libraries, the Aldine edition of the British Poets, Mrs. Ewing's and Mrs. Gatty's works, Captain Marryat's stories (editions of sterling quality), afford good opportunity for judicious choice.

Messrs. Bickers & Sons.—An illustrated series of standard gift-books published by Messrs. Bickers includes books of note, such as Lockhart's 'Life of Napoleon Buonaparte,' Maxwell's 'Wellington,' 'Cook's Voyages,' Dodd's 'Beauties of Shakespeare,' Southey's 'Nelson,' and so forth. The volumes are issued in a very handsome form.

Messrs. W. Blackwood & Sons.—Aytoun's 'Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers,' illustrated by Sir Noel Paton, is a standard presentation-book for the Scottish people. The illustrations are now as well known throughout the world as any of the best class of book adornment appearing in editions of 'the classics.' 'Gossips with Girls and Maidens,' by Lady Bellairs, is a volume forming a useful present for those for whom it is intended, namely the betrothed and the free. Books suitable for presents are numerous in the list of this firm; it includes George Eliot's novels, the 'George Eliot Birthday Book,' 'Bon Gaultier's Book of Ballads,' and other works of slighter renown but popularly known.

Messrs. Boussod, Valadon & Co., of the Goupil Gallery, announce a number of exquisite art volumes. Among them we notice 'English Art in the Public Galleries of London,' published under the direction of Thomas Humphry Ward, M.A.; Ludovic Halévy's 'L'Abbé Constantin,' illustrated by Madame Madeleine Lemaire; and an English edition, commencing January 1888, of 'Les Lettres et les Arts.'

Messrs. Bradbury, Agnew & Co.—'Mr. Punch's Victorian Era' throws more light upon the history of the past half-century than any chronicle of its events. Other guides, like the less approachable columns of the *Times*, are the records upon which most of our history will be based. John Leech's 'Pictures,' another book published by Messrs. Bradbury, Agnew & Co., is thoroughly a favourite of the British people. Mr. Punch owes much to the lively capacity of Leech, and it is to be hoped that all his successors will acknowledge his eminence and emulate his example.

Messrs. D. Bryce & Son.—'Our Children' should be a good present for young mothers, seeing that it treats of the ailments of the little folk and tells how to keep them well and treat them when they are ill.

Messrs. Burns & Oates.—The list of this firm contains the names of many books that are suitable for presents among the Catholic community. One of the new books published by this firm is 'A Menology of England and Wales,' compiled by the Rev. R. M. Stanton: it comprises some brief memorials of the British and English Saints.

Messrs. William Clowes & Sons (Limited) supply a list of their numerous editions of 'Hymns Ancient and Modern.' The revised and enlarged edition is now in the hands of the public, and may be had in all forms. Other books for Church worship are also offered by Messrs. Clowes, the Hymnal oratorios being a leading feature.

Messrs. James Duffy & Sons.—Irish books of all descriptions are noticeable in the catalogue of this firm, including historical works, national ballads, songs, and books on Hibernian antiquities. Specially interesting books are 'The History of the Irish Volunteers in 1782,' and Dr. Madden's 'Literary Remains of the United Irishmen of 1798.' 'Duffy's National Library' is a special feature in the catalogue.

Messrs. Ellis & Elvey.—Dante Gabriel Rossetti's works are brought forward by this firm. 'The Blessed Damozel' is illustrated with twenty reproductions in photogravure from Kenyon Cox's oil paintings.

Mr. L. Upcott Gill.—No lover of domestic animals can fail to find something that will be useful to them among the books published by Mr. Gill. A quick glance at the list shows subjects such as bees, cage birds, dogs, ducks and geese, goats, greyhounds, guinea-pigs, horses, monkeys, pigeons, and poultry. Amusements, recreations, and more sober employments are also described in the handbooks issued by Mr. Gill.

Messrs. Charles Griffin & Co. announce a twenty-third edition of Southgate's 'Many Thoughts of Many Minds,' first series, and an eighth edition of the second series. Mr. Elliott Graeme's 'Membir of Beethoven,' we are glad to see, has reached a third edition.

Messrs. Abel Heywood & Son.—Some time ago we had occasion to speak very highly of a little work, exhibiting much pathos and command of expression, entitled 'Jabez Hodges.' The publishers announce another and larger volume by the same author—P. H. Mules, M.D.—under the title of 'George Doggett, Keeper,' with numerous original illustrations by P. J. Antoine and J. Thomas. The story is one of country life and pastimes. The same publishers draw attention to their series of 'Plays and Dialogues for the Winter Season.' These consist of works of varied character, the plays being arranged for three, four, five, and more performers. A number of excellent speeches, recitations, &c., may also be mentioned.

Mr. John Heywood.—The great exhibition at Manchester has given an opportunity for the revival of many historic records of the city. 'The Booke of Olde Manchester and Salford,' by Mr. Alfred Darbyshire, F.R.I.B.A., is one of the most conspicuous of these, the author being the chief architect of the reproduction of Old Manchester and Salford at the recent exhibition. 'The History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster,' by the late Edward Baines and others, appears in a new and elaborate edition, edited by Mr. James Croston. The first volume is now ready. Mr. Croston's 'County Families of Lancashire and Cheshire' and Mr. Axon's 'Annals of Manchester' claim more than local notice.

Messrs. James Hogg & Sons, the indefatigable and universal providers of mental entertainment, promise something that may astonish the big world of 'popular' readers in the shape of a new weekly periodical containing a 'library of novelettes, fun, and adventure.' Its title is *Penny Pops*, a happy inspiration arising from the great 'Monday Pops' of Mr. Arthur Chappell. It is the first periodical we have heard of that begins a career with a special Christmas number, but if the contents of future impressions are to be of equal merit the proprietors ought to be pleased that their efforts have been understood and appreciated.

Mr. Alfred Holness.—Sunday-school teachers will find in the publications of Mr. Holness a class of book that will suit them very well indeed as Christmas prizes for their dutiful young pupils. The volume of 'Faithful Words for Old and Young' merits particular notice.

Messrs. A. & W. Huke, of Yarmouth, announce a new Christmas annual by George Thirdly, entitled 'A Fool's Stripes.'

Messrs. William Hunt & Co.'s list of new books and new editions contains several announcements of more than usual interest. Chief among these may be mentioned the new and thoroughly revised edition of 'Expository Thoughts on the Gospels,' by the Lord Bishop of Liverpool; a fresh volume in the 'Knots Untied' Series entitled 'The Upper Room;' and 'Home Truths,' a re-issue of the miscellaneous writings of Bishop Ryle.

Messrs. Hurst & Blackett.—Cheap editions of popular modern works for Christmas presents are very prominent in this firm's list. What could be better as a present than an illustrated novel by the author of 'John Halifax,' by George Macdonald, by Mrs. Oliphant, or by the author of 'Sam Slick'? Some of these volumes are illustrated by very famous artists, Gilbert, Millais, Holman Hunt, Leech, Birket Foster, and Tenniel being among the number.

Messrs. Iliffe & Son.—Cyclists will find much to interest them in Messrs. Iliffe's list. 'The Lantern' is the title of the *Cyclist* Christmas number for 1887 and 'Year Book' for 1888. The annual is illustrated by Mr. George Moore.

Messrs. Jarrold & Sons.—A work, and a very amusing one too, which recently appeared has brought forth a reply under the title 'The Man who wishes he had not Married,' by Fred. Pegram, which is published by Messrs. Jarrold, who also announce a new novel, 'Dudley,' by Curtis Yorke, author of 'That Little Girl,' which we observe has reached a second edition.

Messrs. W. & A. K. Johnston.—This renowned firm of cartographers keep pace with the times. A new edition, 1888, of the 'Royal Atlas of Modern Geography' is before the public. Though somewhat expensive—not too much so considering its elaboration—this splendid work is one of the books the nation ought to be proud of. A new edition brought down to date is an enterprise that speaks well for the spirit of the publishers.

Messrs. Kent & Co.—*Illustrations*, the attractive periodical edited by Mr. F. G. Heath, is making fast progress towards a popular goal. The pictures and literary matter are in each number more and more remarkable for general excellence.

Messrs. Crosby Lockwood & Son.—Boys of all classes and dispositions will be proud to possess a book like 'The Boy's Own Book,' which is a complete encyclopædia of sports and pastimes, athletic, scientific, and recreative. Messrs. Lockwood have several other books suitable for the season, some of them being of long-tryed merit. 'Merry Tales for Little Folk,' 'A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam,' and 'A Merry Christmas,' by Mrs. Mackarness, are still in the front rank of books of entertainment.

Messrs. J. Masters & Co.—'Three More Tales,' by A. M. F. Paget, is a pretty book and very well written. The author of 'Tales for Me to Read by Myself' has accomplished in the new effort a very grateful task, and young readers will be charmed with the result. The illustrations are very well done by H. P. Redden. Miss Stella Austin's clever books also appear in Messrs. Masters' list.

Messrs. Mitchell & Co.—Should anyone desire to give an appropriate present to a publisher, he or she should get Messrs. Mitchell's 'Newspaper Press Directory,' of which the forty-third annual issue will appear shortly. Several books of its kind are published, but we think Messrs. Mitchell's accurate volume still maintains supremacy.

Messrs. Morgan & Scott.—Religious books suitable for presentation are numerous among this well-known firm's publications. The Rev. F. B. Meyer's work on 'Elijah' has just been published. It speaks of the secret of the Prophet's power. The author's 'Israel, a Prince with God,' will be remembered. A.L.O.E.'s 'Percival's Picture Gallery' and 'Pearls of Wisdom from the Parables' are published by this firm.

Messrs. Thomas Nelson & Sons.—Beauty in the art of book decoration is always evident in Messrs. Nelson's works. Their chief book for the season is 'India: Pictorial and Descriptive,' by the author of 'The Mediterranean Illustrated.' This work contains 112 fine engravings, printed in the style which has gained for this firm a notable name.

Mr. William Paterson.—Unquestionably the most important presentation-book in Mr. Paterson's catalogue is the Edinburgh edition of the Waverley Novels. The edition is now complete and is the cheapest and best amidst a host of rivals.

Messrs. George Philip & Son.—The reputation of this firm in the department of map-work deservedly stands high. In their Christmas list they announce a number of atlases especially adapted for presents, and several volumes of geographic interest.

Messrs. Putnam's Sons' list contains several works of high artistic merit and literary worth. Among these we may mention 'The Isles of the Princes,' by the Hon. Sam'l S. Cox; 'Decisive Battles since Waterloo,' by Colonel Thomas W. Knox; and 'The Land of Sleepy Hollow,' a number of illustrations in photogravure of scenes about the home of Washington Irving, with descriptive letterpress and notes. Another book issued by this firm deserving of mention is 'Kaloolah: the Adventures of Jonathan Romer,' by W. S. Mayo, of which a new or 'Framazugda' edition has been issued.

Mr. Walter Scott.—The announcements of this publisher chiefly refer to editions of the poets and other standard works, for which he has gained a wide celebrity. The current volume of the 'Great Writers' series is 'The Life of Smollett,' by David Hannay; and in the future we are promised contributions from Austin Dobson, Canon Venables, James Sime, and Edmund Gosse. In the 'Canterbury Poets' series, Milton's 'Paradise Lost,' with an introduction by Dr. John Bradshaw, has been issued; while of the 'Camelot Series' the latest volume consists of 'The Lover' and other papers of Steele and Addison. Various gift-books of suitable nature are issued by this publisher.

Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall & Co.—The firm draw attention to their 'Approved School Books,' by Dr. Cornwell, F.R.G.S. These embrace works on geography and various branches of English composition.

Messrs. Skeffington's list chiefly comprises a number of books for the amusement of children. A ninth edition is published of 'Please Tell Me a Tale,' a volume very favourably noticed in our columns some time back, and a similar work is announced for the present season. This is entitled 'Jack Frost's Little Prisoners,' and contains contributions by Lord Brabourne, Miss Thackeray, Miss Yonge, S. Baring-Gould, Mrs. Molesworth, and others. A fourth edition has been published of 'Just One More Tale.'

Messrs. Henry Sotheran & Co.'s announcements are noticeable for a perfect wealth of bird literature. This for the most part is comprised in Gould's splendid series of ornithological and other works. Among the other books we may direct attention to 'The Geographical Distribution of Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes, and their Allies,' by Henry Seebohm, and the magnificent work on 'Famous Monuments of Central India,' prepared by direction of Sir Lepel Griffin, K.C.S.I., F.R.G.S.

Messrs. E. & F. N. Spon's list is characterised by several volumes of great technical value. 'A Handbook of Electrical Testing,' by H. R. Kempe, has reached a fourth edition, and

among the other works that are announced we notice, 'The Journal of the Iron and Steel Institute,' edited by J. S. Jeans; 'Metal Plate Work: its Patterns and their Geometry,' by C. T. Millis; and an invaluable book, entitled 'Spon's Household Manual,' a treasury of domestic receipts and guide for household management.

Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co.—Many of the books advertised in our present number have come from the press of this eminent firm, whose immense establishment for the production of book and news work is one of the industrial sights of the metropolis. Messrs. Spottiswoode have always marched with the times. The variety of types and designs displayed in our present number give evidence as to the unfailing resources of the firm. The rapidity with which the best class of typographical work is turned out is remarkable.

Mr. Edward Stanford announces a new picture-book of admirable design, edited by Miss Arabella B. Buckley, and entitled 'Animals from the Life.' The volume contains a large number of coloured illustrations by Heinrich Leutemann, which are marvellously natural and life-like. Mr. Stanford issues several other works on Natural History by the same authoress.

Mr. Elliot Stock's list contains various volumes of exceptional interest. Among them we may note a cheap edition of 'The Biblical Museum,' by the Rev. James Comper Gray; a second series of 'Obiter Dicta,' by Augustine Birrell; and a tenth edition of the 'First Series' of the same work.

Messrs. Ward, Lock & Co.—The works issued by this firm are of especial value for gift and presentation purposes. Many of them are of a distinctly instructive character, as distinguished from volumes designed for mere amusement. The volumes dealing with technical education issued by these publishers are worthy of close attention.

Mr. T. Woolmer's books are marked by a wholesome and religious tendency. The writers for the most part are clergymen whose names are familiar in this form of work. A considerable amount of fiction also appears in this publisher's list.

Calve'sche Buchhandlung, Prag, has published a book of small size but full of interest to Englishmen. We refer to Dr. Ottokar Feistmantel's 'Tea Culture in the British East Indies.' When we state that the yield of British India tea plantations this year was 90,000,000 pounds, we have said enough to show how important is the subject of this little work.

Firmin-Didot & Cie., Paris.—This house maintains its long and well-deserved renown for éditions de grand-luxe. Among its recent productions we are struck with the splendour of the illustrations to 'Napoléon I. et son temps.' This is not a political work, but rather a splendidly-illustrated chronicle of contemporary literature, science, and art. 'Madame Pompadour' is another magnificent volume. 'Woodstock' is illustrated with the same accuracy and beauty which distinguish the novels of Scott already published by this house. 'Bibliothèque Historique,' and 'Bibliothèque des Mères de Famille' cannot be too highly commended as presents for the young.

G. Grote'scher Verlag, Berlin.—The Grote'scher Verlag is famed for the taste which characterises all its publications. Three recently issued form no exceptions otherwise than in being far better than many similar books we have seen elsewhere. What could be more tempting than Botticelli's drawings to Dante, excepting Dürer's woodcuts, or the etchings of Rembrandt, Dürer, and Schongauer?

G. Hedeler, Leipzig.—The *Export Journal* has reached its fifth number, which contains many articles of interest to the trade. Amongst others we note one on the International Book Exchange (Smithsonian Institution, Boston). The third chapter of the 'Sketches of Eminent Houses' is devoted to Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington.

Ferdinand Hirt & Son, Leipzig.—This firm publish some very handsome and attractive books for young and old. Herr Adolphus Brennecke's 'Old England' should recommend itself to English as well as German readers, and if we purchase this book we shall enjoy the rare 'giftie' which the Ayrshire poet longed for, of 'seeing oursels as ithers see us.' Amongst the juvenile books we note Professors Baur and Gehrts' 'Victory of the Cross,' scenes from the introduction of Christianity into Germany. We must not overlook 'Ever with the Lord,' a selection of German sacred poetry with many illustrations.

A. Hofmann & Co., Berlin.—This firm have published 'Zur See,' edited by Vice-Admiral von Henk, a handsome volume descriptive of the dockyards, ships, and harbours of Germany, and of sailors' life afloat and ashore. The writers are thoroughly competent to deal with the interesting subjects entrusted to them, and the four hundred illustrations add greatly to the value of the book, which reflects credit on its publishers.

Andr. P. Høst & Sohn, Copenhagen.—'Histoire de Danemark,' par C.-T. Allen, is a French translation of Herr Allen's Danish History, made by Monsieur E. Beauvois, from the seventh Danish edition, and published by the well-known house of Andr. Fred. Høst & Son, which occupies so high a position in the Scandinavian book trade.

Friedrich Kilian's k. ung. Universitäts Buchhandlung.—This enterprising Hungarian house publishes several works of interest to the student of primeval antiquity. 'Der Goldfund,' by Joseph Hampel, is a contribution to the art history of the migratory period. The same author publishes through Mr. Kilian a work on the 'Antiquities of the Bronze Age.' Mr. Mauritius Wosinsky's 'Prehistoric Fortifications,' and other interesting mineralogical works of this house will be found enumerated at page 1676 of this number.

T. O. Weigel, Leipzig. has produced two remarkably handsome picture-books of travel. 'From Wonderland to Wonderland' is a book full of graphic descriptions of the principal places of interest in the United States. The text is by the best European and American authors, and the volume contains thirty large photogravures from sketches by Herr Rudolf Cronau, special artist of the *Gartenlaube*. **Paper Butterflies from Japan**, by C. Netto, contains vivid sketches of Japan and its people, to which we have referred elsewhere in Continental Notes.

Maison Quantin, Paris.—The name of this house on the title-page of any book is an amply sufficient guarantee of the value of its contents, both literary and artistic. 'Le Miroir du Monde' being written by M. Octave Uzanne, it goes without saying that the book is one to be ardently coveted by all book amateurs. Then we have charmingly-illustrated editions of two deathless fictions, 'La Cousine Bette,' that enthralling realistic (in the true sense of the word) novel of Balzac, and 'Le Roman d'un jeune homme pauvre' of Octave Feuillet. We can only glance at 'L'Extrême Orient,' from Paul Bonnetain, which is of very great value and interest, at 'Raphael,' by Lamartine, at 'Le Barbier de Séville,' with its pretty etchings by Vallon, and commend all these publications to the attention of book-buyers.

Librairie Ch. Delagrave, Paris.—This Librairie has produced a work of excellent humour, and full of capital illustrations, in 'La Farce de Maître Pathelin.' Other of its publications of interest are 'L'Afrique Pittoresque,' par Victor Tissot; 'Un An à Alger,' par J. Bandel; and 'L'Education de Petit Pierrot,' par Tante Nicole, a delightful book for the little ones.

MISCELLANEA.

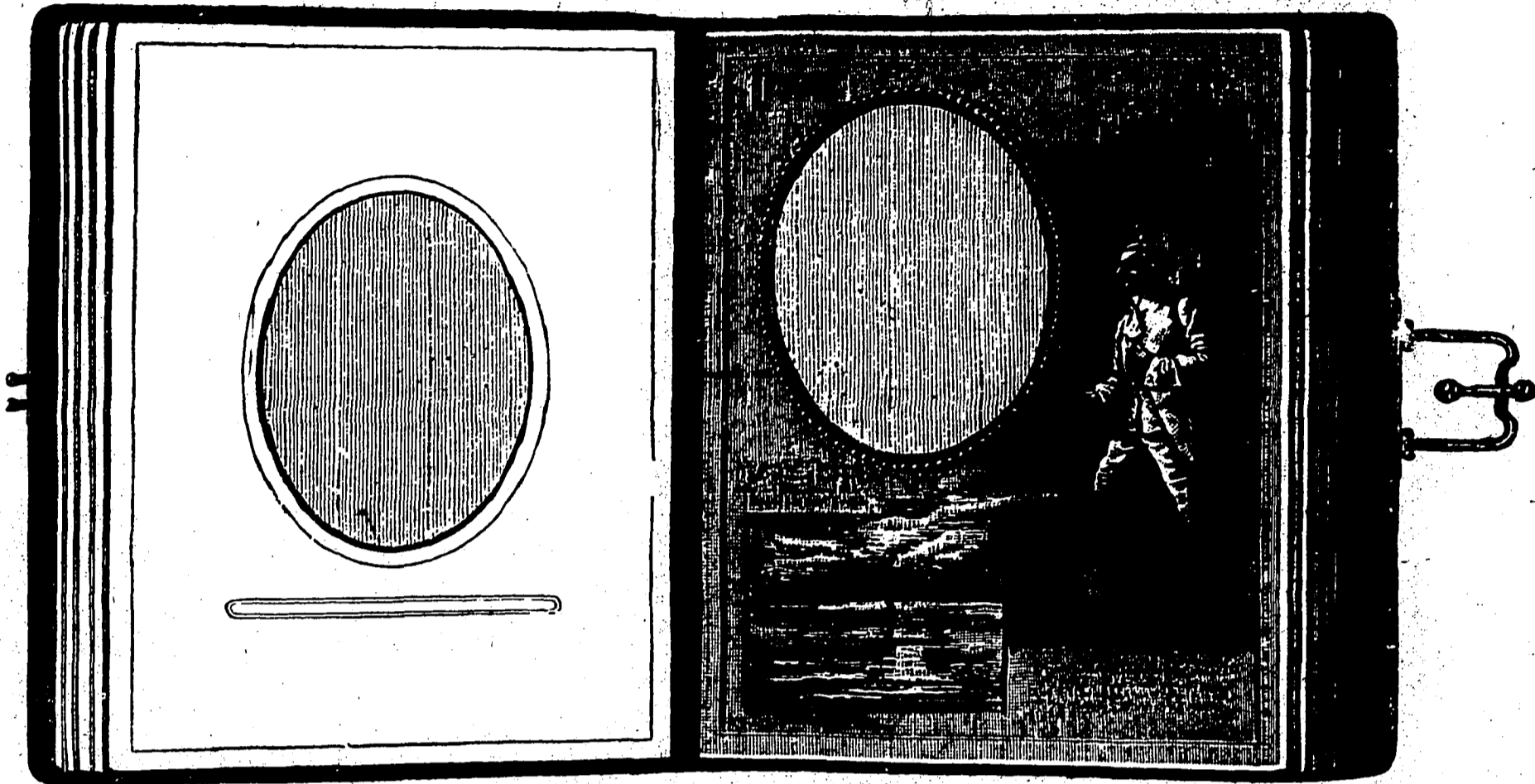


THE Diaries of **Messrs. De La Rue & Co.** have long been famed for their artistic excellence, beauty of workmanship, and useful design. Their 'Finger' and other pocket diaries have attained a notable and well-marked success. The Finger Diary alluded to is an admirable aid to memory, adapted for the waistcoat pocket. It is issued in two forms of binding, one morocco, the other russia leather. Among the plainer and pre-eminently useful productions of the firm, the Desk Diary deservedly holds a high place. It is well arranged, clearly printed, and composed of excellent paper. The publishers also issue a serviceable series of Pocket Calendars which occupy little or no room and are thus admirably adapted for the demands of constant reference. The Calendars, issued in various shapes and colours of binding, are both ornamental and useful. The Condensed Diary and Engagement Book calls for favourable mention. More expensive productions of the firm embrace a number of diaries suitable for Christmas presents. The Improved Indelible Diary for the pocket may be had in three sizes fitted in velvet, russia, calf, Turkey morocco, Persian or French morocco cases. A distinguishing feature of these diaries is the marvellous amount of information they contain. As presents we can imagine nothing more suitable or useful, and since they are issued in various degrees of binding it should certainly not be difficult to select a diary to suit every variety of taste. Like the remainder of Messrs. De La Rue's productions they are beyond all praise.

We have received the usual supply of games which **Messrs. Myers & Co.** annually provide for the amusement of young folk at Christmas time. Merry and many games are essential in the happy evenings of gay delight, when ruddy light gleams on the leaves of holly and mistletoe. 'Ups and Downs' is a happy game for any number of players, and much interest will be taken in the course of the playing. 'Struwelpeter' is a name familiar in connection with one of the best of children's stories. By permission it has been associated with a new and lively game, which Messrs. Myers have produced; thirty-six bright picture cards being supplied for the entertainment. Thirty-two cards are furnished for the game 'Cock-a-doodle-doo!' which may prove rather noisy, but will certainly delight children.

The beautiful books which **Messrs. Hildesheimer & Faulkner** introduced a year or two ago are still being followed by others of surpassing merit. This year the firm has brought out an exquisitely-illustrated edition of 'The Deserted Village.' Both in drawing and in tints the book is delightful to look upon, and there is every evidence that the artists have felt and understood the quiet dignity and music of Goldsmith's masterly work. 'Cape Town Dicky' is a children's book written by Theo. Gift. The talented Miss Alice Havers contributes the choicely-coloured pages, and Mr. Ernest Wilson supplies the finely-conceived and finished monotint drawings. Both books are worthy of the renown of the house of Messrs. Hildesheimer & Faulkner.

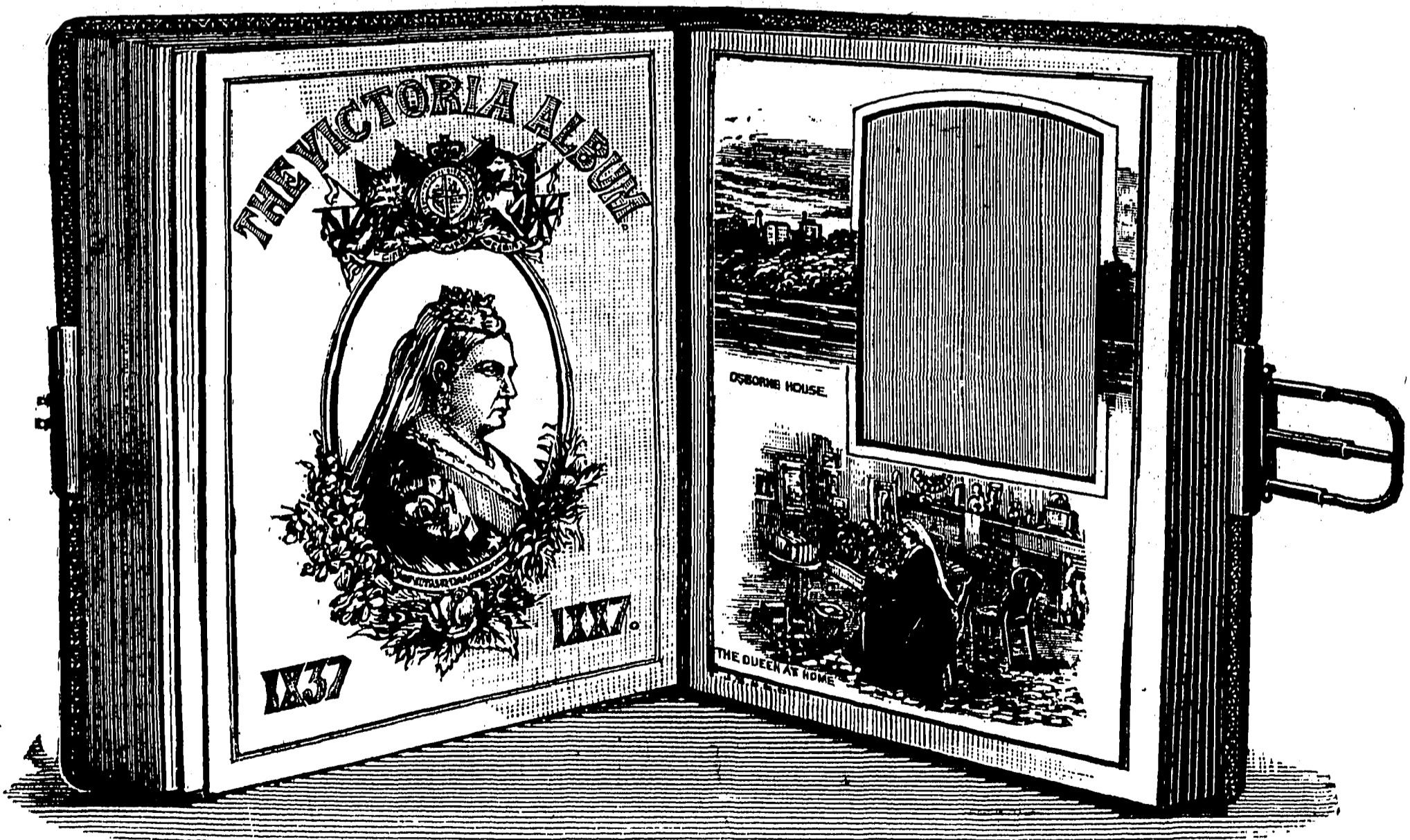
Messrs. Marion & Co. have a series of illuminated albums for the present season. One of these, the Gem Album, has illustrations from the pencil of Miss Kate Craufurd, each of which is dedicated to a precious stone, and is illustrated by a poetical quotation from one of our standard writers. Our readers will judge of the elaborateness of these pictorial frames for photographs when we say that every one has gone through nineteen printings in colour. A peculiarity of the 'gem' pictures is that the tone or hue of each stone is made to appear in the colours of its picture, and every 'gem' has its gold setting in the gilt ground of the board which holds the portrait; which, in its turn, may be made the gem of the book.



MARION & CO.

Messrs. Marion & Co.'s 'Alhambra' album is a very dainty affair. Its leaves or boards which surround the openings for photographs are elaborate examples of colour-printing, arabesque work which very strikingly throws the portrait into relief. The 'Alhambra' album is the more prominent book of a series intended solely for cabinet photos, as cartes de visite are going out of fashion. A very agreeable novelty of this series is its size, the external measurement of the cover being about 10 by 5 inches. It is probably the first handsome album to be held pleasantly in one hand.

Already we have had an opportunity of speaking of the season's albums of Messrs. T. J. Smith, Son & Downes. One of these especially has been received with great favour, and



should for some time continue to share the support of purchasers who look for elegance in these now indispensable accessories of the boudoir and drawing-room. The new 'Victoria Album' represents, in finely lithographed pictures, the chief events of the Queen's happy

reign. The scenes depicted have been chosen with care, and from an art point of view are chastely executed. These views of the child-life, domestic life, and public appearances of Her Majesty are very welcome in the form in which they appear, and they have a more permanent value than ordinary pictorial ephemera. Scenes such as the 'Opening first Exhibition, Exhibition Building, Hyde Park,' 'At Home, Osborne,' 'The Albert Memorial and Balmoral Castle,' and portraits of 'The Royal Family' make the volume unusually interesting.

The Chit-Chat Almanac, 1888 (Waterlow and Sons, Limited), appears in the usual form of block calendars; but differs from the majority of these in so far as it gives a daily supply of practical information for every-day use. Apt counsel is put forward in well-chosen quotations from great thinkers, and more than a thousand 'things worth knowing' are given for the year.

From the **Religious Tract Society** come several diaries and almanacs, which are yearly looked for by many thousands of purchasers. 'The Young People's Pocket Book,' besides supplying the customary 'calendarian' information, contains notes on diverse useful subjects. A table of incidents in the life of Her Majesty the Queen is accurately done. A more familiar aid to memory is the 'R.T.S. Pocket-Book and Scripture Calendar,' which is still remarkable for the variety of its information. The astronomical items are furnished by Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S. The 'Pocket-Book Almanac' and the 'Penny Almanac' remain in the good graces of purchasers.

If **Messrs. Griffith, Farran & Co.** are to continue issuing delightful tokens such as are seen in 'The Children's Gallery,' purveyors of the ordinary Christmas cards must look to their laurels. The various series, or rather groups, of these happy pictures, charming in tone and finish, represent all forms of pretty child-pictures. We have seen nothing better this year. 'The Little Wonder Box,' by Jean Ingelow, is a happy and useful novelty, comprising six graceful and dainty volumes of agreeable stories. The 'Six Wonders' is not an inappropriate name for these seasonable books.

CHRISTMAS NUMBERS.

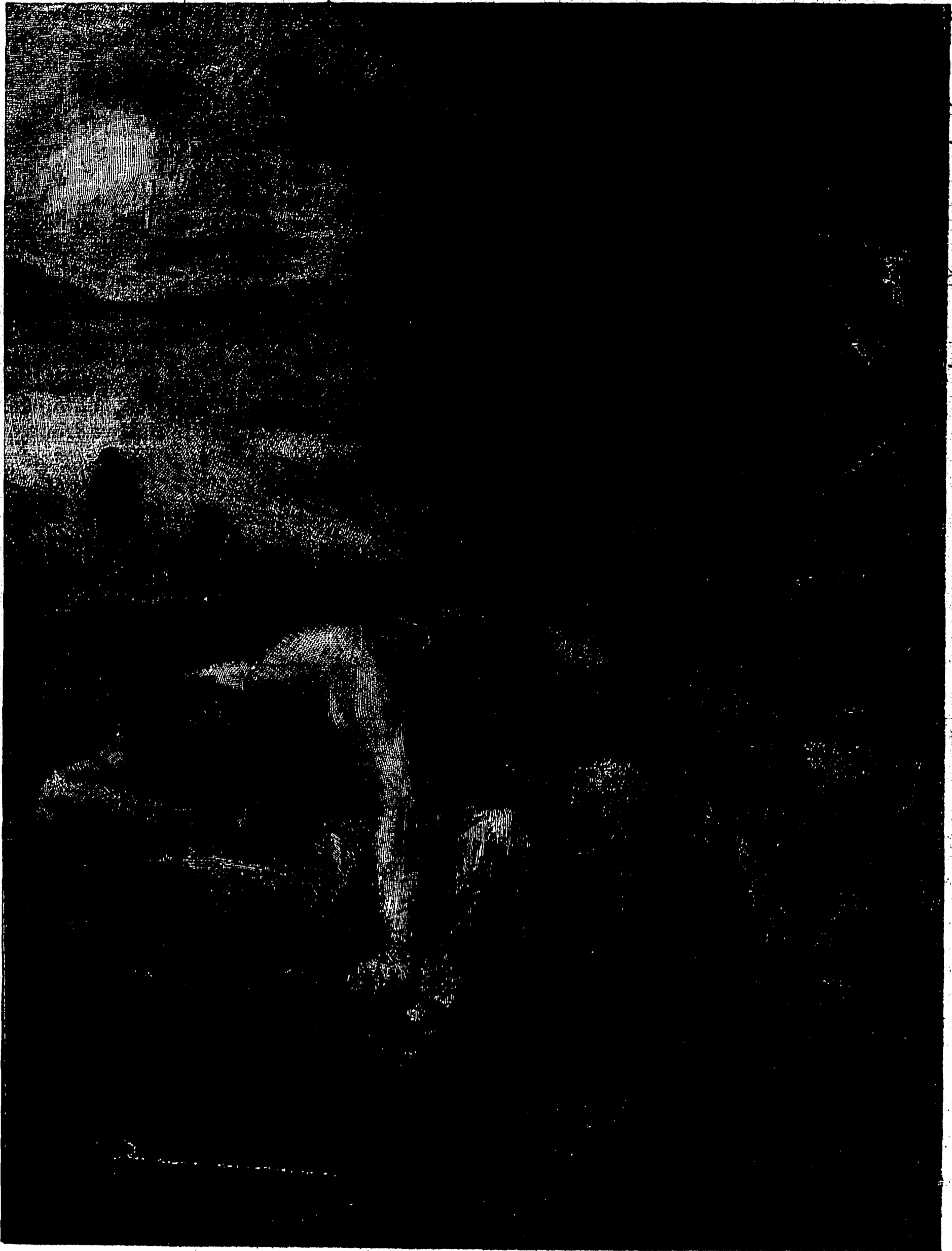


ACORDIAL welcome will salute the appearance of an English issue of **Le Figaro Illustré** (London: Spencer Blackett), the finest periodical of its class. The enterprise which has placed a good translation, with all the original embellishments, in the hands of English readers deserves staunch encouragement, and there is little doubt that this will be accorded. Sound sense, sprightly nonsense, exquisite pictures, and fairy-like music make up a round of entertainment not generally found in ordinary periodicals. Stories such as 'La Permission de Dix Heures' may be a little too 'free' for our stolid islanders, but the invincible innocence of the hero is very droll. Contributions of a more solid character are 'A Woman of Letters in the Reign of Terror,' by Alphonse Daudet, and 'The Curé of Bourron,' by Octave Feuillet. The work of these celebrated writers imparts dignity to the publication, as also does the music of Ambroise Thomas and Charles Defieux. The magnificent illustrations, more especially in colour, possess all the traits of happy freedom so familiar in the art-work of our pleasure-loving neighbours.

The fame of **Yule Tide** (Cassell & Co.) does not admit of further laudation. We think that those who have been fortunate enough to secure copies should be glad to keep them. Every year there seems to be a stronger demand for 'Yule Tide,' and copies in future will have to be subscribed for some time in advance of publication. This year Messrs. Cassell had sold off their supply before the immense impression required had been printed off.

The Monthly Packet (Walter Smith & Innes), after a fashion inaugurated by this magazine some time ago, gives a number of stories illustrative of a given theme. The subject this year is 'Where the King is, there is the Court,' to which has been added another old saying, 'Where the Master sits, there is the head of the table.' As exemplifying different phases of this topic we have a number of stories, excellently written, and as a rule fairly well constructed. The authors, with the exception of the editor, Miss Charlotte M. Yonge, are generally of comparatively unknown repute, but this year we recognise the names of Esmé Stuart, M. Bramston, Madame De Witt, E. M. Lynch, Catherine Lee, F. M. Peard, and Edith Thompson as writers whose pens have been dipped in the ink of experience. The number is one that will afford much quiet enjoyment to readers of the more thoughtful kind, and not the least of its charms is the thoroughly healthy character of the contents.

Scribner's Magazine (Frederick Warne & Co.) provides a capital instalment of reading for the Christmas season, interspersed with admirable illustrations. The number opens with a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, entitled 'Ticonderoga.' It is a somewhat weird production, as may readily be understood from the annexed engraving that accompanies it, but in graceful melody, charm of conception, and strength of expression, it possesses all the well-known attributes of the distinguished author. Following 'Ticonderoga,' we have a capital little work of fiction by Bret Harte, told with powerful intensity and rugged force, entitled 'A Drift from Redwood Camp.' Stories by H. C. Bunner, T. R. Sullivan, and Sarah Orne



Jewitt are also included in the number. 'In Dickens-Land,' by Edwin Percy Whipple, is the title of a thoughtful, appreciative paper, which possesses many points of interest beyond the mere analysis of the celebrated author's work. E. H. and E. W. Blashfield write an interesting if somewhat lengthy article, entitled 'In Florence with Romola,' which is exquisitely illustrated. Other contributions, poetic, in which the number is peculiarly rich, are furnished by Louise Imogen Guiney, Elizabeth Akers, Austin Dobson, S. Decatur Smith, jun., Graham R. Tomson, and Edith M. Thomas. The artistic frontispiece to the number is from a drawing by William Hole, A.R.S.A., engraved by F. Juengling.

The Mistletoe Bough (Simpkin, Marshall & Co.) continues, under the editorship of Miss Braddon, to provide stories of a sensational if not very polished description. The current annual issue is very similar to those which, in recent years, have preceded it. However, readers if they may have reason to complain of the quality should certainly be content with the quantity provided; and we dare say that the less discriminating will be very much pleased with both matter and contents alike. Altogether the number contains twelve stories, or 'sprigs of mistletoe;' and as the majority rest on a foundation of love-making, we suppose there must be amply sufficient osculatory practice to account for the title. Where all are of equal literary merit, it would be impossible to select any for special commendation. The number is illustrated.

Judy's Annual for 1888 (*Judy Office*, 99 Shoe Lane) is entitled **Children of Babylon**. The cover, designed by Leslie Willson, is an extremely effective piece of work, and forms a good index to the character of the contents. These are of varied kind, many displaying symptoms of humour, others distinguished by powers of pathetic narration. But on the whole we are inclined to think that the illustrations outweigh the literary contents in merit, and will form the distinguishing feature of the annual. We are glad to see that the editor, Mr. Charles H. Ross, appears *in propria persona* and adds his quota to the general humour. The number should form an excellent expedient for whiling an idle half-hour away.

Diprose's Annual (Diprose, Bateman & Co.) contains a variety of reading, of more or less sensational kind. Mr. George Manville Fenn leads the way with the story of 'A Drugged Cigar'; and following this we have contributions from John Baker Hopkins, Howard Paul, Jean Middlemass, J. H. Brame, Mrs. Sale Lloyd, Frederick Warren, and others. The matter thus given should find many and interested listeners, and in some cases their imagination should be worked up to a high degree of intensity. The illustrations accompanying the text are of very unequal kind, and call for no particular mention.

The English Illustrated Magazine (Macmillan & Co.), though presenting nothing distinctly seasonable in tone, at the same time contains an admirable assortment of matter of varied and interesting kind. The illustrations form a marked feature of the number, and, as usual, are of exquisite skill. W. Outram Tristram continues his entertaining articles on 'Coaching Days and Coaching Ways,' artistically assisted by Hugh Thomson and Herbert Railton. A very interesting article proceeds from the pen of J. Fitzgerald Molloy, under the title of 'What Players are they?' Among the illustrations we have engravings of Mrs. Yates as Medea, Peg Woffington as Mrs. Ford in the 'Merry Wives of Windsor,' David Garrick as Abel Druggier, Mrs. Clive as Phillida, and of Mrs. Abington. These are taken from celebrated pictures. R. Bowdler Sharpe discourses learnedly on 'Ornithology at South Kensington,' Laurence Oliphant furnishes an interesting contribution concerning the 'Sea of Galilee,' and H. D. Traill writes the usual 'Et Cætera.' A very characteristic story, bright and vivacious, appears from the pen of 'J. S. Winter,' and other fiction is supplied by Mrs. Molesworth, the author of 'John Herring,' and Professor Minto. Two poems, one by George Meredith, the other by Sidney A. Alexander, are included in this part.

Mr. B. L. Farjeon is scarcely seen at his best in **While Golden Sleep doth Reign**, the Christmas number of 'Good Words' (Isbister & Co.). From such a master of seasonable literature we naturally expect work of a very high standard, but in his present contribution Mr. Farjeon has relied upon old material, arranged, however, with a practised hand. The story naturally turns upon a question of love—in this respect all fiction is very much alike. Mr. Wayland, a spice merchant, of Crutched Friars, possesses an only daughter and also two clerks. Both love the fair Dorothy. By a piece of treachery—the forgery of a diary and other evidences of guilt—the one, Robert Walford (who, by the way, talks very sensibly at times, and, wicked as he is, almost succeeds in enlisting our sympathy), triumphs over the other, Frank Harding, and carries off the prize. After some years Robert's wife and daughter Mamie are befriended during the siege of Paris by Frank and Frank's son Walter. Mamie falls in love with Walter, and *vice versa*; Robert is eventually convicted of his treachery, Frank is merciful, and all ends happily. Our criticism that the story runs on well-worn lines will, by this brief outline, we think, be amply justified. But, none the less, it is extremely interesting, and the narrative in this respect owes no little to the illustrations of Mr. Gordon Browne.

For the customary extra number of the 'Sunday Magazine' (Isbister & Co.) Sarah Tytler is responsible. Her story is entitled **Vashti Sauvage**, and the narrative from the first, when we become acquainted with the strange gipsy child whom Roger Smith picks up on his way home, proves of exceptional interest and emotional power. Vashti is a peculiar being, deeply imbued with the vagabond thieving disposition of her race, and with little appreciation of the distinction between right and wrong. But beneath this outer crust of stolid indifference there lie the germs of a really fine character. This it is principally the purpose of the story to show, and Vashti comes through with flying colours. The scene between herself and her master in the library, when he is contemplating suicide, is powerfully and dramatically portrayed, and furnishes another instance of the depth and capability of the authoress in dealing with situations of this kind. Robert Barnes, who has illustrated the work, in some cases displays great merit, but his efforts as a whole are very unequal.

We have so long been accustomed to the interesting reading and beautiful illustrations of **Harper's Magazine** (Sampson Low & Co.) that we begin to look for, and naturally expect in this periodical, a series of contents that shall be immeasurably superior to the ordinary run of magazine literature. Even to an exacting mind, however, the Christmas number seems to be fully up to the average. Nowadays the old fashion of providing stories at this time of the year beaming with philanthropy, general good-will, plum-pudding and gluttony is partially dying out, and in their stead we find matter of general interest, full bodied in tone, often fictional, and of widely diversified attraction. In such reading the Christmas



number of 'Harper' is peculiarly abundant, though, as we shall presently show, even in distinctly seasonable contents it is by no means wanting. The number is especially rich in fiction and verse. The frontispiece, a delicate piece of work, by E. A. Abbey, finds its inspiration in Winthrop Mackworth Praed's poetic contribution, 'The Vicar.' Five other poems adorn the number. These, in order of insertion, are by Andrew Lang, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Will Carleton, Harriet Lewis Bradley, and William Black. Mr. Carleton's contribution is one of the distinctly seasonable offerings referred to above. It is entitled 'The Convict's Christmas Eve.' The other kindred contents are 'Captain Santa Claus,' a story by Charles King, U.S.A., who, being in the army himself, should of course know all about his subject; 'Annie Laurie,' an exquisite creation by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps; and 'Inja,' a story by Amélie Rives. From the illustrations to the latter fiction by Frederic Dielman we take the accompanying woodcut. It represents an important event in the story. Remaining fiction, always of entertaining

kind, in the number is supplied by Charles Egbert Craddock and Frances Courteney Baylor, while from the neat and epigrammatic pen of William Dean Howells we have a similar contribution to his farce of 'The Mouse Trap' in last year's annual. Articles on 'Our Garden Flowers,' by F. W. Burbidge, F.L.S., and 'Precious Stones in the United States,' by George F. Kunz, with the usual 'Editor's Easy Chair,' 'Editor's Study and Editor's Drawer,' complete a number that is thoroughly enjoyable, and, what is a matter of considerable consequence, is complete in itself.

Grant & Co.'s Christmas annual is, as usual, written by Mr. R. E. Francillon. It is entitled **The Seal of the Snake**, and is exhibited in 'seven coils.' The story opens in France with a very prettily-described scene between Francis Grenvil and the heroine, Helen Desmond. Afterwards we are transferred to another part of the world, and here make the acquaintance of vain, shallow-pated Etienne Pasqual, one of the best-drawn characters in the work, if morally not the most attractive. Etienne's extreme conceit renders him very untruthful, and as a lady-killer he thinks himself simply irresistible. Speaking of his want of veracity, the author humorously writes: 'Not that the young officer was anything less than the soul of honour; indeed, he knew himself to be so absolutely incapable of telling a lie that if he said that it was he, and not Napoleon, who had fought the battle of Austerlitz he would have believed it implicitly and for ever.' And so, as he was very much in the habit of telling himself things, it was but natural, being of an eminently sympathetic nature, that he should repeat them to his friends.' The first appearance of this self-satisfied young man at Château Mirabel, the house of his cousin, Ludovic Pasqual, is richly delicious, and the entire story will well repay perusal on account of the seductive character of the writing. The plot is scarcely so clearly worked out as it might be. The name of the story arises from a peculiar birth-mark on the heroine's arm, which at a time of great peril is the means of protecting her from a horrible death.

This year **The Christmas Rose** (James Clarke & Co.) is devoted to that funniest of stories the 'Old Woman and Her Pig.' Mr. Ernold A. Mason shows pictorially and with effect the odd obstacles and vicissitudes which the queer old woman so successfully overcame. The Christmas number of **The Christian World** (Messrs. James Clarke & Co.) takes the form of an interesting, skilfully-developed story by F. M. F. Skene, entitled 'Awakened.'

A Study in Scarlet, a story by A. Conan Doyle, furnishes the title for 'Beeton's Christmas Annual' (Ward, Lock & Co.). The general character of the number is very similar to the issue of last year. In addition to the leading fiction, which is vigorously written and possesses much sensational interest, the annual contains 'Food for Powder,' a vaudeville for the drawing-room, by R. André, and 'The Four-Leaved Shamrock,' a comedietta, from the pen of C. J. Hamilton. The illustrations are by D. H. Friston, Matt Stretch, and R. André.

The extra Christmas issue of **Household Words** (Charles Dickens & Evans) consists as usual of a variety of stories, well selected, and for the most part of capital interest. Among the authors are 'Rita,' Paul Blake, J. W. Houghton, the author of 'The Story of Eunice,' and Richard Henry. Various pieces of poetry are interspersed throughout the number. The coloured illustration is entitled 'On Duty at Windsor Castle.'

Myra's Journal (Myra & Son) presents a bulky appearance, and is unusually replete with contents that are suitable for the season, including a coloured fashion plate, several designs of ball-room and other costumes, full size cut-out patterns, a story, a play, and several short articles.

Two annuals that are remarkable for their bright, cheerful appearance, excellent illustrations, and wholesome contents are **Evergreen**, the Christmas attraction of *The Girl's Own Paper* and the extra number of a corresponding periodical, *The Boy's Own Paper*. Both proceed from the office of the Religious Tract Society, and are well worthy of perusal.

We have also received the Christmas number of the **Christian Million** (4 Ludgate Circus Buildings), which supplies a large quantity of suitable fictional matter; and **Queen Hoveyou's Five o'clock Tea** (Mr. Thomas Murby, 3 Ludgate Circus Buildings)—an excellent form of musical entertainment for young people, the author of the libretto being Kate Osborne, and the composer Thomas Murby. The idea of thus interesting children in a juvenile play, full of melodious if simple harmony, is a capital one; and here it has been carried out with enterprise and splendid effect. This 'Fairy Kindergarten Cantata' has only to be known to be highly appreciated, and as a means of entertaining juvenile assemblies its success should be assured. Our illustration represents the Fairy Queen of the piece.

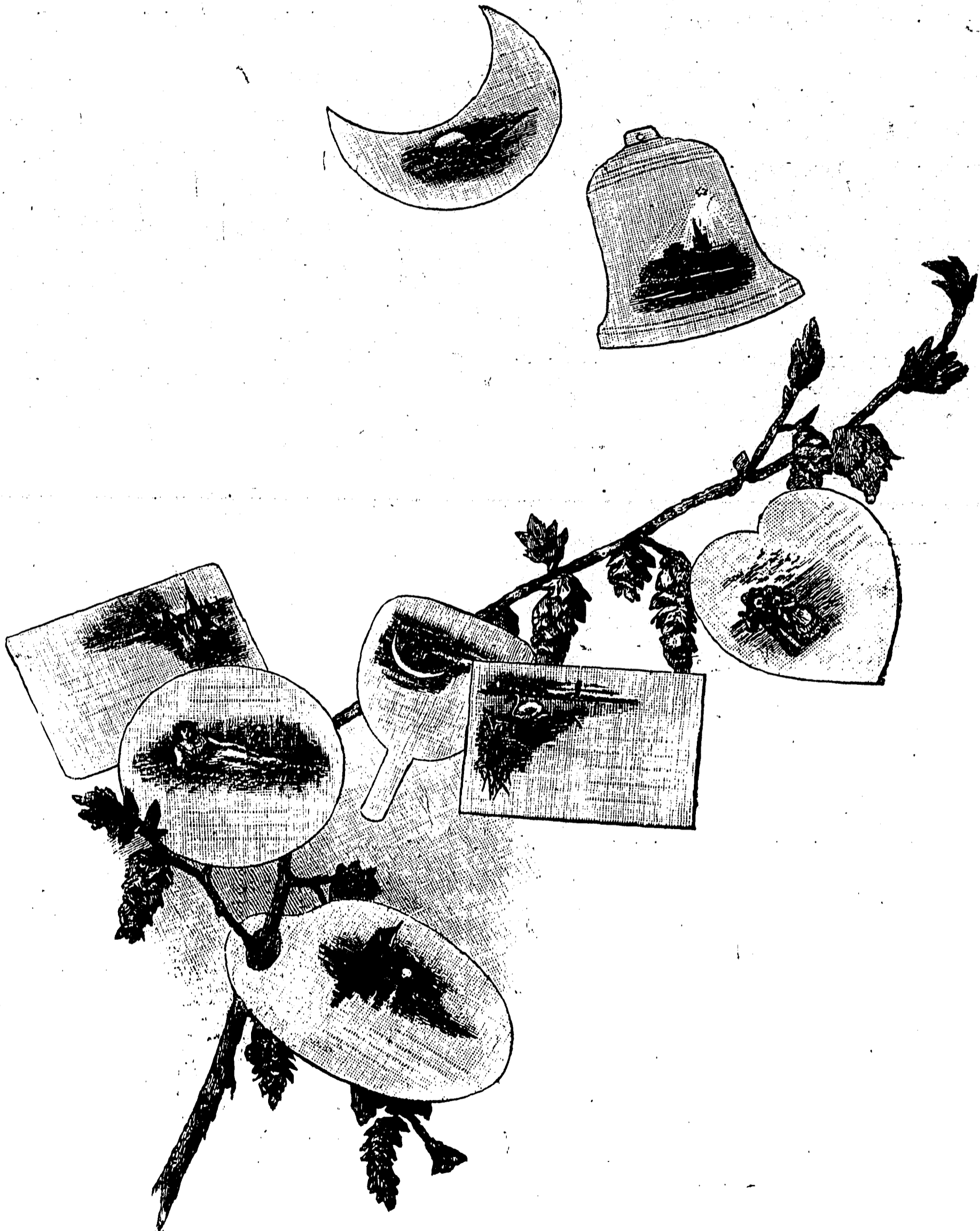


CHRISTMAS CARDS.



If these complimentary favours are to have a longer lease of life some effort must be made to give them a stronger claim upon public favour. Only a year or two ago they seemed to be permanently fixed in the warm-hearted affections of the English people at Christmas time. Now, however, there seems to be a desire to send something more lasting, and possibly more interesting, than ordinary cards to relatives as well as friends; and so we find that pretty monotint and coloured brochures have, to a large degree, supplanted even the beautiful cards which enliven the booksellers' windows for a season.

One of the first firms to go upon new lines was **Messrs. Hildesheimer & Faulkner**. They still keep to the front in noting what is wanted by purchasers, observing the fashions in cards, with the evident knowledge that these change like everything else and must be provided for. The latest development of this firm is a collection of autograph cards; that is



to say, series with monotint pictures, having greetings and showing spaces for the name of the senders. We have seen several varieties of this kind of card, but none can surpass, while few can equal, those published by the firm we speak of. The lovely little books with compli-

mentary emblems and notes are sure to take a good place. 'A Land of Flowers,' by Ernest Wilson, and 'Swallow Flights,' by Fred. E. Weatherly and others, are special favourites. The usual cards sent from this artistic house are remarkable for their softness in colour and general effectiveness and originality of design.

Text cards suitable for Christmas and New Year are the specialities offered by **Messrs. Campbell & Tudhope**, of Glasgow, whose publications show experience and taste in design and manufacture.

Prang's American cards seem still to hold their own amidst a vast amount of competition. In the selection which **Mr. Ackermann**, of Regent Street, has sent us, we notice a marked superiority over other cards in the drawing and colouring of flowers, especially roses, which are pictured with marvellous fidelity and beauty. If all publishers paid the same attention to art details which is shown by Prang, Christmas cards would soon become objects of art to be carefully framed and kept. We trust that Mr. Ackermann will long have a collection to show that is so worthy of honest admiration and praise.

Mr. T. Stevens, of Coventry, sends some novelties in pure silk woven-work, which has secured for his name a unique reputation. We have before us delicately woven portraits of the late Lord Beaconsfield, of Mr. Gladstone, and the latest fancy lion of London society—'Buffalo Bill.' The portrait of Mr. Gladstone is the best; that of 'Buffalo Bill' the most picturesque. Does it not show something of subtle irony to give the late Premier the emblem of the rose, thistle, and shamrock?

Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode have a very pretty collection of cards, mostly in the best style of art lithography. The coloured floral autograph cards are a novelty that should be mentioned especially. Baskets of flowers and crosses with cherubs' heads are designs which to us are entirely new. The landscapes shown on some of the cards are unusually bright and true to nature. Not a few of Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode's productions in this department are very humorous, the children's cards especially.

The numerous body who desire to have Scripture texts incorporated in the complimentary wishes of the season should ask for the publication of **Mr. E. Kaufmann**, which are abundant and thoroughly good. Not only do we find text cards for the wall, but also text cards for books and text cards for posting to friends. The special packets of cards which Mr. Kaufmann publishes are both cheap and varied; they are brightly illuminated, have appropriate names, and are altogether much above the average. This publisher seems to have a very wonderful assortment of Scripture-text, birthday, and Christian-greeting cards.

The best 'line' in **Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons'** publications which have come under notice are the porcelain pictures. As a rule the majority of the firm's publications do not this year call for special comment, but their name is a good guarantee, and nothing that is absolutely inartistic could be expected to come from their establishment. To celebrate the Jubilee a richly-coloured group of the 'Royal Circle at Windsor' is published by Messrs. Tuck, whose general collection of cards may be spoken of as being more than equal to many other publications of a kindred nature.

*** Pressure on our already overcrowded pages has compelled us to hold over several notices and notes interesting to the book world. These include remarks on the extraordinary action of the London School Board in its determination to manufacture special books for its teachers, without allowing the principal parties to have a voice in the matter at all. Notes on some new phases of the Copyright question have also been unavoidably held over.*

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.—Is Shakespeare to become the traditional Homer of England? One would think so from the serious doubts which have been expressed regarding the authorship of the immortal plays. Some amusement must be caused by the present newspaper controversy about Mr. Donnelly's discovery. But, after all, what can be said until we know the bearings and the facts of Mr. Donnelly's researches? It is impossible to judge pros and cons until we

have before us the key to the mysterious cipher which has occupied Mr. Donnelly's attention for so many years. We look forward with interest to the appearance of the book.

THE REVISED VERSION OF THE BIBLE AND TESTAMENT.—It is some time since the correspondence appeared in the newspapers respecting cheap editions of the Revised Version of the Holy Bible and of the New Testament. These were urgently called for, but the call was not responded to until recently, when the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge determined to issue editions that in price would compare with the Authorised Version. The New Testament, Revised Version, can now be had at sixpence and the Holy Bible at one and sixpence. A ruby 16mo. Bible sent us by Messrs. C. J. Clay & Sons is a very legible and compact volume. Editions of the Revised Version can be had either at the Oxford or Cambridge warehouse, being the joint property of the Universities.

BOOKSELLERS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—The usual monthly meeting of the directors of this institution was held at the offices, 56 Old Bailey, on Thursday, the 17th ult., Mr. George Cox presiding. The sum of £117. 7s. 6d. was voted for distribution in temporary and permanent assistance to seventy members and widows of members.

CLASSIFIED EDUCATIONAL CATALOGUE.—The new edition, the third, now before us, differs from its predecessor mainly in being more than half as thick again, owing to the great increase in the number of books published for instruction, and will be so much more useful to the master, student, librarian, and bookseller. The work of School Boards has been a stimulus for the production of elementary manuals in almost inconceivable variety on arithmetic, English grammar, and science. Minute and careful enumeration of these aids to learning is one of the main features of Messrs. Sampson Low & Co.'s 'Classified Catalogue,' especially in this new edition. It is perhaps worth remarking that although for convenience sake the catalogue is called 'classified'—that being a familiar word—the arrangement is a great deal simpler than that. For example, works on the Calculus are found under that word, instead of troubling an unlearned consulter to think or find out that the calculus is a branch of mathematics—and so with other branches of learning. Recording and keeping distinct the various editions, translations, and commentaries on the classics of Greece and Rome is also a matter which has received great attention.

PROCESSES OF AUTOMATIC ENGRAVING.—These are daily becoming more numerous, and the results attainable are occasionally so satisfactory as to command attention. Many of the pictorial periodicals of the day depend entirely upon some form of 'process' work for their illustrations; while even those which aim at a character for artistic production have recourse to occasional specimens of so-called automatic engraving. A great desire has naturally arisen for reliable information as to the methods of production and the capabilities of the various processes; so that the means may be acquired of ascertaining the essential difference between process engraving and wood engraving, and of distinguishing between the various processes which offer themselves in competition with manual engraving. It is evident that such technical knowledge must be of immense practical importance to publishers, and we are asked by one or two correspondents to direct their attention to the sources of such information. In the *Art Journal* of 1886 there are some articles on the subject by Mr. James Shirley Hodson, who is the author of an illustrated work on processes published recently by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. This book gives a brief history of the older forms of manual engraving, together with descriptions of the most important of the processes now in use, including heliotype, photoglyphic or Woodburytype, stannotype, photogravure, photo-zincography, relief aquatinting, &c. In each case practical directions are given for accomplishing the work, and the book contains

satisfactory specimens of many of the processes dealt with.

THE 'GRIEVANCES' AGAIN.—We think, remarks the *Broad Arrow*, the verdict of outsiders—if we may so say—will be 'Much ado about nothing.' The whole thing lies in a very small compass. Successful authors, and writers of books which on the face of them carry success, can go to any leading publisher and practically make their own terms. But untried authors, and that multitude of aspirants to fame and profit who deluge publishers with their MS., must either be content to take upon their own shoulders the risk of bringing out their works, or place themselves in the hands of a respectable firm and consent to such arrangements as will secure the publishers against loss. The business of our leading publishers is conducted in such a way that the dishonest practices and secret profits spoken of by Mr. Besant are impossible. Does Mr. Besant suppose that these firms are, year after year, in collusion with their staff of clerks, their printers, stationers, and bookbinders, to defraud authors? Mr. Besant says he has received no answer to his repeated question, 'Where there is no risk, what share in the proceeds of a book should be given to the publisher?' We undertake to say that if Mr. Besant is quite sure about the 'no risk'—it all hinges on that—he might get in one day a dozen replies to his question from as many high-class firms. If we may be allowed to guess, we should say that any firm would be satisfied with a profit of 15 per cent. The truth is, the grievances of authors lie with the unsuccessful, who seem to regard the whole fraternity of publishers as a gang of wolves, and even successful authors are sometimes not unwilling to take up a cry which ceases to attract because of the frequency of its reiteration. Byron, we believe, altered a certain text thus: 'Now, Barabbas was a publisher.' What Byron said jocularly we are afraid many people believe honestly, they verily think that robber and publisher are synonymous terms. That there is ground for such belief amongst our leading publishers we as honestly doubt. One word more with Mr. Besant. He instances, as an example of profits, a book of which 10,000 copies are printed; but of how many books are 10,000, or even 1,000, printed and sold? The difficulty is, we should say, with the small editions. Mr. Andrew Tuer's remarks seem most practical; but we, for the life of us, cannot see how a printer like himself can make such an extraordinary suggestion as keeping the type standing and working off a hundred copies or so as required.

'THE BOOKWORM.'—Numerous have been the attempts to start and maintain a periodical that should deal almost exclusively with the literature of the past. Perhaps the most original in design and execution was J. Ph. Berjeau's *Bookworm*, which appeared about twenty years since, and is now priced high in second-hand booksellers' catalogues. The *Bibliographer* appeared in December 1881, under the editorship of Mr. H. B. Wheatley,

but it was too select and had no interest whatever for the very numerous class of readers who are fond of books, and of reading about them, but who have no taste for the drybones of pure bibliography. In three years this came to an end, and, Phoenix-like, from its ashes *Booklore* sprang into existence; the alteration was decidedly not an improvement, and at the end of the sixth volume it too became numbered among the defunct. Mr. Elliot Stock's new venture is entitled the *Bookworm*, of which the first number is before us. It is certainly a very good number. Mr. Andrew Lang supplies the opening article in the form of eight charming verses about books. Mr. H. B. Wheatley writes about John Wesley's English Dictionary, and many people



will learn for the first time that the famous Methodist included lexicography among his other accomplishments. Mr. A. C. Bickley, whose special subject of study (as may be seen from the 'Dictionary of National Biography') is Quakers, is quite at home in recounting a somewhat pathetic story relative to the 'Bibliographer of the "Friends,"' whose name is Joseph Smith, and whose habitation is in Whitechapel High Street. Mr. W. Roberts contributes an article on Grub Street, to which three illustrations are given. Mr. John Lawler's long experience and study in one of the most eminent firms of book-auctioneers well qualifies him to write upon 'A Comparison of some Auction Prices of Books in the Seventeenth and Nineteenth Centuries.' 'School Books in Ireland,' by Mr. J. L. Gomme, concludes the signed articles, but there is a very judicious selection of shorter notes and paragraphs, all of which go to make a very cheap and good number. We wish the *Bookworm* every success.

MR. HARE'S NEW BOOKS.*

Though Paris has not, to any great extent, influenced the world of science, and though she takes but a secondary rank in art, yet in her

dynastic revolutions, in her terrible upheavals of passionate popular wrath, her force has pulsated throughout the civilised world. If she has not given deep thinkers and mighty giants of invention, she has nevertheless influenced the world to an extent not appreciated except by close observers like Mr. Hare, whose remarks lie before us in the two handsome volumes respectively called 'Paris' and 'Days near Paris.' In 'Paris' we are conveyed, not according to a 'personally conducted' system, but in a truly regal manner, through the splendid arcana of her history and exploits to the Paris of to-day. Paris—ancient Lutetia—has ever possessed an absorbing interest, and that interest is by no means lessened when it is presented in so attractive a form as that given by Mr. Hare. Without committing the mistake of taking up unnecessary time by political dissertations on politics and its exponents, he leads us through Paris and occupies us with Paris herself. There is no street, no building, and no object of worth, either historically or intrinsically, that is neglected or forgotten in this vast *répertoire* of Parisian knowledge, and interwoven with these are the exploits and forms of those who have made Paris both famous and notorious. From the Merovingian dynasty to the Republic of to-day is presented this wondrous city—or rather, as Charles V. declared, 'Lutetia non urbs, sed orbis.' It is true, as Mr. Hare tells us in his introduction, that 'almost all educated Englishmen visit Paris some time in their lives, yet few really see it.' They go to the theatres, to its *magasins*, drive in the Bois de Boulogne, airily describe it as a charming city, and know and care nothing more about it; but under the masterly guidance of our author, we are brought face to face with the splendours of the past, watch the weird procession of the puppets of recorded time, and view with wonder the crowded progress of events. Paris is a mausoleum of dead deeds, and only when we follow a presented record like this can we even faintly imagine the long array of stirring actions, aye, and actions too that have moved the world. In this volume Paris is unveiled, and the revelation is truly absorbing; we see her as she was and as she is. We venture to say that if one visited Paris without a knowledge of Paris, and afterwards returned with the contents of this work in his mind, such a one would see a place as different as a desert is from an oasis. We regret that space precludes any quotation from these delightful pages. It will be seen, however, that to attempt such a course with a volume of 538 pages would lead to no useful result.

The companion volume, 'Days near Paris,' of 363 pages, is a natural result of the work just mentioned. Paris has a thousand delightful retreats in her environs where her children and her visitors may indulge in recreation. In this volume, though historical associations may be scantier, yet we are introduced to scenes that possess interests peculiarly their own. Leaving Paris, under the leadership of Mr. Hare, we are conducted from one place to another and quickly learn many things of which before we were ignorant.

* *Paris. Days near Paris.* By Augustus J. C. Hare. 2 vols. London: Smith, Elder & Co.

St. Cloud, Versailles, St. Germain, Chantilly, Fontainebleau, Meudon, Montfort-l'Amaury, and fifty other places, every one of which is worth close attention, are unfolded to our gaze. Who, for instance, has not heard of Versailles and who would not like to visit that fairy place? It would certainly not be going too far to assert that if one journeyed there with this book he would discover that the short time generally devoted to seeing that place would be worse than disappointing. And even here Mr. Hare skilfully blends past associations with each place, and so adds immensely to the general interest. Everyone visiting Paris ought decidedly to carry with him these two volumes, each of which is copiously illustrated and has a clear and simple index appended.

SOME RECENT NOVELS.

PAUL PATOFF, by F. Marion Crawford (Macmillan & Co.). Nothing could, perhaps, testify more forcibly to the genius of this author than the admirable manner in which he manages to tide over a serious error in construction. Practically there is something very like an anti-climax in the story. To show how this is brought about, it is necessary that we detail part of the plot. Paul Patoff, the hero, is second secretary in the Russian embassy at Constantinople. At the opening of the story his brother Alexander, a young officer in the army, is staying with him. Ignorant of the customs of the town, he is indiscreet in his conduct regarding some veiled ladies, and, in fact, almost draws upon himself a personal conflict with the usual African Lala who escorts them. Some ill-feeling with Paul, who has previously remonstrated with him, is the result. However, on the evening of the same day the brothers, protected by the customary kavass, go to witness the service at Santa Sophia, it being the last week of Ramazan, or month of mourning. Here, while Paul is absorbed in watching the ceremony, Alexander suddenly disappears, and all search for him is fruitless. Upon this foundation—the question what has become of the young officer, whether he has been murdered or is still alive—the interest of the story for the first two volumes mainly depends, and the curiosity of the reader is, by various side currents, worked up to a high degree of intensity. Paul rests under a suspicion of having made away with his brother, and even his own mother accuses him. With the discovery of Alexander, therefore, in the harem of Laleli Rhanum, and his ultimate rescue, the interest of the story is considerably diminished, and the fact that the ungrateful Alexander, in return for his brother's efforts to find him, should endeavour to alienate the affections of his betrothed, has all the appearance of an after-plot. But it is only the exacting critic, we venture to say, who will notice this flaw, and the majority of readers will be delighted with the story and eagerly peruse it throughout. In vivid scenes of Oriental life and clever character portrayal, the novel bears ample evidence of a master hand, and 'Paul Patoff' is likely to become equally popular

with the powerful works from the same pen that have preceded it.

A NEW FACE AT THE DOOR, by Jane Stanley (Hurst & Blackett). With the opening of this story we are at once launched in pleasant, invigorating society, and were it not for the presence of Opal Carew—that evil genius without which no novel could have an existence—we should be remarkably happy. The heroine, Greta Charlstrom, in her fresh young beauty and unaffected simplicity, is charming, while frank, boyish Jack, the old-fashioned child, 'Bow-wow,' and quiet, lovable Mrs. Damans form excellent adjuncts to the scene. But of course Opal is the cause of much mischief, and before long we are introduced to another disturbing element, though perfectly well-intentioned, in the person of Captain Arundel Mace. Poor Greta now discovers that she does not care for Jack, whom she has known since a child and to whom she is engaged, and that she does care, and that very dearly, for the much more polished, self-possessed man of the world, Captain Mace. We think the sympathies of most readers will be with poor, foolish Jack; and when he discovers that his cousin no longer intends to marry him and rushes away to Waldberg to see her, there is something pathetic in this picture of the unfortunate lad which is sure to evoke great pity. The question of the flirtation with Opal might, we think, with advantage have been made stronger, for it is not desirable that the sympathies of the reader should thus go with a secondary character. The principal attraction of the novel lies in the first volume. With the introduction of the murder and the events surrounding it, an air of non-realism is imparted to the story. But its great feature is the wealth of bright, sparkling talk with which it is endowed, and the vivacious, healthy tone that pervades it. Greta, as we have said, is charming, and so, after a different style, is 'Fred.' Charlstrom, the busy little lady who has exhibited a picture, written a novel, and done a variety of other noticeable deeds. Readers who commence a perusal of the heroine's career are certainly not likely to stop until they have reached the happy conclusion.

THE FROZEN PIRATE, by W. Clark Russell (Sampson Low & Co.). In the ignorance of a painfully mean capacity, we thought we were above the horror of being 'blood-curdled.' We are now ready to confess that we are even as other mortals. If our hair did not actually stand on end during the perusal of Mr. Clark Russell's thrilling story, we more than once nervously looked over our shoulder and were prepared at the slightest sound of creaking to behold a ghastly figure, piratically attired, in the room. Fortunately it was not blowing a gale—a 'capful' we believe is the technical expression—outside, or the combination might have been unbearable. We should certainly advise all intending readers of Mr. Russell's novel—and they are sure to be many—to leave it alone at night-time, especially about twelve o'clock, or say the small hours of the morning. It is one of the most absorbing pieces of descriptive realism we ever read. Paul Rodney,

mate of the brig 'Laughing Mary,' wrecked on an iceberg, eventually finds himself alone in a small boat at sea. After a time he sights what looks like land, but subsequently, on nearer approach, it proves to be a vast island of ice. He betakes himself to this, fastening his boat to an oar stuck upright in a crevice, and presently starts for an exploration of the floe. Of the horrible discovery he makes by the way, the pirate schooner embanked in the ice and inhabited by dead men, and of his abode in the vessel when he finds that his own boat has become dislodged and has drifted away, we prefer to leave readers to gain knowledge for themselves. But it is just a *little* bit strong that unthawing and resuscitation to life of the frozen sailor, Jules Tassard, after a period of torpor lasting over forty-eight years; and we shrewdly suspect that the author hardly knew what to do with his creation when he had brought him to life, and that this will account for the somewhat feeble manner of his final disposal. The story throughout is told with dexterous skill, and in so graphic a manner that we almost seem to feel the chilly surroundings ourselves. Eventually Paul manages to escape from the ice island and reaches England in safety, but how this is effected it would be unfair to the novelist to relate. Enough that 'The Frozen Pirate' is deeply interesting from beginning to end, and will delight lovers of 'stirring' literature beyond measure.

IN AT THE DEATH: A TALE OF SOCIETY, by George F. Underhill (Swan Sonnenschein & Co.). The writer tells us in his preface that a critic who had been kind enough to read his story in manuscript pronounced it to be an elaborate sneer on humanity. How this came about we can very readily understand. With perhaps one exception Mr. Underhill's characters are not particularly attractive in disposition, and as an apology for their shortcomings the author is perpetually pleading, as it were, the way of the world. The exception is Chippy Lionel, a species of Whyte Melville young fellow. In other ways, too, the story reminds us of this novelist, since it is very redolent of hunting and sporting society. But given an ex-gambler, a rascally major, and a wife who, however beautiful from a sensuous point of view, is certainly not attractive morally, we must unhesitatingly confess that Mr. Underhill has constructed a very good story, narrated with conspicuous spirit and vigour. Perhaps it may be interesting to point out an instance of the author's inconsistency. 'No woman ever yet loved the man,' he says, 'whom she was robbing of his money.' This, we think, is very true; it is therefore surprising to find Mrs. Massinger, with every appearance of affection, going some distance to lay flowers on the grave of Walter Lionel, her victim. But probably Mr. Underhill will reply that the inconsistency is not his but the woman's.

HIS SISTERS, by Herbert P. Earl (Sampson Low & Co.). If, as we suppose, this be the first

attempt of the author, it shows signs of much promise. But Mr. Earl should endeavour to work up to his situations better, and not take them so hurriedly. For this purpose, in his present work, a quantity of needless digression might easily and with advantage have been sacrificed. It is not given to everyone to discourse in an interesting manner on the ways and foibles of humanity. The story, however, is a pleasant narration of actual life, in which the characters are happily contrasted and invested with much interest. Occasionally the author exhibits a considerable grasp of pathetic effect, and the troubles of Clara Mapleton and Margaret Beecham, though different in kind, are forcibly exhibited and well sustained. The villain of the story is the sister's uncle, a lawyer, whose sole redeeming quality is an attachment for Clara, and his worst quality a passion for money. Eventually both attributes produce a harmful effect, for in his desire to give her what he considers of most advantage in the world, he causes her to be united to a man of great wealth, but little refinement and less moral worth. In the end Alfred Mapleton dies, and Clara is left to marry the man of her choice, who has loved her throughout.

Notes and News

We understand that Mr. V. E. Walker, a Director of the New River Company, has joined the Board of Directors of Mudie's Select Library Company (Limited).

A new departure has been taken by Messrs. Routledge in the form of an almanack bearing their name. This contains a large amount of serviceable information, so arranged as to make quick reference easily practicable. We have little doubt that the venture will prove eminently successful.

Messrs. R. Grant & Son, Edinburgh (Simpkin: London), have sent us a rather interesting little volume entitled, 'The Reverse of the Picture,' by K. Butt. As an art reverie it offers very delightful reading of a novel description. The references to the pictures are exceedingly good, lively, and thoughtful.

Part 31 concludes 'Letts's Popular Atlas,' now published by Messrs. Mason & Payne, the successors of the old firm. The atlas is an amazing work of enterprise and tact. The maps are printed with pleasing clearness, and we do not know of many universal atlases that can vie with this in all-round information. Our readers should write to Messrs. Mason & Payne for a prospectus.

Lord Derby has recently expressed the opinion that to have a well-instructed people is no less than a question of life or death to a nation, and he specially commends competitions, prizes, scholarships, &c., as valuable agencies for the diffusion of sound and useful teaching. Apropos of this, it may be mentioned that the editor of *Cassell's Magazine* has prepared a scheme of an Amateur Free University, of which details are given in the December part.

Amongst other papers which appear in *Cassell's Magazine* for December (the number with which the new volume is commenced) are, 'How I Spent Christmas in the Fatherland,' 'The Principles of Pastry-making,' by a Professional Teacher of Cookery; 'How my Head does Ache!' by a Family Doctor; 'Squire Ollifant's Will,' being one of the popular Chronicles of Cardewe Manor, by Lucy Farmer; 'National Characteristics,' by the Rev. S. Baring-Gould, M.A.; 'What is an Oratorio?' by Frederick J. Crowest; 'How we Girls Earned our Living,' by E. Clarke; new music, 'The Gatherer,' &c. A special plate in colour, entitled 'Spell-bound,' forms the frontispiece.

A second edition of the Rev. F. T. Vine's 'Cæsar in Kent' is announced by Mr. Elliot Stock as nearly ready for publication. The work has been revised throughout, and will be illustrated with new maps.

The new serial stories which the editor of *Cassell's Magazine* has arranged to appear in the new volume are, 'Monico; or, Stronger than Death,' by Evelyn Everett Green, author of 'Torwood's Trust,' and 'By Misadventure,' by Frank Barrett, author of 'Hidden Gold.' Both will be commenced in the December part.

Mr. Spencer Blackett will shortly publish 'A Wicked Girl,' by Mary Cecil Hay; 'Little Miss Primrose,' by author of 'St. Olaves'; and 'Under 14 Flags,' by Capt. L'Estrange.

The 'British Almanac and Companion,' which has come to hand from the Stationers' Company, contains some remarkably interesting matter, showing that the current of events is duly noted in editing. Topics of the day are treated in articles on 'Great Britain in 1837 and 1887,' the 'Royal Commission on Depression in Trade,' 'Telephone and Acoustics,' 'Imperial Ocean Penny Postage.' The contributions on the year's architecture, art, science, music, sport, legislation, and so forth are written very judiciously. Abstracts of important Acts of Parliament passed in 1887 are supplied.

From the carefully drawn-up sixth report of the Public Libraries Committee in Newcastle we observe that only three volumes were unaccounted for, making the total number of volumes lost since the opening of the library in 1880 sixteen, while during the same period the issue has reached a total of 1,538,445, being an average annually of 236,684.

Another monthly journal is about to be added to the already numerous list. But in this case the ground proposed to be taken is at present unoccupied, so to speak, and therefore there is a good *raison d'être* for the new bantling. The name of the magazine is *Fire*, and sufficiently indicates its subject. It will contain articles scientific, practical, general; facts and opinions from a large circle of contemporaries, and a variety of useful and interesting matter falling within the range of its title. It presents a strong claim to the willing support of fire insurance companies and their insurers, and that large section of the general public to whom the occurrence of a serious fire is always an unwelcome event.

A small work 'About Newspapers, chiefly English and Scottish, with an Appendix containing an Account of the Periodical Publications issued in connection with the Anglican Communion,' will be published by the St. Giles' Printing Co., Edinburgh, early in the new year.

For information respecting Church affairs no better publication for the year could be had than the 'Church Almanac' (*Church Monthly Office*). As a matter of fact, the *Church Monthly* itself should be in the hands of all who take an interest in the affairs of the National Church.

The forthcoming number of the *Political Science Quarterly Review* for December, published in this country by Mr. Henry Frowde, will contain among other papers an article on 'English Local Government,' by Frank J. Goodnow, and an article on 'Profits under Modern Conditions,' by Prof. J. B. Clark, and 'The Natural Rate of Wages,' by Franklin Giddings, all subjects of special interest to students of English social questions at the present time.

Messrs. S. W. Partridge & Co. ask us to announce that the *Children's Friend*, *Infant's Magazine*, and *Friendly Visitor*, which have hitherto been published by Messrs. Seeley & Co. in conjunction with themselves, will in future bear Messrs. Partridge & Co.'s imprint only.

The enlargement of the *Fireside Magazine*, edited by the Rev. Charles Bullock, B.D., is announced. The magazine is entering upon the twenty-fifth year of publication, and is one of the oldest of our sixpenny monthlies. The pages are to be increased from sixty-four to eighty monthly, and the magazine will be printed on specially prepared paper with new type. As the illustrations will be made a more marked feature, the title of the magazine will henceforth be the *Fireside Pictorial Magazine*. The serial stories, and several serial works, by leading authors, will commence in the January number. The magazine is designed for educated homes, and is the only one of its class connected with the Church of England.

Continental Notes

The forthcoming publication of Mr. Donnelly on the Baconian origin of Shakspeare's plays will, no doubt, attract attention to other works on the dramas hitherto ascribed to Shakspeare. Among recent publications we note 'Shakspeare et les Tragiques Grecs,' by Paul Stapfer, which has been crowned by the Académie Française. The author endeavours to show the influence of the Greek tragedians on the writings of the Swan of Avon.

A lavishly illustrated edition is announced of 'Les Confessions de J. J. Rousseau,' in twelve parts, at 12f. 50c. The parts will appear half-yearly, with eight illustrations by Maurice Leloir. The complete work in two volumes will contain forty-eight etchings printed on separate paper and forty-eight in the text.

Chamisso's wonderful story of 'Peter Schlemihl, the Shadowless Man,' is to appear in two different French versions this season. One illustrated by Myrbach, the other having 100 designs by Henri Pelle. We are of opinion, however, that no illustrations can excel those by George Cruikshank, which appeared during the author's lifetime and received his warmest encomiums.

Messrs. Hachette & Co. have published a magnificently illustrated edition of 'Les Cahiers du Capitaine Coignet.' In this famous story of one of the soldiers of the Grande Armée we have the life's record from his own lips of one who passed through all those terrible wars resulting from the French Revolution. In these times such books are not only of interest but also of great service.

The same firm has just published the second volume of the 'Histoire des Grecs,' by Victor Duruy, carrying on the history from the Median wars to the Treaty of Antalcidas. A third volume will complete the work, which is illustrated with over 2,000 engravings from the antique and with maps.

Messrs. H. Launette & Co., publishers of the edition of 'Rousseau's Confessions' already mentioned, also announce an edition of 'Le Roman Comique de Scarron' (whilom husband of Madame de Maintenon, consort of Louis XIV.), illustrated with no fewer than 330 designs by M. Edouard Zier, printed in the text, thirty being whole-page engravings.

'La Vie Rustique, compositions et dessins de Léon Lhermitte, texte par André Theuriet.' M. Lhermitte is well known as a painter of rural scenes, and M. Theuriet is equally famed as a poet and novelist. This work and another by the same writer, illustrated by H. Giacomelli, entitled 'Nos Oiseaux,' are also published by Messrs. H. Launette & Co.

A novelty in publishing is the fine copy of the new edition of the 'Mémoires du Comte de Grammont, par Count Anthony Hamilton.' This new edition of an ever-popular work, to appear next month, will be illustrated by thirty-three etchings by Boisson, after drawings by C. Delort. The price of the ordinary impression of 500 copies will be 100 francs. There will be three other impressions, on different kinds of paper and with the plates in various states. But the unique copy will be printed on Dutch hand-made paper, to accompany the original designs of C. Delort and a set of artist's proofs of Boisson's etchings. The price of this unique issue is 10,000 francs!

'Nos Écrivains, par Saint-Patrice,' is the title of a new volume of portraits of 155 French authors just published.

M. Gaston Tissandier, the editor of the well-known popular scientific journal *La Nature*, announces a new and augmented edition of 'Histoire de mes Ascensions: Récit de Quarante Voyages Aériens' (1868-1887).

'Chronique des Arts Graphiques' is the title of a new undertaking of the Viennese Gesellschaft für vervielfältigende Kunst, to appear eight times yearly. It will be a record of artistic and technical progress, especially in

engraving and artistic reproduction in connection with the requirements of literature and science. It will give special notices of private and public art collections, of exhibitions, of important sales, as well as of the works in progress in painters' studios; and generally will afford literary, biographical and bibliographical information on art.

Herren Breitkopf & Härtel, of Leipzig, announce the immediate publication of 'Briefwechsel zwischen Wagner und Liszt.' This correspondence, which is said to be full of interest not only to musicians, but also to the general reading public, will form two volumes octavo, each containing about 320 pages.

The same well-known firm of music publishers have just published 'Jesus von Nazareth, ein dichterischer Entwurf aus dem Jahre 1868, von Richard Wagner.' This dramatic poem was the first sketch of the musical drama 'Parsifal,' not completed until thirty-five years later, and which created such a sensation when produced on the stage.

Herr T. O. Weigel, in Leipzig, has published a work of great interest on Japan, entitled 'Papier-Schmetterlinge aus Japan, von C. Netto.' The title ('Paper Butterflies from Japan') does not perhaps thoroughly characterise the work, which, although it hovers from subject to subject in a light and fanciful fashion so as to attract the reader's attention by bright descriptive touches, is nevertheless the result of some years' residence in Japan, and of careful observation of both country and people. The book is illustrated by the author, and forms a very handsome volume indeed.

The first edition of the 'Memoirs of Duke Ernest II. of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha' having been exhausted, a new edition will appear in a few days, which will contain no alterations, but be simply a reprint of the first edition of this most striking of all princely autobiographies since that of Frederick the Great.

Herr J. P. Bachem, the publisher, of Cologne, has been appointed Commander of the Order of St. Gregory, in recognition of the merits of the German translation of Dr. O'Reilly's 'Life of Pope Leo XIII.' published by him.

Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen, Nov.-Dec. (being a double number, and containing Heft 11, 12, of 1887), contains an article by Dr. Hennen, 'Eine bibliographische Zusammenstellung der Trierer Heiligthumsbücher.' We can only call the attention of bibliographical students to this exhaustive article, which fills seventy pages. Mr. W. H. James Weale also contributes an article on the 'Missals of Mayence and Treves.' The *Centralblatt* fully maintains the high character acquired under the able editorship of Dr. O. Hartwig. Herr Otto Harrassowitz, of Leipzig, is the publisher.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of 'Dogma y Razon,' No. 32, Madrid, containing amongst other articles one of interest, entitled 'Amanos de la Union Católica.'

American News and Notes

Messrs. Harper Brothers have in the press for early publication 'Modern Ships of War,' being papers by Sir Edward J. Reed on the British and Continental Navies, and by Rear-Admiral Simpson on the United States Navy, with supplementary chapters and notes by Lieutenant Kelley. The work will be fully illustrated. This firm will also publish at once a volume of poems by Wallace Bruce, entitled 'Old Homestead Poems,' illustrated, and the first two volumes of Henry C. Lea's important 'History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages.' Among their new novels are 'A Magnificent Plebeian,' by Julia Magruder, and 'Narka, the Nihilist: a Story of Russian Life,' by Kathleen O'Meara, just completed in *Harper's Magazine*.

The prospectus of a new illustrated weekly journal, to be called *Sylva*, 'a Journal of Horticulture, Landscape-Gardening, and Forestry,' has been issued. It will be published in New York, under the general editorial management of Charles S. Sargent, Professor of Arboriculture at Harvard College. Experts have been engaged to superintend its various departments, and it is expected to take its place as an authority in the various branches of which it will treat. The first number will appear early in the new year.

Mr. Edward Eggleston, author of the famous 'Hoosier Schoolmaster,' will furnish a serial novel to the *Century Magazine* for 1888. It is entitled 'The Graysons,' a story of Western life, giving the popular version of a trial in which Abraham Lincoln was a chief actor.

Among forthcoming volumes from the publishing house of Messrs. Lee & Shepard, Boston, are 'The Fortunes of the Faradays,' by Miss A. M. Douglas; 'Ça Ira! or, Danton in the French Revolution,' by Laurence Gronlund; 'Britons and Muscovites,' by Curtis Guild; 'Educational Topics of the Day,' by R. L. Klemm; 'First Steps in the English Classics,' by Albert F. Blaisdell; and Robert Collyer's 'Lectures to Young Men.'

Messrs. Brentano's, New York, will publish at once 'The New Honduras,' edited by Thomas R. Lombard. It will give an account of the history, physical geography, resources, opportunities, and prospects of that Central American Republic.

Mr. Henry James will contribute to the *Atlantic Monthly* for 1888 a serial story entitled 'The Aspen Papers;' and Mr. Edward H. House, who has spent many years in Japan, will contribute a serial story entitled 'Yone Santo, Child of Japan.'

Another volume by Henry Thoreau is nearly ready for publication. The new work is entitled 'Winter,' and will be a companion to his 'Summer' and 'Early Spring in Massachusetts,' both of which were compiled from his journal. The new volume has been edited by Mr. H. G. O. Blake, to whom readers are indebted for the others.

The first number of a new monthly magazine with the title *Woman* will soon make its appearance in New York. Among the writers who have agreed to contribute to the magazine are Mrs. L. C. Moulton, Marion Harland, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Helen Campbell, and Richard A. Proctor. The magazine will be illustrated, and will contain, besides the accustomed range of 'light literature,' articles on household decorations and suggestions, and a *résumé* of monthly events.

'A Garland for Girls' is the title of Miss Louisa M. Alcott's new volume of stories, of which the author says by way of preface: 'These stories were written for my own amusement during a period of enforced seclusion. The flowers which were my solace and pleasure suggested titles for the tales and gave an interest to the work.' The volume will be illustrated.

One of the most picturesque personalities in American poetry to-day is that of Robert Burns Wilson. This young poet hails from the south-west, where he was born a little over twenty years ago. He began writing poetry at a very early age, and it was not long before his poems made their frequent appearance in the *Century* and *Harper's Magazine*. They are now about to be issued in a collected edition with the title 'Life and Love.'

'Down the Islands' is the title of an illustrated holiday book by William Agnew Paton, which Messrs. C. Scribner's Sons will issue this season. It describes a cruise to the Caribbean Islands, and a journey among them. The narrative is described as 'bright and entertaining, full of curious bits of information, and enlivened by many touches of humour.' A feature of the book is the illustrations by the artist, J. Burns, who visited the localities for the purpose of making them.

Sale Jottings

There is to be a sale of rare books at Leyden in December, but it is as well to note the books are to be sold with all faults.

Commencing on the 14th instant, Messrs. Sotheby sell the library of the late Mr. John Hirst. Among the books are: Breeches Bible, first edition 1560 (with all faults), many editions (but nearly all imperfect) of the Holy Scriptures, some early MSS. of the *Biblia Latina*, &c. The sale occupies nine days.

A large and fine collection of MSS. and deeds relating to Shropshire was sold very cheaply at Puttick's last week, the lot bringing £36 (Quaritch). A similar collection relating to Gloucestershire brought £43.

The Kilmarnock Burns, to which we referred in our last, was sold the other day at Messrs. Sotheby's. It was in the original calf, and at the end were thirty-three pages of autograph poems by Mrs. Dunlop. She will ever be known and honoured (by Scotchmen especially) as one, Burns himself has said, to whose kind patronage and assistance he owed the most. This interesting volume was sold for £66 (Pickering).

A copy of Nichols's 'Leicestershire' on large paper is to be sold on the 16th. This is one of the rarest of county histories, and should bring a large sum. Lord Gosford's copy brought £280, the Comerford copy £300.

AN IMPOSTOR.

To the Editor of the PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Kindly allow me a few lines to caution members of the trade against sending any goods to a 'gentleman' at Dublin without making due inquiries.

He makes free use of printed headings and is lavish in the use of india-rubber stamps, and on the face of the order has the appearance of being a most respectable person. As the highest member of the trade, B. Quaritch, and the lowest, myself, have been favoured with his orders, it will be seen he is no respecter of persons.

Writing to a highly respectable and well-known firm in Dublin (to whom my sincere thanks are due) inquiring as to his status, they reply: 'We have had no end of letters to answer from inquirers, most of whom [like myself] have written after the mischief was done. We would not give this scoundrel credit from the counter to the door.' I will give name to any inquirer.

Leamington.

J. COLLIER.

Trade Changes

Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. are opening premises in Kirby Street, Hatton Garden, as publishers' bookbinders, under the name of 'The Ship Binding Works.' They have secured the assistance of Mr. H. Olney, late of Messrs. Westleys, as general manager, and on and after January 2, 1888, will be ready to execute orders from the trade.

Decoration, the well-known monthly journal devoted to the house-painting and decorating trades—published since its first issue, more than seven years ago, by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co.—will, after the December number, be published by Mr. P. L. Deighton, 6 York Street, Covent Garden, late publishing manager to the eminent technical book house of Messrs. Crosby Lockwood & Co. The editorship will remain in the experienced hands of Mr. J. Moyr Smith.

ABOUT CHRISTMAS BOOKS AND NUMBERS.

There is, it seems to us, no more suitable medium than the Christmas number of the *Publishers' Circular* in which to record a rapid glance—a brief historical retrospect—at the literature which Yule-tide has especially called forth since the invention of printing. An ancient

poet has sung of the 'incalculable laughing of the waves,' having at the time in his mind's eye the waters of the bright and splendid Ægean, with its 'perpetual play of myriads of diamond sparkles;' and so we, in the nineteenth century, vie, or pretend or endeavour to vie, with each other in frank joyousness and neighbourly cordiality and friendship during the *régime* of at least one period in the year's career. It is this, perhaps the very best aspect of human nature, to which the growth and development of Christmas books and Christmas numbers may be traced.

It is, probably, quite impossible to state, with any approach to accuracy, when the first 'Christmassy' book appeared. But we do know that for over a century—that is to say, until the latter part of the sixteenth or early years of the seventeenth century—the seasonable publications were almost solely composed of carols. One of the very earliest of these was entitled 'Christmasse Carolles,' and had the following colophon: 'Thus endeth the Christmasse Carolles newly imprinted at London in the Flete-strete at the sygne of the sonne by Wynkyn de Worde. The yere of our Lorde, M.D.XXI.' It was a quarto, and, of course, was printed in black letter. The only portion—a fragment—that has yet been discovered of this book is in the Bodleian Library. It is described by Warton as composed of 'festal chansons for enlivening the merriments of the Christmas celebrity: and not such religious songs as are current at this day with the common people under the same title, and which were substituted by those enemies of innocent and useful mirth, the Puritans.'

Just twenty-two years after Wynkyn de Worde's publication, John Mayler issued (in 1543) an octavo 'Christmas Banskette. Philemon the maker of the Banskette, Theophyle Eusebius; and Christopher the gestes.' There were several other 'Christmassy' books published during the latter half of the sixteenth century, and among the printer-booksellers who licensed books of carols were: W. Griffith, in October, 1564; J. Allde, in 1567, 1579, and on December 7, 1580; R. Jones, in 1569; Abel Jeffes, on October 9, 1593; John Wolf, on December 11, 1593; John Tysdale, 1562-3; and T. Colwell, in 1569. It will be seen, therefore, that the appearance of Christmas books months before Yule-tide is by no means a modern innovation of publishers, who have been so much abused for publishing books greatly in advance of the season! The first entry of Allde runs thus: 'A Christinmas Warnynge for hym y' intendethe to Ryde and make mery abroad with his fryndes. A ballad.' Another (supposed unique) publication of considerable interest is entitled 'Christmas Caroles,' which was imprinted 'in the Powltry by Richard Kele, dwellyng at the Long Shop under Saynt Myldrede's Chyrche.' This curious work is a black-letter octavo of eight leaves, and has a woodcut on the title-page. The number of books of carols which appeared in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the rapidity with which they, like their predecessors, were thumbed and worn out of existence, forbid anything like an inclusive list being drawn up of them.

There are several other quaint old Christmas books to which it will not be out of place to draw attention at this season, and for much of the information concerning which we are indebted to the recondite investigations of Mr. Carew Hazlitt. A very curious example has the following title: 'The Arraignement, Conviction, and Imprisoning of Christmas, with an Hue and Cry

after Christmas, and a Letter from Mr. Woodeock, Fellow in Oxford. Printed by Simon Minc'd Pye for Closely Plum-Porridge; and are to be solde by Ralph Fiddler Chandler, at the signe of the Pack of Cards, Mustard Alley in Brawn Street, 1646.' Another one was 'Faraway Bell, a Christmas Truth or two out of the west worth the hearing,' 1646; whilst another, in large 4to. with three very curious woodcut figures on the title-page, appealed to our ancestors under the not very perspicuous title of 'The Vindication of Christmas; or, His Twelve Years' Observations on the Times.' This was printed for G. Horton in 1653. 'The Exaltation of Christmas Pye. As it was delivered in a preachment in Lime Street, on these words, "And they did eat their Plumb Pies and rejoiced exceedingly." By P. C., Doctor of Divinity and Midwifery,' was first printed (in 4to., 9 leaves) in 1659, and was in all probability reprinted more than once. The two latter books were, with six others relating to Christmas, bound up together in a 4to. volume in Mr. Huth's library.

Yet another notable book is entitled 'Certain Quæries Touching the Rise and Observation of Christmas; Propounded to the consideration of all such as are zealously (but blindly) affected towards the Observation of it. To which an answer is desired and expected by Joseph Heming.' A copy of this quaint little quarto of eight pages is in the British Museum (E. 476/41). There are, in all, sixteen Quæries which Mr. Heming 'propounded' 'from my study in Uttoxeter in 1648'; and his challenge was not allowed to pass unnoticed, although it was some time before (apparently) anyone essayed to take up the gauntlet. When the anonymous answer of E. Fisher (whose ecclesiastical knowledge was truly encyclopædial) appeared is uncertain, although April 1649 was, there is every reason to suppose, the correct date. It was in quarto, and comprised sixteen leaves; there is no place or date, neither is there a regular title, it being printed with the 'Christian Caveat.' Apparently another edition came out in 1654, which is reprinted in 'The Somers Collection of Tracts,' vi. 3-21.

One of the rarest of seventeenth-century Christmas books was described in the pages of *Notes and Queries* nineteen years ago. It was supposed to be unique, but there are at least a couple of copies in existence. The title is a lengthy one, but it commences 'Make roome for Christmas all you that do love him; or, Remember your Christmas-Box.' It was printed in 1657 for Thomas Vere, who dwelt at the sign of the Angel, without Newgate. The author's name is Lawrence Price, who modestly describes his own work on the title-page as a 'delightful new Book, full of merry Jestes, rare Inventions, pretty Conceits, Christmas Carols, pleasant Tales, and witty Verses,' and that, moreover, 'Who wishes well to all those that beareth goodwill to Christmas Pyes, Rost Beef, Plum-pottage, white Loaves, Strong Beer, Warm Clothes, Good Fires, and Soft Lodging.' The title may have been (as was so often the case in those days) the work of the bookseller, who could not, however, have written the puff preliminary of the poetic address 'To the Reader.' Among a great many other good qualities, it is claimed that this book will fill hearts with rare delights, help to pass away long nights, to comfort the sad, to revive the pretty damsel, 'though almost dead,' and so

'Since it is good for man and woman;
Buy it and read it at your leisure,
Both for your profit and your pleasure.
Come who buys my New merry Book?'

As one example out of many of the eighteenth-century Christmas books, we give the following: 'The Tryal of Old Father *Christmas*, For Encouraging his MAJESTY'S Subjects in Idleness, Gluttony, Drunkenness, Gaming, Swearing, Rioting, and all manner of Extravagance and Debauchery. At the Assizes held in the CITY of PROFUSION, Before the Lord Chief Justice CHURCHMAN, Mr. Justice FEAST, Mr. Justice GAMBOL, and several other of his Majesty's Justices of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery. By JOSIAH KING' (1735). This was printed for the bookseller, T. Boreman, who had a shop on Ludgate Hill. Mr. William Sandys has described this remarkably quaint book. Father Christmas is placed at the bar, and pleads 'Not Guilty.' The jurymen are sworn, and evidences of various witnesses taken with an elaborate amount of trouble; but in the end the jury, without retiring, find the prisoner 'Not Guilty,' which evoked 'loud shouts and applauses of the joyful crowd.' The judge, in giving his sentence, directs Father Christmas to temper his hospitality with prudence, avoiding gluttony and excess. The tract winds up with the following couplet:—
'And Christmas straight was courted far and near,
To each good house to taste their plenteous chear.'

The change in tastes for books, as in fashions, is notoriously rapid and unaccountable; and if the opening quarter of the present century can offer no example of Christmas numbers with the usual concomitant of large, glaring coloured pictures, it had at least the 'Annual' of Ackermann, the bookseller. The publication of the first volume of this pretty little work marks an era in gift-books. Boys and girls were no longer 'stuffed' with the dreary and unreadable rudiments of some particular science, exploded phase of history, or with a plethora of 'Jack the Giant Killer,' 'Robinson Crusoe,' and 'Gulliver's Travels.' As every grown-up person made it a practice to present his or her younger friends with a copy of one or other of these books, the children of the earlier part of the century were almost justified in conceiving an inveterate hatred for Swift and Defoe. Ackermann's 'Forget-me-not,' which came out in 1823, was edited by F. Shoberl, and was a great success for over twenty years. In 1830 a 'Juvenile Forget-me-not' appeared, but in the natural order of things, and in spite of the title, a reaction set in, and both Mr. Ackermann and his 'Forget-me-nots' became subjected to an unmerited neglect, from which the latter at least never survived. And yet, with a collection of these charming little duodecimos before us, we cannot refrain from comparing them with the Christmas books of to-day, and, honestly, we cannot think the advance has been so very great, after all, in fifty years. Ackermann's books are beautifully printed, whilst the illustrations are of a very superior order, engraved by the most eminent engravers after pictures by the best artists. The prices were, it is true, somewhat prohibitive, inasmuch as the ordinary 'Forget-me-not' was published at twelve shillings, and its 'Juvenile' compeer at eight. The contributors included such established writers as Douglas Jerrold, L. E. L., The Old Sailor, Laman Blanchard, Mary Howitt, Bernard Barton, Miss Mitford, Tom Hood, &c. The legion of Annuals, Keepsakes, Souvenirs (including that of which A. A. Watts was editor), and the like, which issued in shoals from the press so soon as Ackermann's venture proved a small gold mine, also, in course of time, performed the 'happy despatch,' and faded into that oblivion which contains so much of human littleness.

The next great epoch in the publication of Christmas books dates from the time when Charles Dickens, in 1843, commenced his classic 'Christmas Books,' which 'possessed at least the charm of novelty and the profession of a purpose. Through the machinery of a ghost story' (observes a writer in *Fraser's* for January 1851), 'worked up in a quaint way quite peculiar to himself, Mr. Dickens opened a new vein of pleasure and instruction,' and he was speedily imitated in the same manner as Ackermann had been. For over thirty years the practice has grown and developed in a most extraordinary manner. But the movement was almost solely confined to literature, and for a long time scarcely touched upon journalism proper.

Another era in the history of Christmas books dates from December 23, 1855, when the *Illustrated London News* for the first time issued its Christmas number printed in colours. This is the father of an innumerable offspring. The coloured pictures were, as Mr. Mason Jackson points out, little more than ordinary woodcuts with tints printed over them; and many other imperfections arose through the breakdown of machinery and the great hurry in which they were produced. The succeeding numbers exhibit a decided improvement upon the first, which was, however, a marked innovation. Its price was tenpence, or stamped one shilling. Among the artists were Birket Foster, John Leech, Harrison Weir, J. Gilbert, and Phiz, whilst its literary contents were supplied by Cuthbert Bede, Shirley Brooks, Horace Mayhew, J. S. Coyne, John Saunders, &c.

But, as we have sufficiently indicated, the ramifications and phases of Christmas books and Christmas numbers are so intricate and so varied, that we must rest content with having touched the outskirts only of a subject that assumes vaster proportions at the anniversary of each Christmas-tide.

Reviews, &c.

From **Mr. George Allen**, Orpington.—'The Lost Dauphin,' by A. De Grasse Stevens, is a monograph which revives the half-forgotten hypothesis that the unfortunate boy, Louis XVII., was not poisoned but banished beyond the seas, and Miss Stevens here identifies him with Onwarenhüaki, the Iroquois Indian chief. On this question the author speaks clearly, and the romance of the story is fascinating to a degree that can hardly be imagined without a perusal of the book. We are accustomed, in these days, to the growth of startling speculations on historical and literary topics, but in the present instance Miss Stevens does not hazard any indiscriminate conclusions, being content to relate the coincidences which exist, and in a measure leaving the reader to think for himself. Whatever judgment may be formed, there can be no doubt that the story told is most remarkable, and we must congratulate the author upon the facility of expression and intelligibility of arrangement which give an absorbing interest to the narrative. The portraits in the book are produced with skill and taste.

From **Messrs. Berger, Levrault & Co.**, Paris.—'Puissance maritime de l'Angleterre.' This pamphlet is, in effect, an enumeration of English colonies and dependencies, showing their value in defence of the empire. The

author is an officer in the French army, who shows on numerous plans the military or naval points of the various stations. For intelligent readers of the newspapers this exposition cannot fail to be of great interest. At the end the author gives comparative statistics of the great naval powers.

From **Messrs. Bickers & Son**.—'A Short History of Architecture,' by A. L. Tuckerman, supplies a want of the student or, at any rate, of those desirous of knowing something of architecture without having to absorb the contents of 'voluminous works,' like Fergusson, for instance. But of all things a book of this description should certainly possess a glossary of terms employed, otherwise it is of little value. It is of no use speaking of travertines, pediments, entablatures, and plinths to people who do not know what those members are or where they are placed. As well talk of the differential calculus to children learning the alphabet. This, however, may be remedied in a second edition.

From **Mr. Friedrich Brandstetter**, Leipzig.—'Deutsche Dichter von Gottsched bis auf unsere Tage, in Urtheilen zeitgenössischer und späterer deutscher Dichter,' von Dr. R. Mahrenholtz und Dr. A. Wünsche. This work gives us the critical opinions of contemporary and later German writers on the works of about one hundred and fifty of the most popular authors of Germany, from Gottsched, who died in 1766, to those of the present day, such as Gustav Freytag and Paul Heyse, and those who, though dead, still live in their works, such as Berthold Auerbach, Fritz Reuter, F. W. Hackländer, Victor Scheffel, and others. There is very little biographical material in the work, but its value to the student of German literature is undeniable. It is a guide to the treasures of literary Germany written by the best critics of the Fatherland.

From **Messrs. Charles Burnet & Co.**—'Love the Fulfilling of the Law' is the designation of a new volume of extracts from the published writings and MSS. of the late Dr. Norman Macleod. They have been selected and arranged by his daughter, Miss A. C. Macleod, and together form an affectionate tribute to the worth of a great and good man. The lovable nature of Norman Macleod, and the strong, manly spirit of his Christianity are manifested well in these pages, which we are confident will be read with avidity by thousands who have benefited by the teaching of a truly noble Christian.

From **Messrs. Halden & Son**, Stafford.—'Sanctuaries,' by Thomas John de' Mazzinghi, M.A., F.S.A., Librarian of the William Salt Library, Stafford. This is not only an absorbing subject, but a very important one. More may be gathered from a complete work of this description of the social state of England than from most histories. We say a complete work advisedly, for though the present work before us is a valuable contribution to English social works, and though it is carefully collated, as we may expect from Mr. Mazzinghi, yet it is not in a form which can become popular in any sense. Much, too, might be objected to in the form of the index, which is not so much an index as a table of contents. The subject is, indeed, very wide, and is well worth being fully worked from the time when the six cities of refuge were appointed for the Israelites to

the times of the end of the last century in England. We should gladly welcome a complete popular work on this subject. Mr. Mazzinghi's title-page motto is felicitously chosen from Drayton's 'Hate stands without and horror sits within.'

From Mr. B. Herder, Freiburg.—'Longfellow's Dichtungen, ein literarisches Zeitbild aus dem Geistesleben Nordamerika's,' von Alexander Baumgartner, S.J., zweite, vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. The learned and accomplished author of this handsome volume has done good service to Germany and to the memory of Longfellow by publishing this delightful volume, in which we find a charming sketch of the poet's literary career, illustrated by translations of his songs and ballads in full, and of excerpts from his longer poems, with appreciative criticisms displaying at the same time a thorough knowledge of the life and works of Longfellow, as well as of English literature in general. The translations are admirable, and read like original German compositions. Especially striking are the charming renderings of 'The Psalm of Life,' 'The Skeleton in Armour,' 'The Old Clock on the Stairs,' and 'The Fire of Driftwood.' We experience renewed pleasure in reading once more in such an excellent version these beautiful poems familiar to us all as any household words. For no poet ever had more readers than Longfellow, excepting perhaps Tennyson. We cannot in this connection forbear answering a question which has often been asked. It is, To what poet did Tennyson refer in the first verse of 'In Memoriam,' when he wrote:

'I held it truth, with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones
That men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to higher things.'

The poet referred to was Longfellow, and the poem in which this thesis is advanced is the 'Ladder of St. Augustine.'

'Saint Augustine! well hast thou said,
That of our vices we can frame
A ladder, if we will but tread
Beneath our feet each deed of shame!'

This poem was suggested by a passage in St. Augustine's sermon, 'De Ascensione.' Having commended this interesting volume to the reader of German literature we need only add that the type and paper are worthy of the well-known house of B. Herder, in Freiburg.

From Messrs. F. Hirt & Son, Leipzig.—Heims 'Seespuk.' This is an assemblage of legends and superstitions of sailors, which the author has derived from frequenting the company of seafaring men. These myths relate to ebb and flood, gales, spirits, mermen and mermaids, stars, weather-boding creatures, the kraken and sea-serpent, the Flying Dutchman, St. Elmo's lights, ghostly ships, unlucky ships, signs, fabulous lands and sunken cities, sea rovers, &c. The engravings illustrate several forms of superstitious belief. One of the page plates shows us the Flying Dutchman, not storm-driven over long Cape rollers as we are accustomed to think of her, but with a little boat in the water against her bow.

From Messrs. Marpon et Flammarion, Paris.—'Russes et Autrichiens en robe de chambre,' par Théo-Critt. This is an amusing series of impres-

sions of travel, enlivened by a number of sketch-like illustrations. A certain political meaning underlies the lightness of treatment, as *Russes et Autrichiens* has a tendency to draw closer the bonds of sympathy between France and Germany. Public men are cleverly sketched in the course of its pages, which contain many a piquant anecdote. In its sketchy way the volume is chiefly interesting from a diplomatic point of view, while the woodcuts amusingly depict officers and soldiers of Russia and Austria as they are seen by the passing traveller.

From Messrs. Perrin and Co.—Villèle: 'Mémoires et Correspondance,' vol. I. For six years subsequently to 1815, the Comte de Villèle was leader of the Right, then in opposition, in the French Chamber. The six following years he was at the head of the Government. He is therefore regarded as the man who most completely represented the ideas of the Restoration. This volume takes the form of an autobiography. The earlier chapters are occupied with Villèle's career in the navy. Shortly before the battle of Toulouse he returned to France. In recounting the famous contest between Soult and Wellington on French soil, the author writes that Wellington and his army were regarded by the French inhabitants as friends, that they paid instantly for everything they wanted at the best prices, while Soult's army was looked upon as a band of robbers. The rest of the volume takes the narrative to the year 1816.

From the same.—'Vermeil de Conchard, assassinat du Maréchal Brune.' This is a circumstantial account of the death of Marshal Brune, who was killed in an hotel at Avignon, while on his way from Toulon to Paris in 1815, summoned by the King, Louis XVIII. Marshal Brune was in charge of the army of the Var.

From Mr. Elliot Stock.—'How to Write the History of a Family,' by W. P. W. Phillimore, M.A., B.C.L. At first sight, to the general reader, this might appear to be a work of supererogation, but the genealogist will assuredly receive it with pleasure, nor will that pleasure be at all lessened when he comes to read the book. For a work of 206 pages it is marvellous, not only on account of the immense mass of information in it, but because of the pure simplicity which prevails throughout. Mr. Phillimore possesses that rare talent of methodising, the lack of which has so frequently rendered nugatory works that otherwise would have been valuable contributions to historical literature. Every work of importance, both public and private, bearing on his subject is given specifically and in such a manner as to render the task of a genealogist comparatively easy. The various Rolls from *temp.* Henry I. are tabulated with extreme accuracy, while the monuments and seals find their due share of regard. Appended is a list of Record publications, also a complete index to the whole work.

From the same.—'The Story of Some Famous Books,' by Frederick Saunders. This is a fitting accompaniment to the series called 'The Book Lover's Library,' edited by Mr. Wheatley. The work now before us embraces the period from and including Chaucer to Tennyson. Naturally, in a small octavo of 200 pages, the references must be somewhat curt, and, perhaps, all things considered, this is for

the best; for when projects of this type are carried to their full extension they become cumbersome and dear. Yet it is not so curt as one might imagine; there is a certain nice flexibility which relieves each chapter of all stiffness. Mr. Saunders has cleverly contrived to present in a confined space a very great deal of information which must prove of great use to students of bibliography. We can cordially recommend the book to lovers of books, and, together with Mr. Wheatley's 'How to form a Library,' will be exceedingly useful adjuncts in the hands of students. There is a well-arranged table of contents at the head, and appended is a clear and simple index.

From Mr. Carl Ulrich, Berlin (Messrs. Trübner, London). — 'The German State Handbook,' compiled by Dr. Otto Kuntzemüller. The compilers of our 'Annual Register' might, if they would, learn a very valuable lesson from this compact work. It is a veritable balance-sheet, in three parts, of the German Empire brought down to date. A succinct account of the development of the German peoples is given; also the condition of the country, the political constitution, population, languages or dialects, religious denominations, productions, and state of trade, with the imports and exports for 1885 to 1886. The second part deals with the internal government of the Empire, also its colonies, and with it is given an interesting account of the defences. The third part tells us of the Imperial Government, its powers, functions, and

its relations to the various portions of the Empire; also the revenue and expenditure. A clear and simple index is appended.

From Messrs. J. S. Virtue & Co. — 'The Amateur's Guide to Architecture,' by S. Sophia Beale. We quite sympathise with Miss Beale in her love for architecture, and her wish to make it better understood. We also agree with her that a highly-cultivated human mind ought to have sufficient knowledge upon every subject to ensure some appreciation of good work of all kinds. The little book before us is a modest attempt to lay before the uninitiated a general groundwork of the foundation of art and science, architecture. Miss Beale possesses a true artistic mind, and that has enabled her to do her work, on the whole, well. The index needs a little revision. 'Basilica' is given as occurring on pp. 82 and 86, whereas its explanation is given at p. 63, though not mentioned in the index. The book is profusely and beautifully illustrated, and is a good work for amateurs.

From Mr. Votsch, Augsburg. — Winter, 'Unbeflügelte Worte.' Under this title the author gives, not mere explanations, but the histories of phrases which all of us in our reading are likely to meet with. *Après nous le déluge, noblesse oblige, ore rotundo, parvenu, premier pas, Sans-culotte, &c.*, are examples. There are about four hundred essays on words and phrases of this kind arranged.

Index to the Books published between November 16 and 30.

The Words in Italics are those under which the Titles are given Alphabetically in full, with the Publisher's Name.

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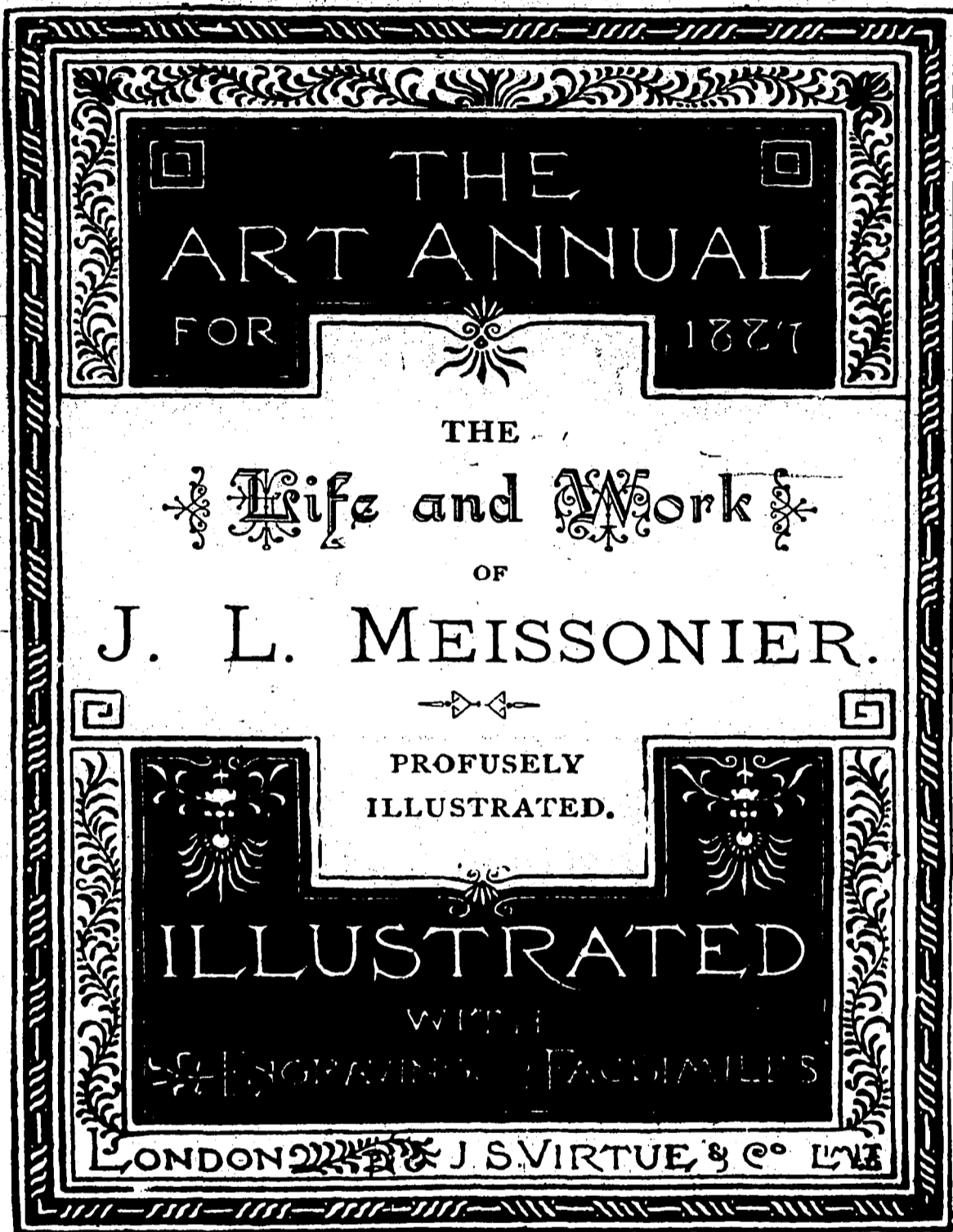
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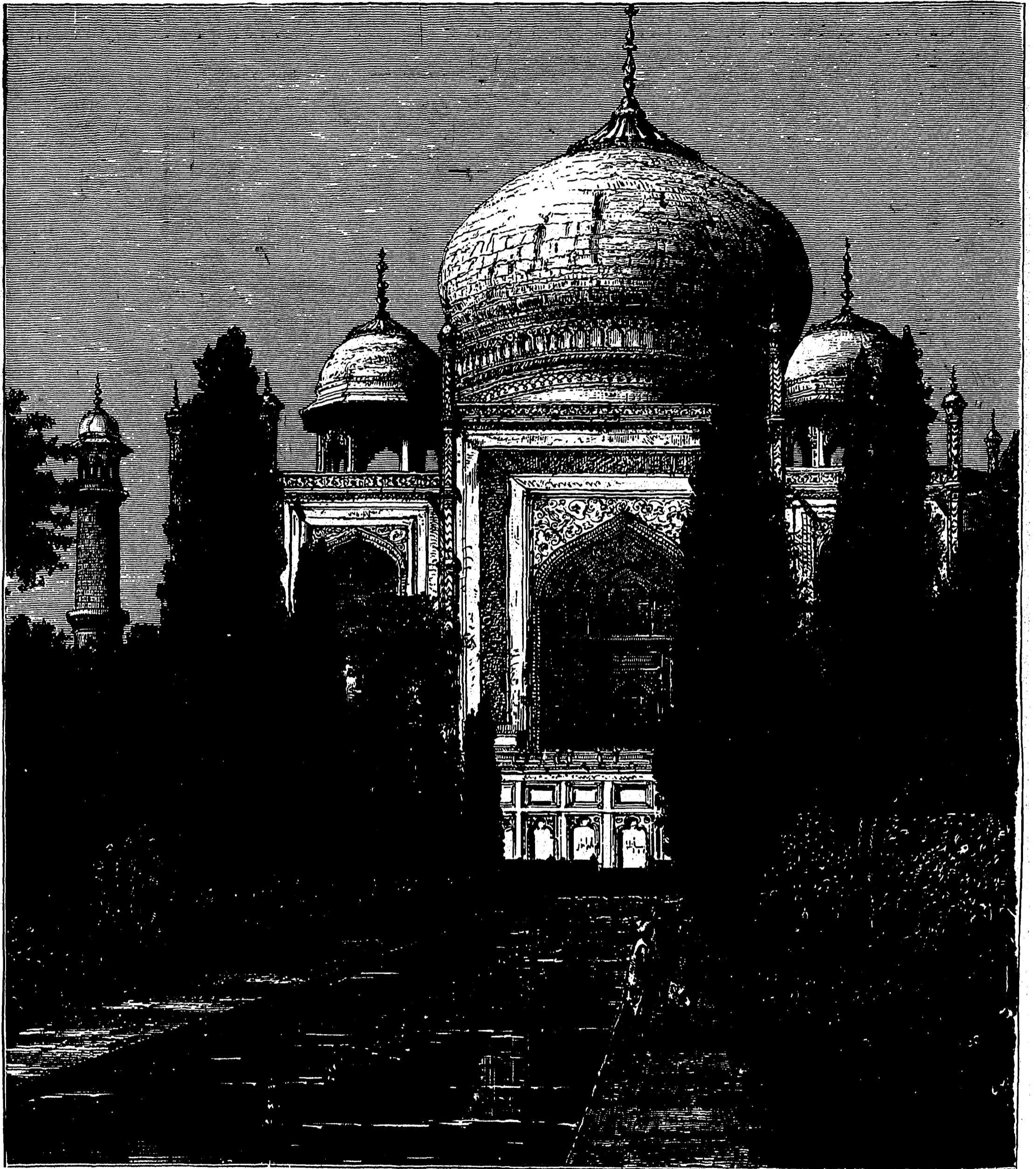
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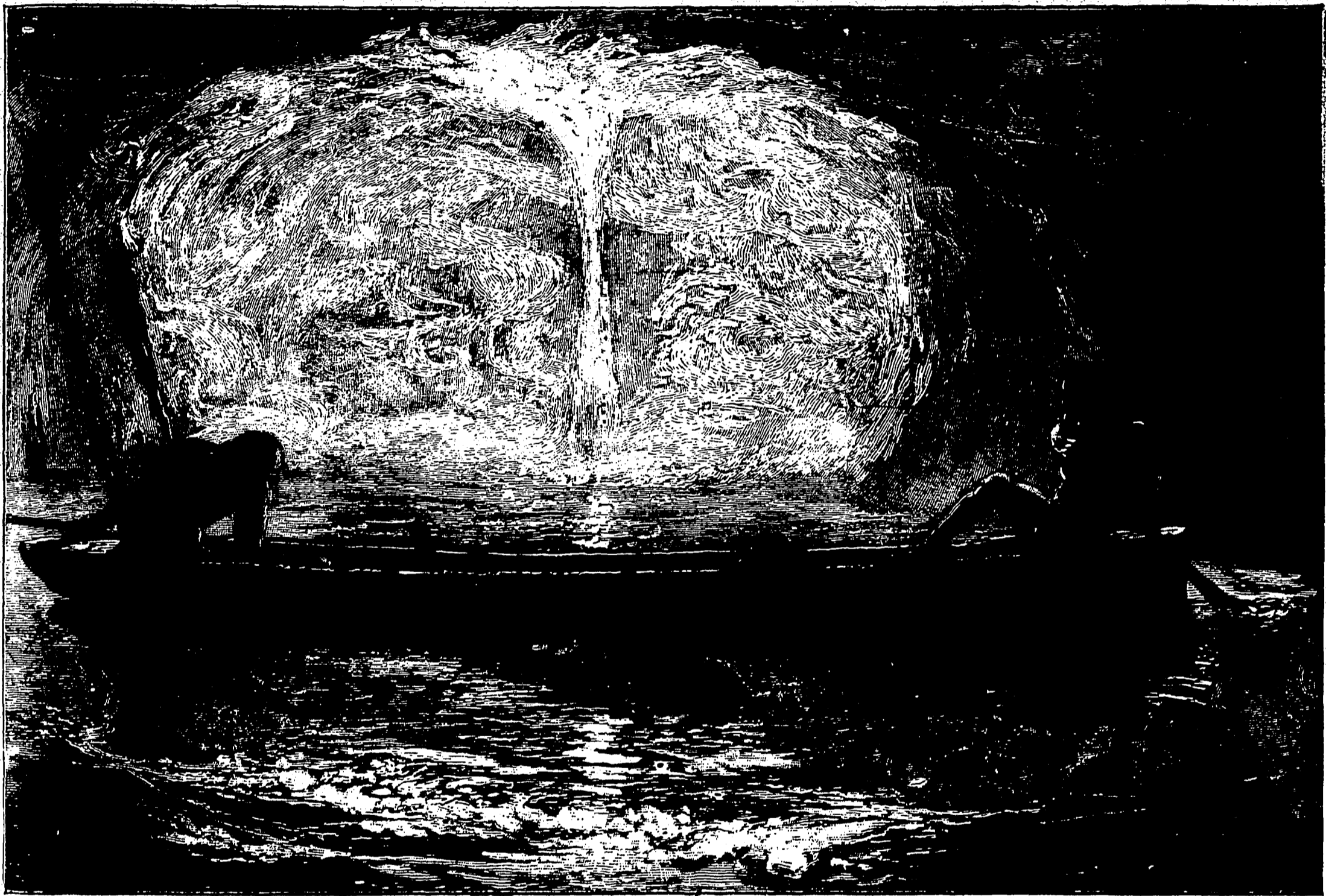
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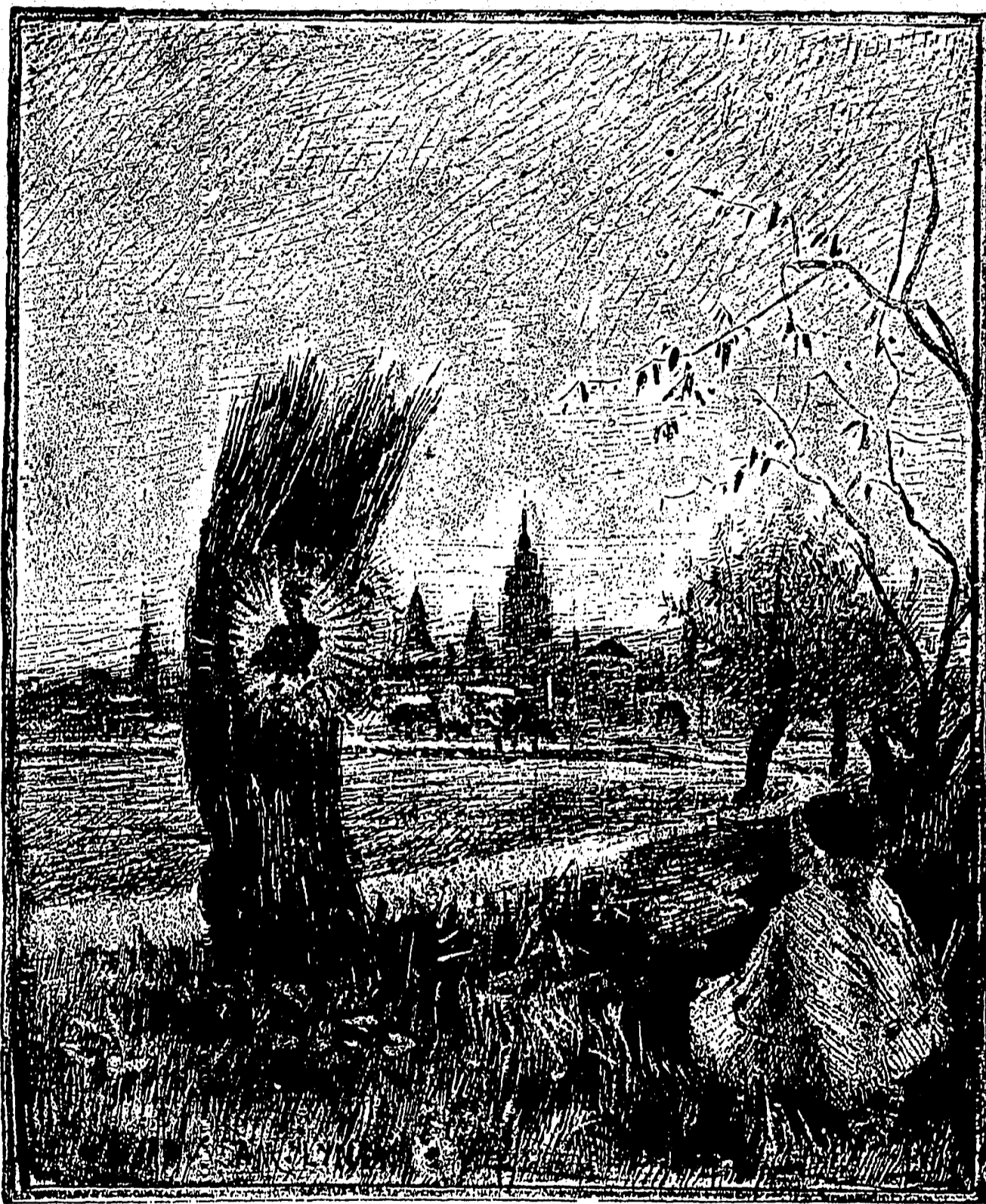
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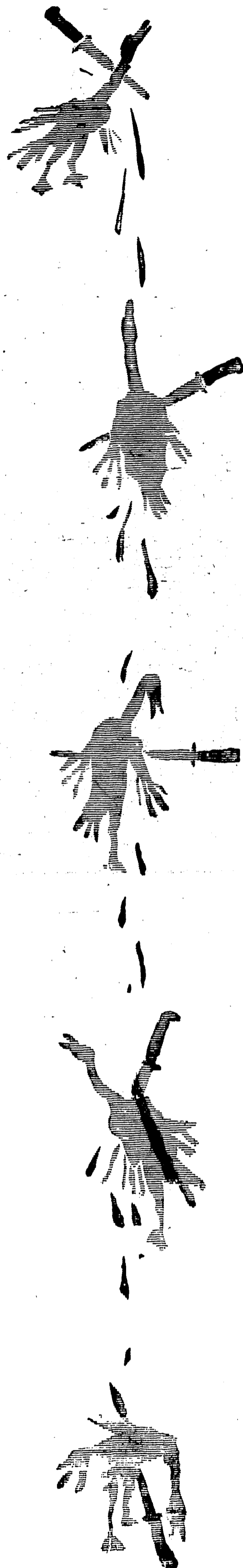
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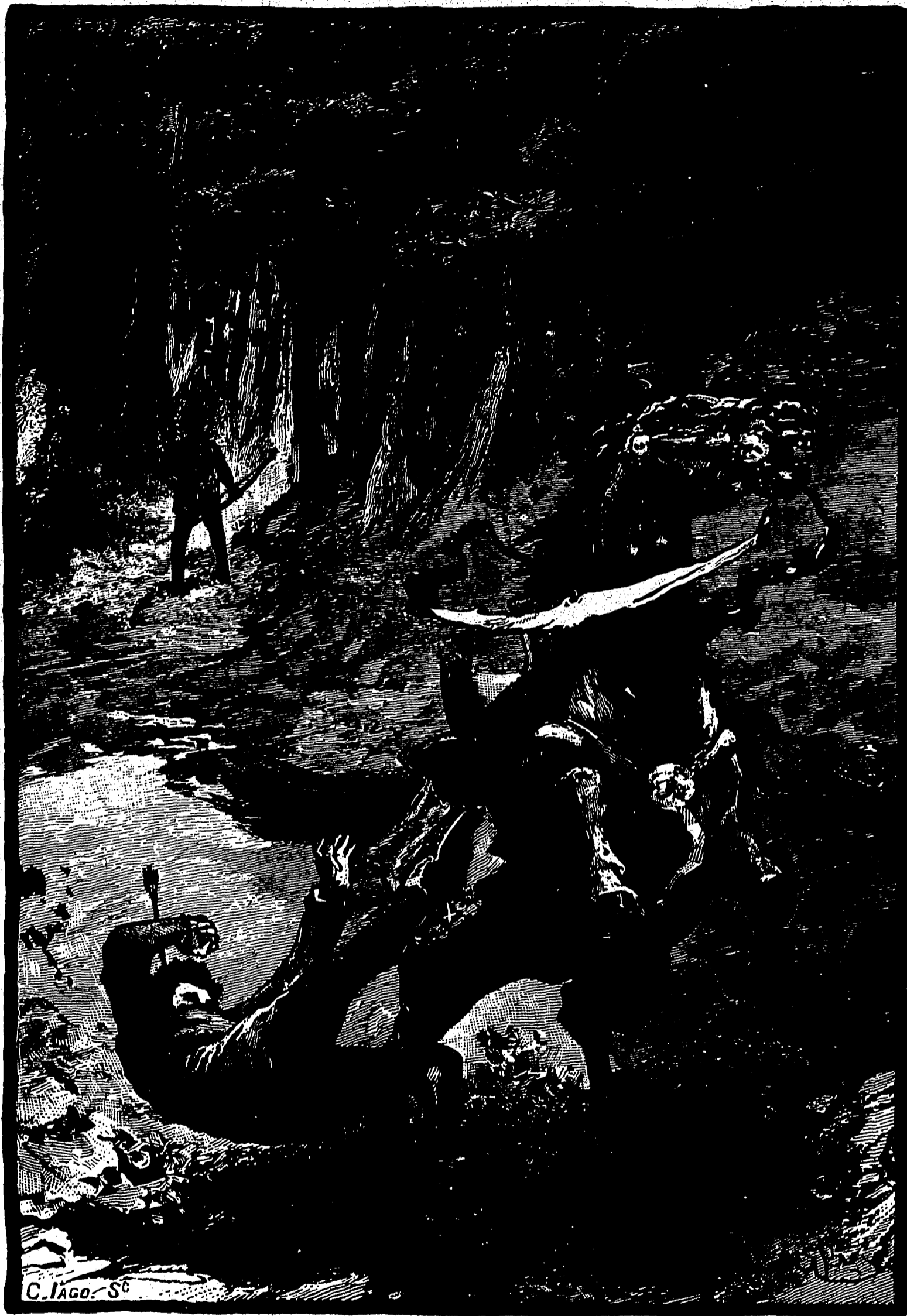
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THE BAND OF HOPE REVIEW.

ONE HALFPENNY MONTHLY.

'BAY RURIC ; or, A Ride for Life,' a Thrilling Story of Adventure with Wolves, will appear in the January Number. It is written by B. Montgomerie Ranking, and is admirably suited for recitation. A full-page Illustration, specially drawn by A. C. Corbould, will accompany it. In addition to other Articles and Stories, there will be a lively Concerted Piece for ten Band of Hope boys, written by Margaret Scott Haycraft, and entitled 'Twenty Years Ahead'; 'Called to a Kingdom,' by Nellie Hellis, Illustrated by W. J. Webb; the Tale which won the Prize in the Second Junior Competition, and particulars of the award in the same; Announcement of Third Junior Prize Competition, &c., &c.

The Editor makes his annual offer of Ten Prizes, to the value of Twenty Pounds, for the best set of Answers to the Prize Bible Questions.

THE FAMILY FRIEND.

ONE PENNY MONTHLY.

THE Serial Story for the New Year has been written by Emma Leslie, author of 'A Sailor's Lass' &c. It is entitled, 'Bolingbroke's Folly,' and the first instalment will appear in the January Number, Illustrated by Charles Gregory. 'Felix Neff, the Evangelist to the Swiss Valleys,' by A. H. Japp, LL.D.; 'Our Sewing Class,' by Lina Orman Cooper; 'Number Nine,' a short Story by Linda Gardiner; 'Dovedale'; Hints to Mothers; Music—'Ode to the New Year'—by J. Cornwall, &c., &c. With a view to giving finer effect to the beautiful Illustrations THE FAMILY FRIEND will be printed on a much superior paper.

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ONE PENNY MONTHLY.

MISS JENNIE CHAPPELL, Author of 'Her Saddest Blessing,' &c., has written a Serial Story, entitled, 'The Man of the Family,' the first instalment of which will appear in the January Number, Illustrated by John White, B.I. The January Number will also contain a beautifully Illustrated Account of the Island of 'Ceylon' and its Wonders, by Thomas Sulman; 'The Forest Mere,' a short Tale (complete) by Mrs. M. S. Haycraft, Illustrated by A. Monro Smith; 'A New Year's Party,' by James Weston, Illustrated by A. F. Lydon; a Floral Text; a Beautiful Coloured Picture, entitled 'Breakfast for Two'; a piece of Music—'A Happy New Year'—by E. J. Haines; Puzzles, &c.

PRIZE COMPETITION.—Prizes of £1, £2, and 10s. will be given for the Best Story written to a Picture in the January Number, where will be found full particulars of the conditions.

THE MOTHERS' COMPANION.

ONE PENNY MONTHLY.

'HID in the Heart,' a new Serial Story by Jessie M. Saxby, will commence in the January Number, and will be Illustrated by Robert Barnes. Mrs. Henry Fawcett will continue her Sketches of Notable Women, and there will also be in early issues contributions from Sarah Tytler, Mrs. Atkins, M.D., Clementina Black, Mary L. G. Petrie, B.A., Miss Headdon, Eliza Clarke, Lina Orman Cooper, Sarah Doudney, Helen Gray, Margaret Haycraft, Emma C. Hewitt, Annie Gray, Edith C. Kenyon, Emma Leslie, H. M. Morton, J. E. Panton, M. M. Pollard, I. L. Richmond, Grace Stebbing, Geraldina Stock, and others.

THE INFANT'S MAGAZINE.

ONE PENNY MONTHLY.

It will be the aim of the Editor during the New Year to maintain the character long held by THE INFANT'S MAGAZINE, of being the Best Periodical for the Nursery—one that, whilst giving many occasions for hearty, innocent laughter, shall inculcate in a pleasant manner, suited to the age of the readers, moral and religious truths. The high standard of artistic excellence of the abundant Illustrations in the present volume will be kept up, and where possible raised, in the next. The January Number will contain: 'Naughty Jack,' 'New Year's Presents,' 'The Greedy Kitten,' 'No Place Like Home,' 'The Smithy,' 'Song for the New Year' (Music), &c. There will also be presented with this number a charming Coloured Picture, entitled, 'Master John Bull,' by Edith Scannell.

THE FRIENDLY VISITOR.

ONE PENNY MONTHLY.

AMONG other contributions to the January Number will be found the following:—'The Right or the Wrong Turn—Which?' by the Rev. George Everard, M.A.; 'A New Year's Message,' by M. Fraser; 'God's Way of Peace,' by Rev. Joseph Matthews; 'Would You Do it?' by Rev. J. Sisson Cooper; 'My Heart Faileth,' by Annie M. Hone; 'The Skipper's Darling,' by Jesse Page. During the coming year the back-page Texts, which have hitherto been a feature of THE FRIENDLY VISITOR, will consist of a charming Series of Illustrations from Passages in the Psalms.

THE ILLUSTRATED MISSIONARY NEWS.

TWOPENCE MONTHLY.

THE Numbers for 1888 will contain, in addition to a General Review of the Foreign Mission Field, Biographical Sketches of Eminent Missionaries, Descriptions of Special Scenes and Incidents in connection with Missions, Original Papers on Missionary Subjects, Topographical Notices of Mission Lands and Stations, Statistical Information, &c.

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This will be followed by a New Serial from the pen of JENNIE CHAPPELL, Author of 'Her Saddest Blessing' &c., entitled **FIG-TREES AND THISTLES**.

EXPLORATIONS IN NEW GUINEA. By the Rev. JAMES CHALMERS. Mr. Chalmers, whose wonderful influence with the Natives of New Guinea is so well known, has undertaken a new exploration across the island. He is now engaged in this work; and, as soon as practicable, he will transmit accounts of his adventures and discoveries for publication in THE WELCOME.

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There will also be contributions on Subjects of General Interest by W. E. Bailey, E. E. Beighton, J. T. Beighton, J. P. Briscoe, Rev. W. Burnett, M.A., Sylvester Dowling, Mrs. Garnett, H. Gordon, G. Bianca Harvey, M. S. Haycraft, E. H. Kerr, Rev. J. King, M.A., E. A. L. Knight, Owen Landor, Lucretia Maybury, H. A. Page, J. E. Panton, E. R. Pitman, E. F. Pollard, I. S. Robson, R. P. Scott, A. L. Salmon, Leopold Wagner, and the Author of 'The Way to Fortune.'

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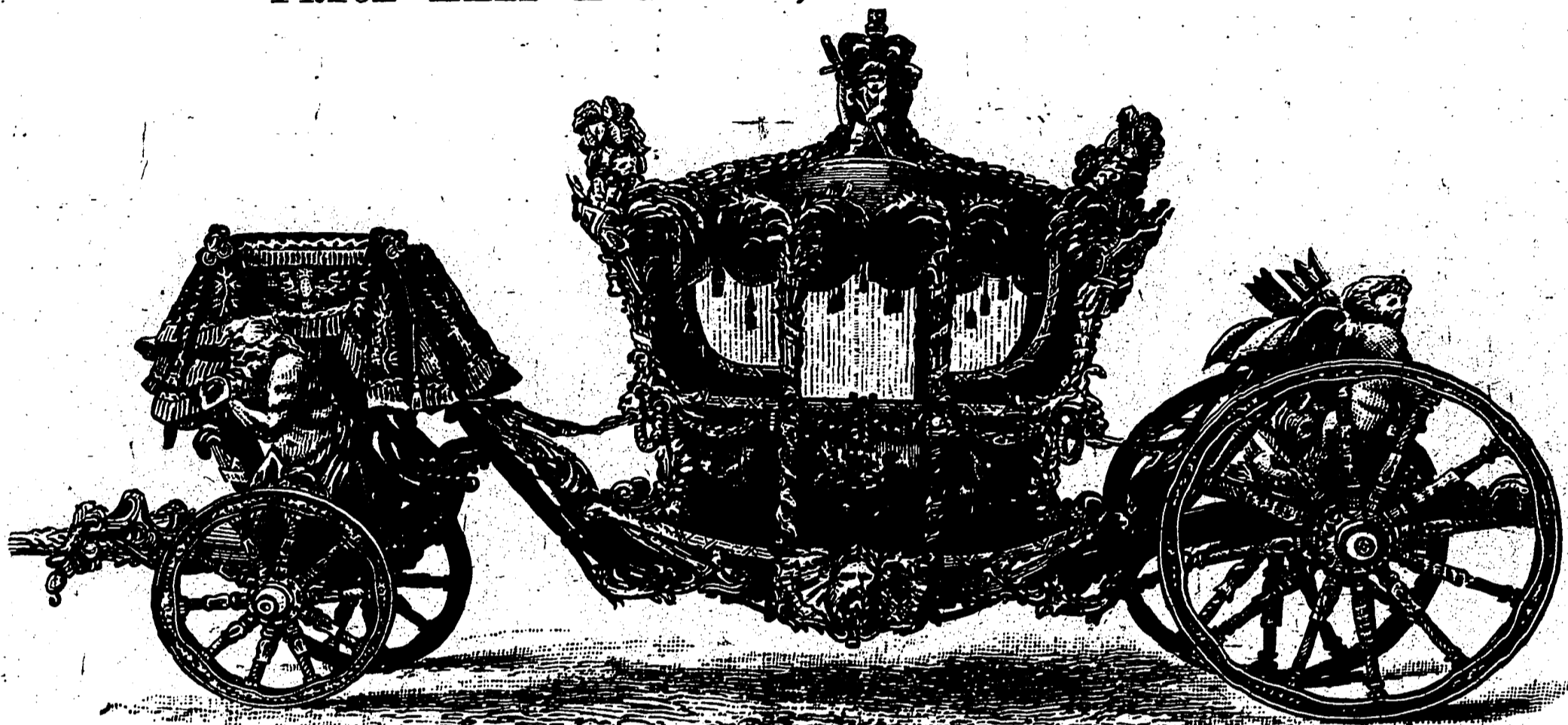
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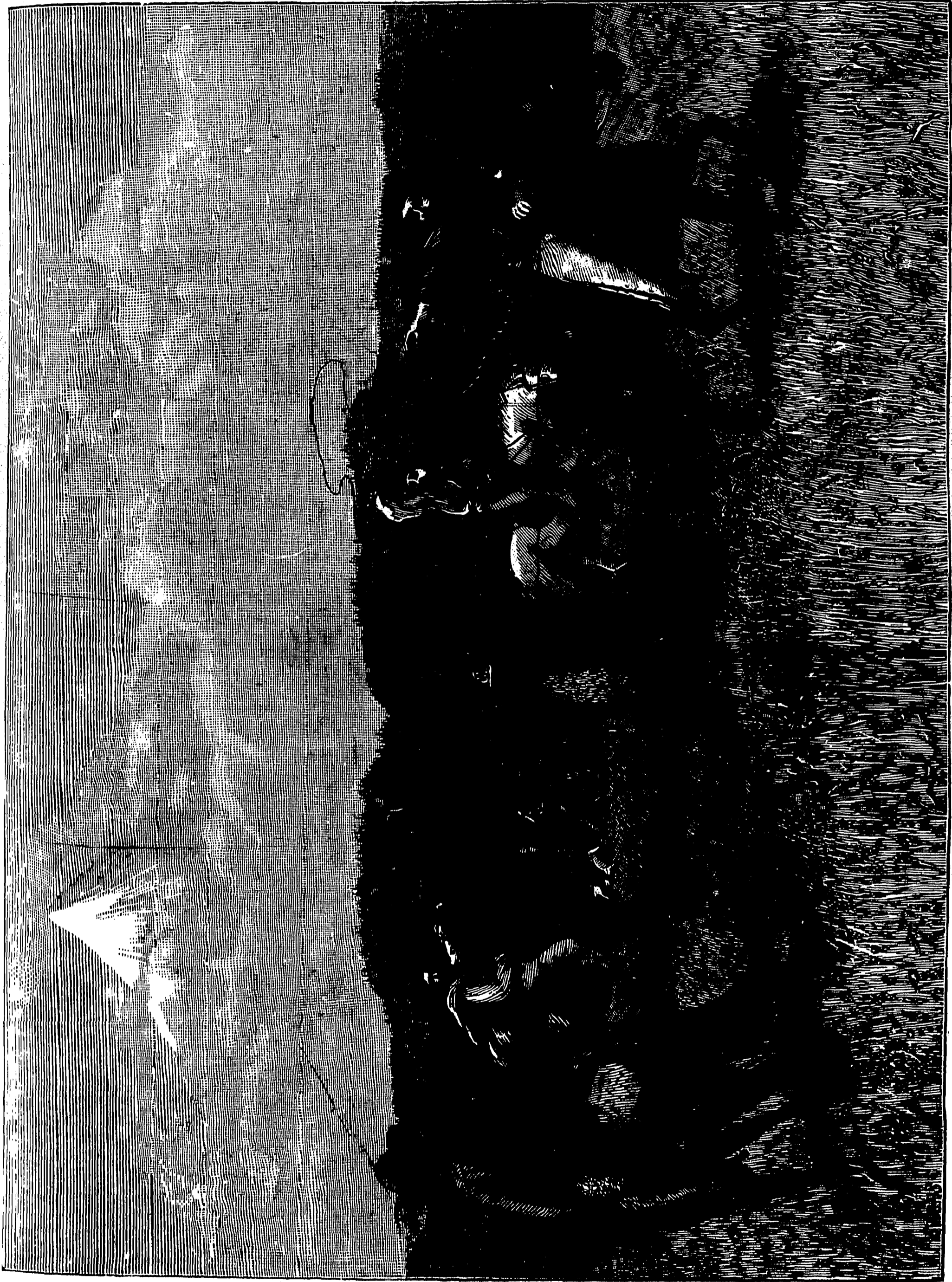
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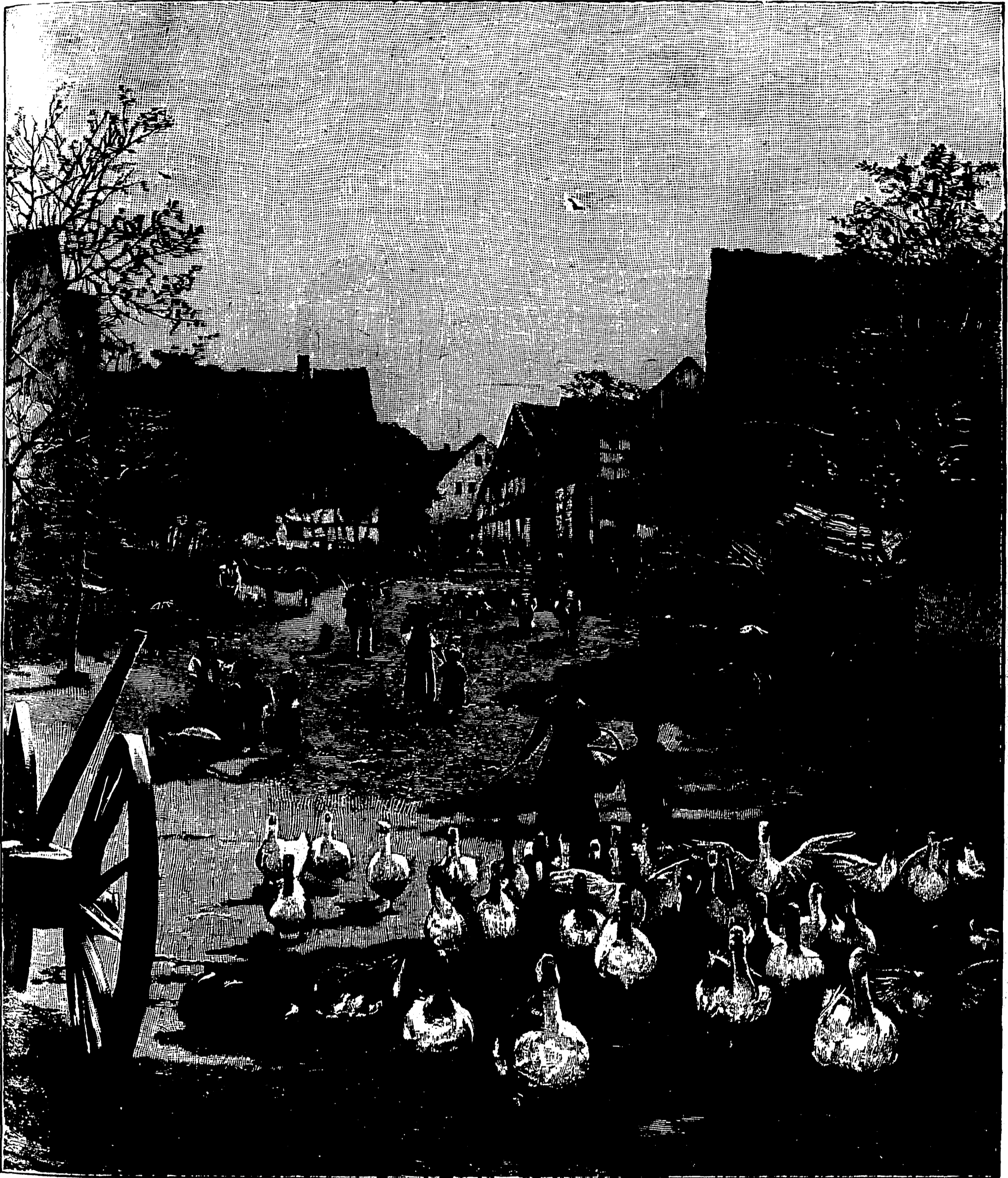
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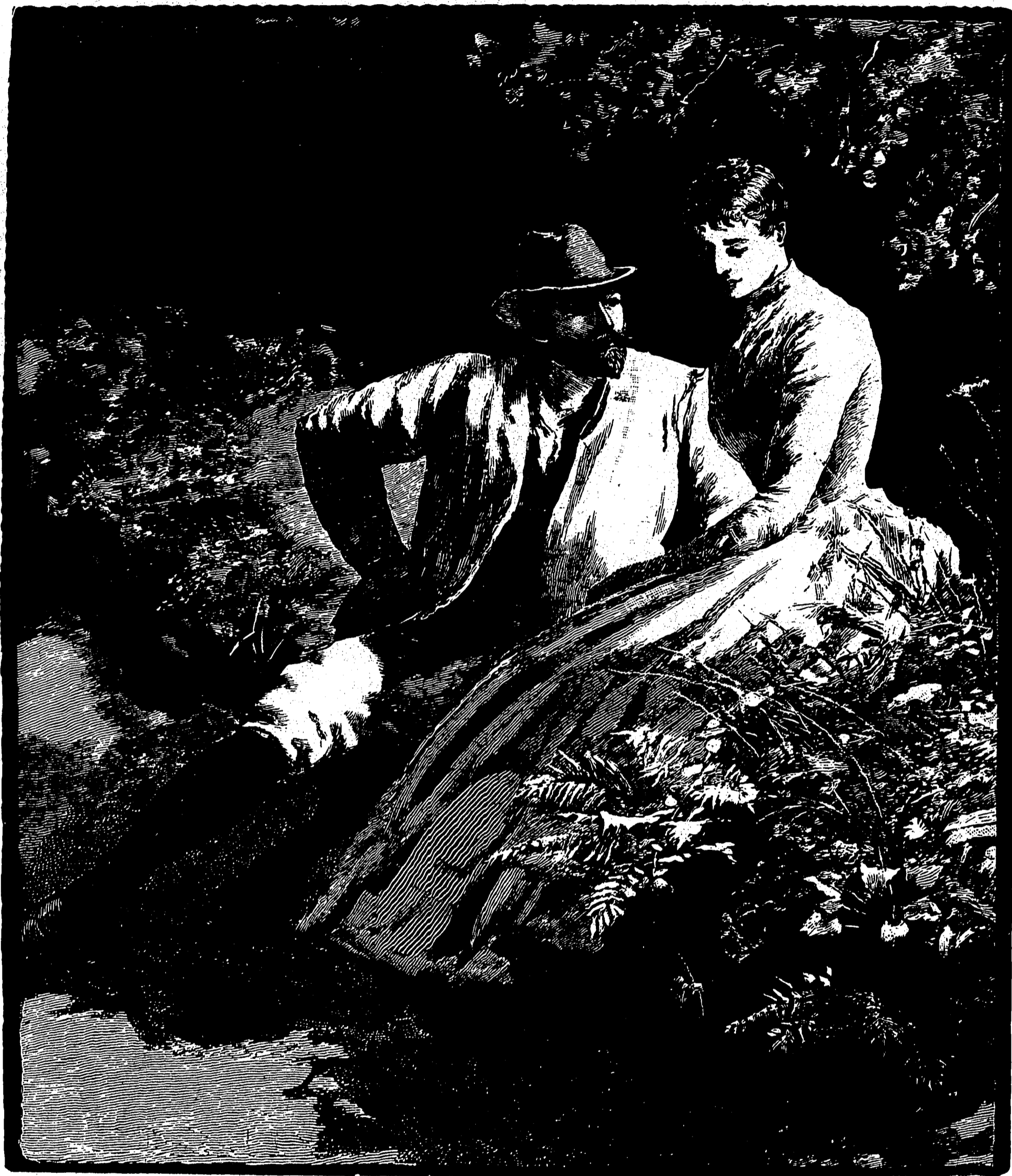
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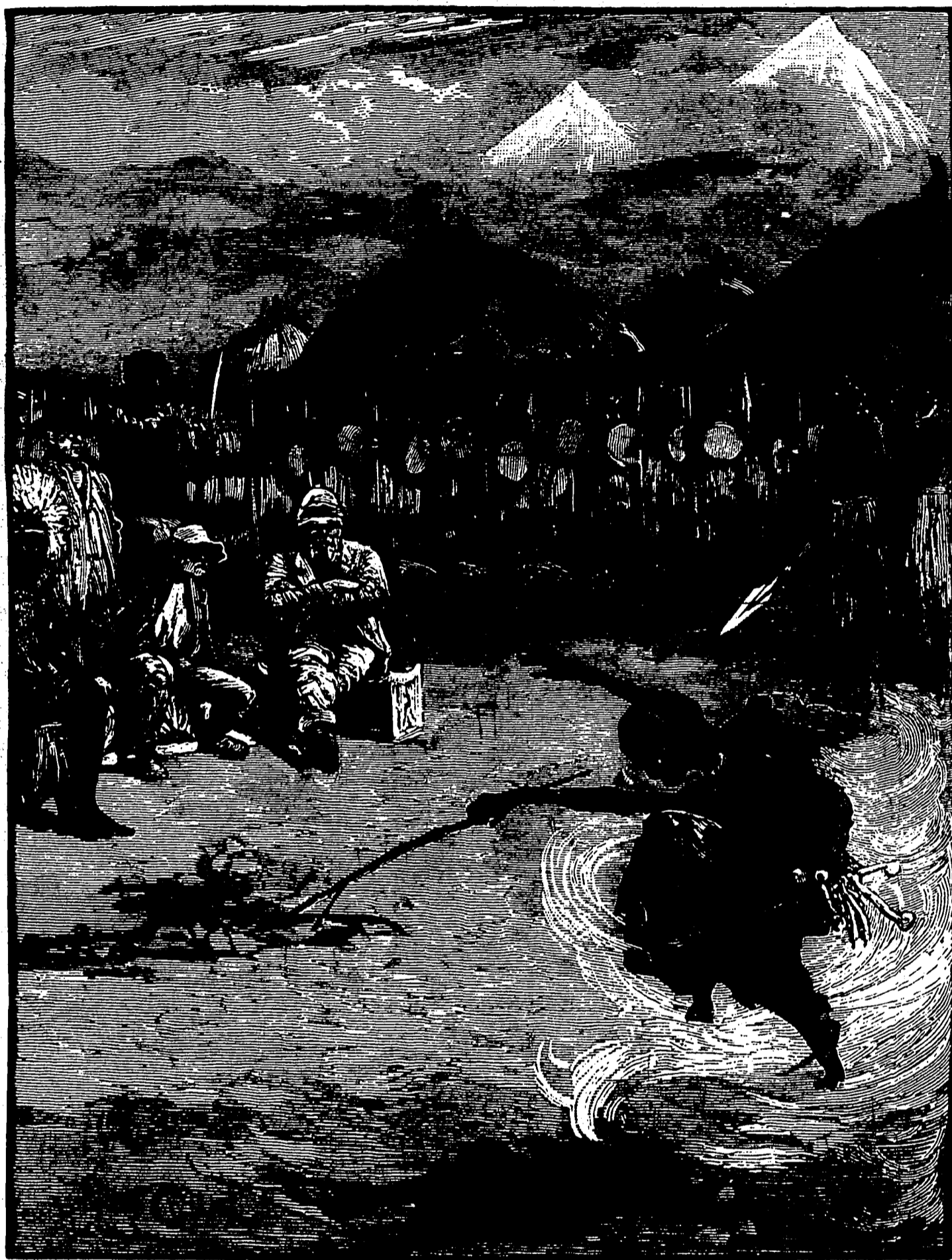
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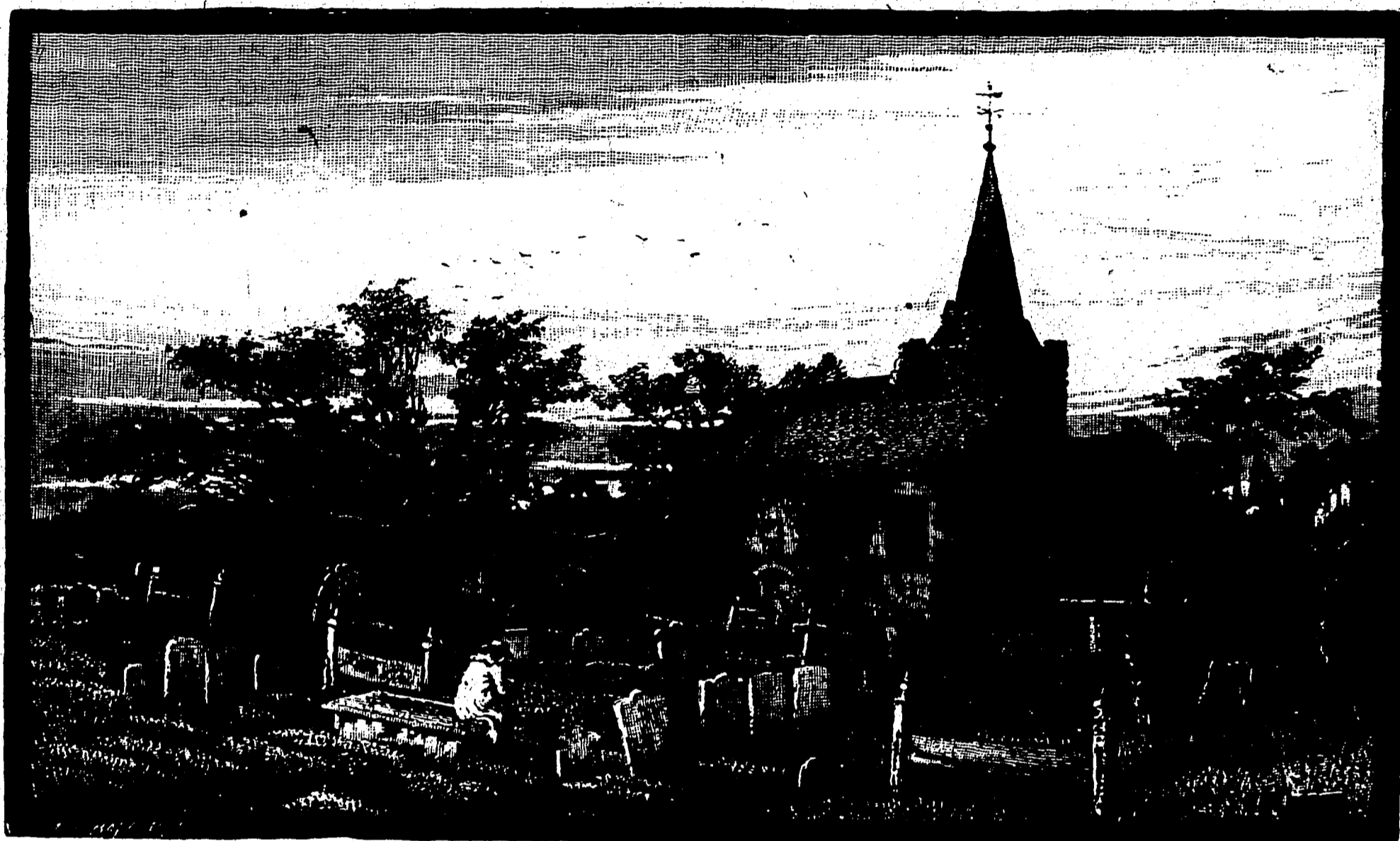
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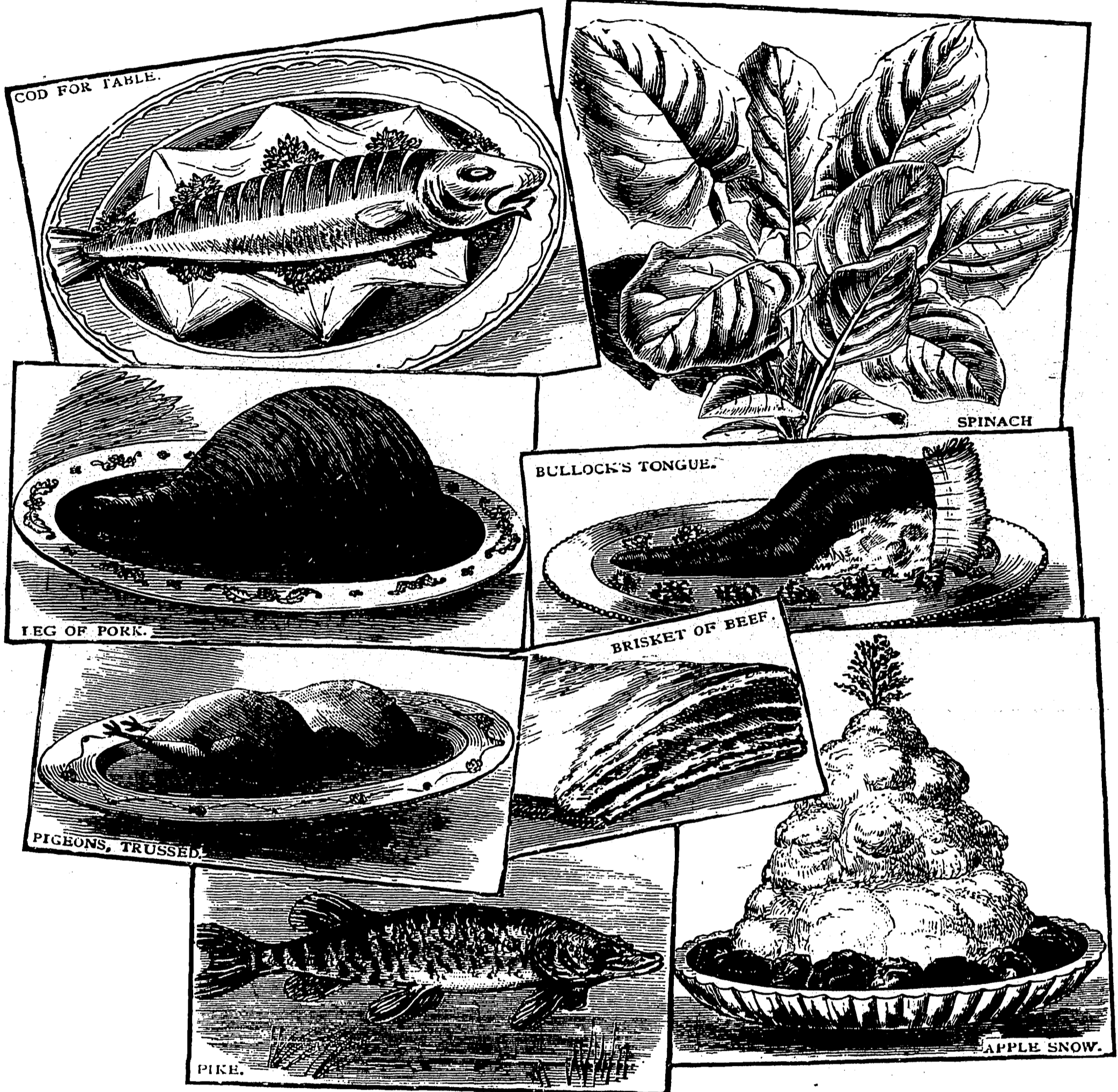
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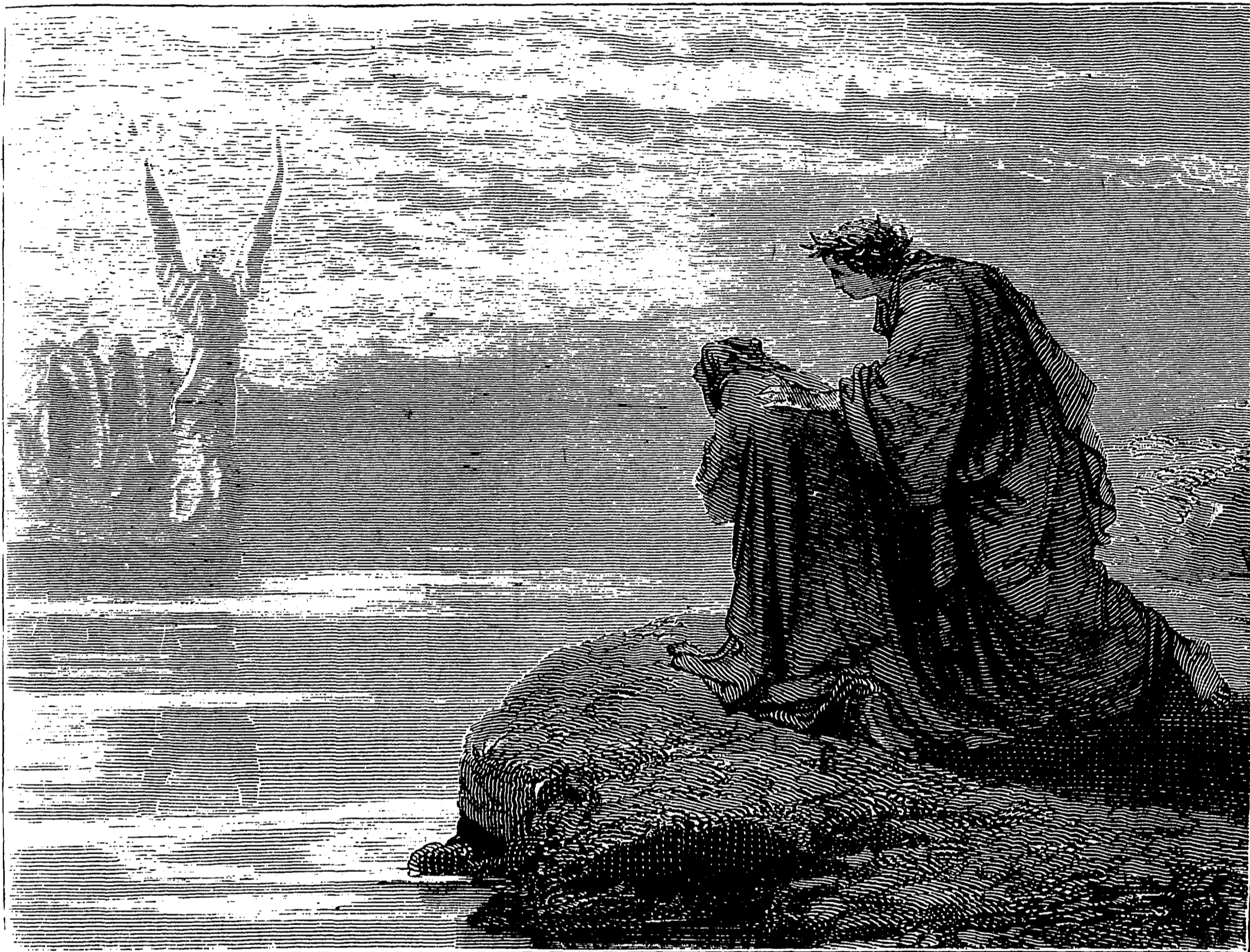
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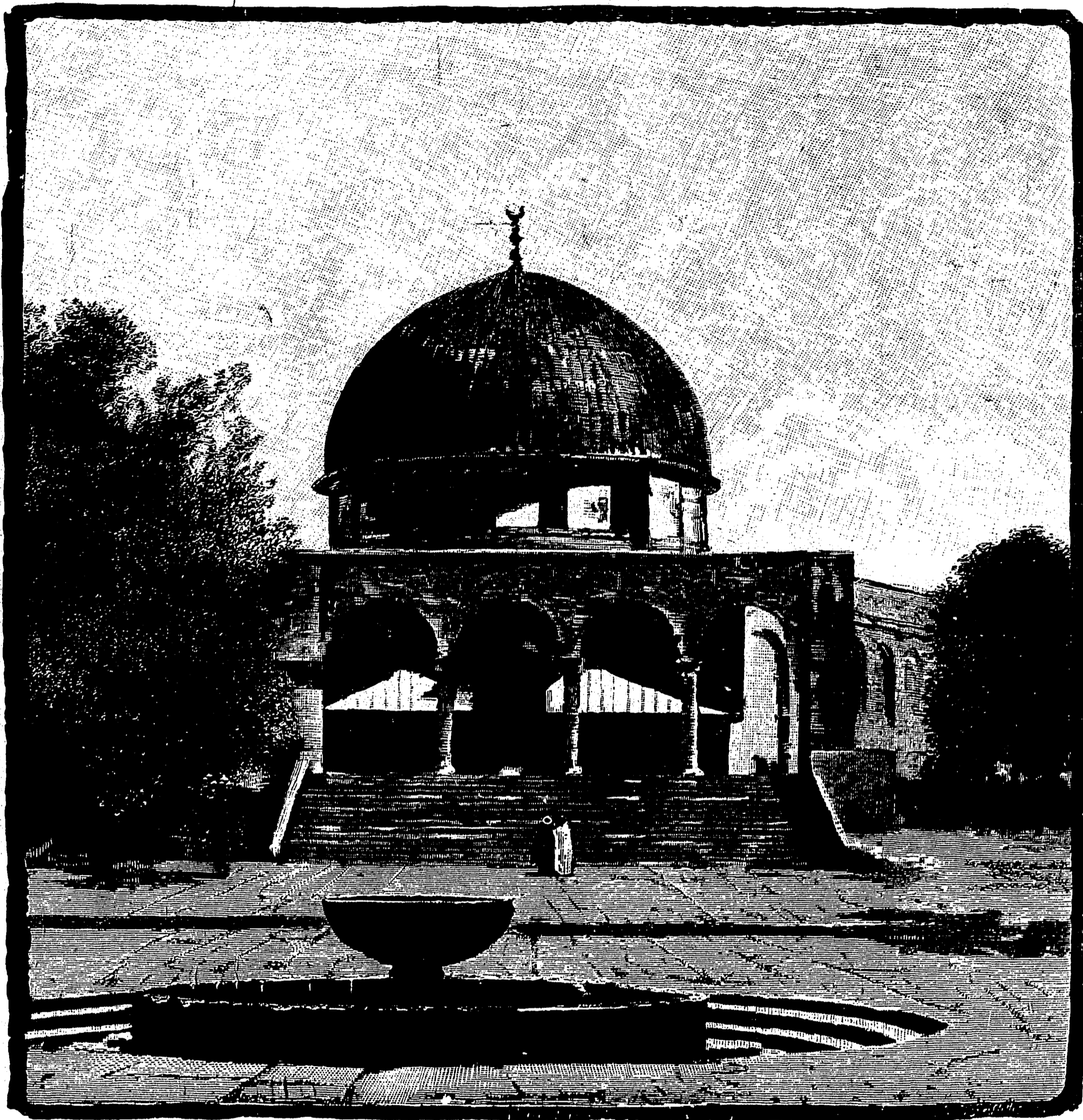
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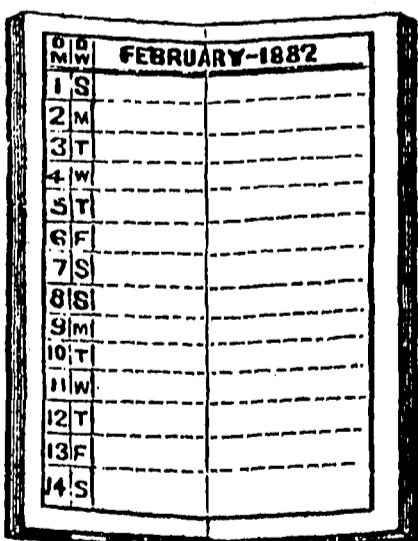
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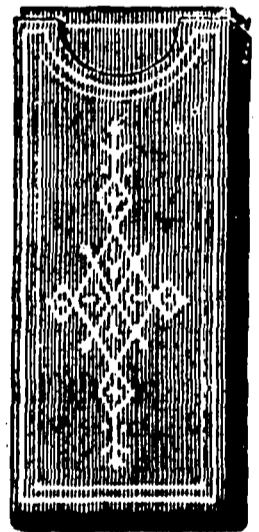
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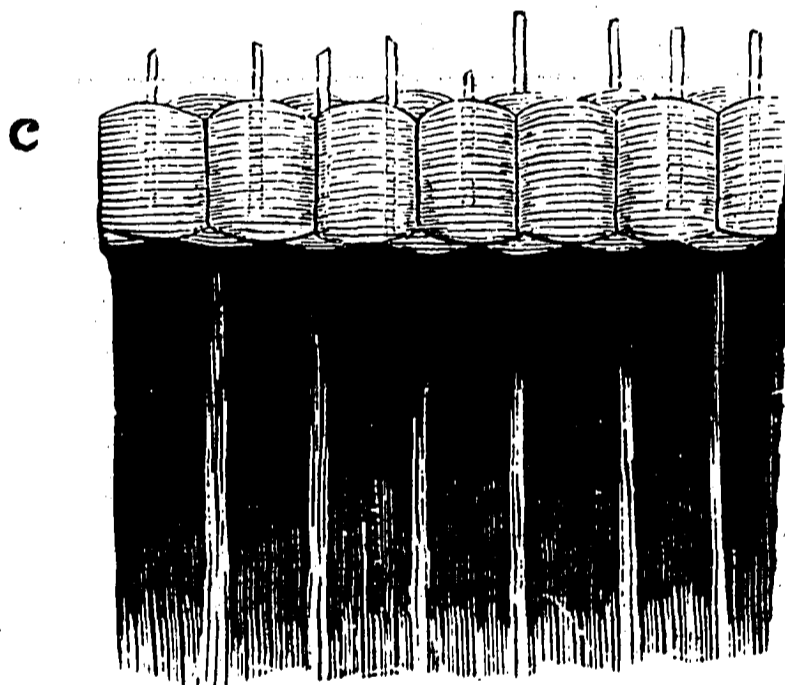
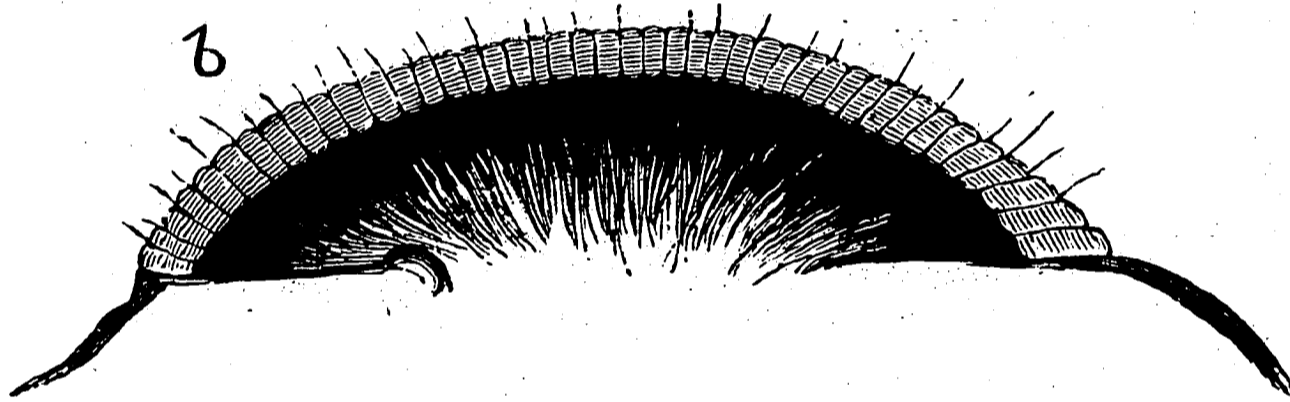
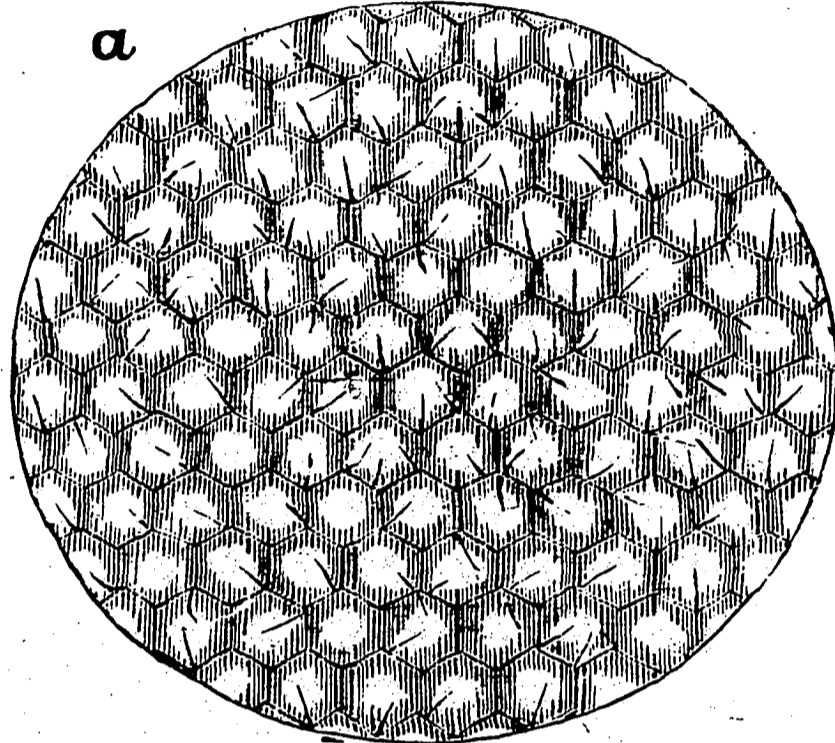
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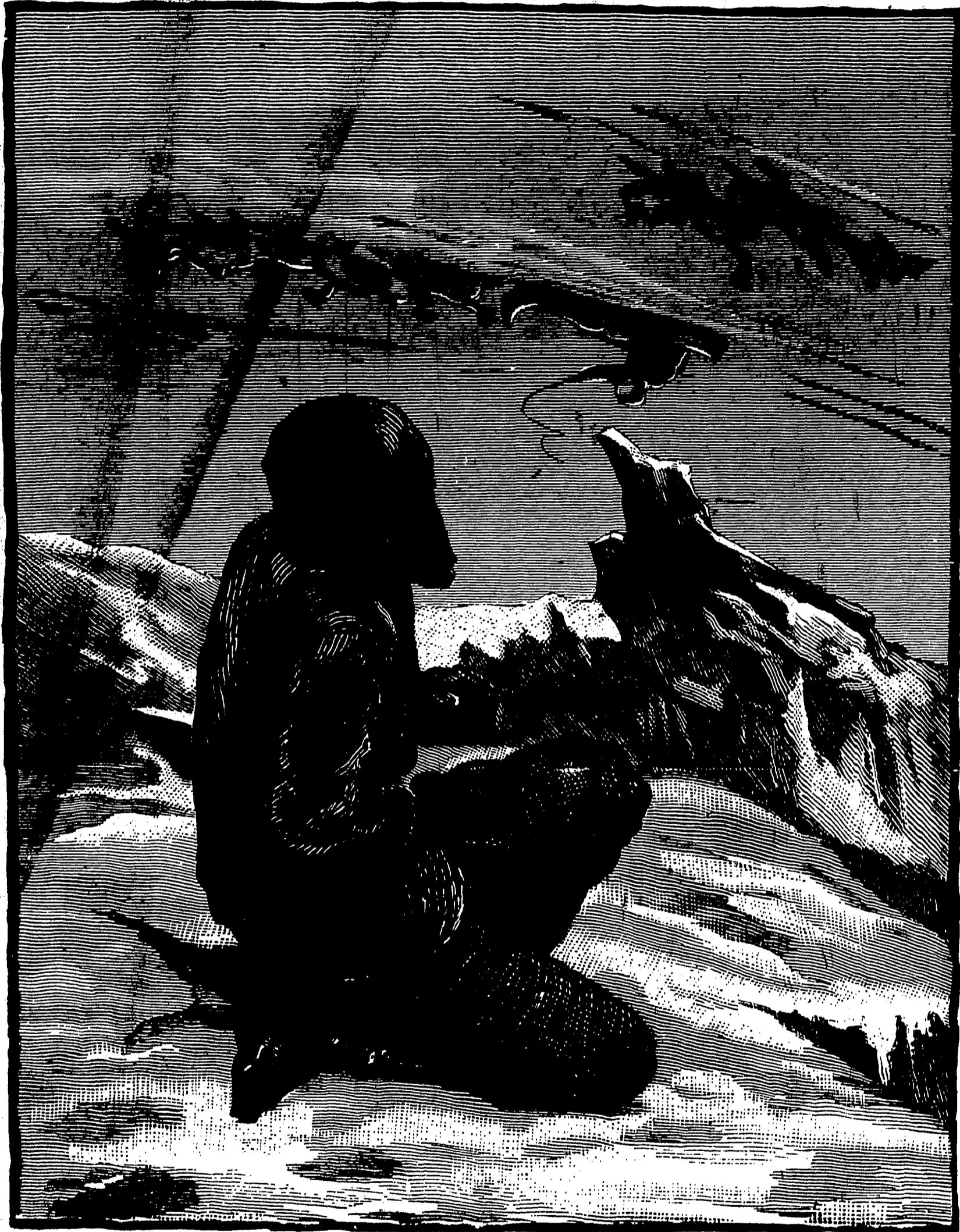
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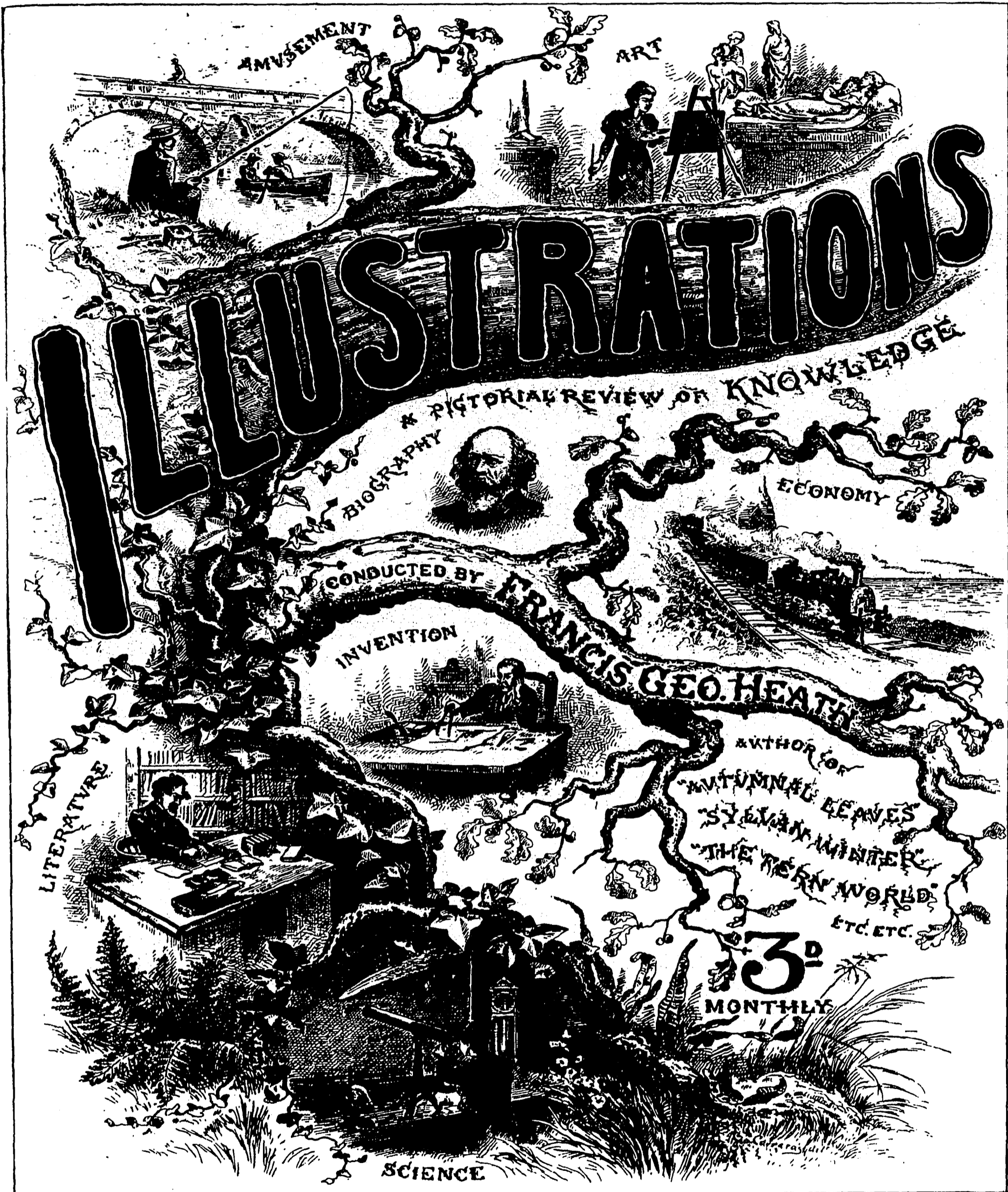
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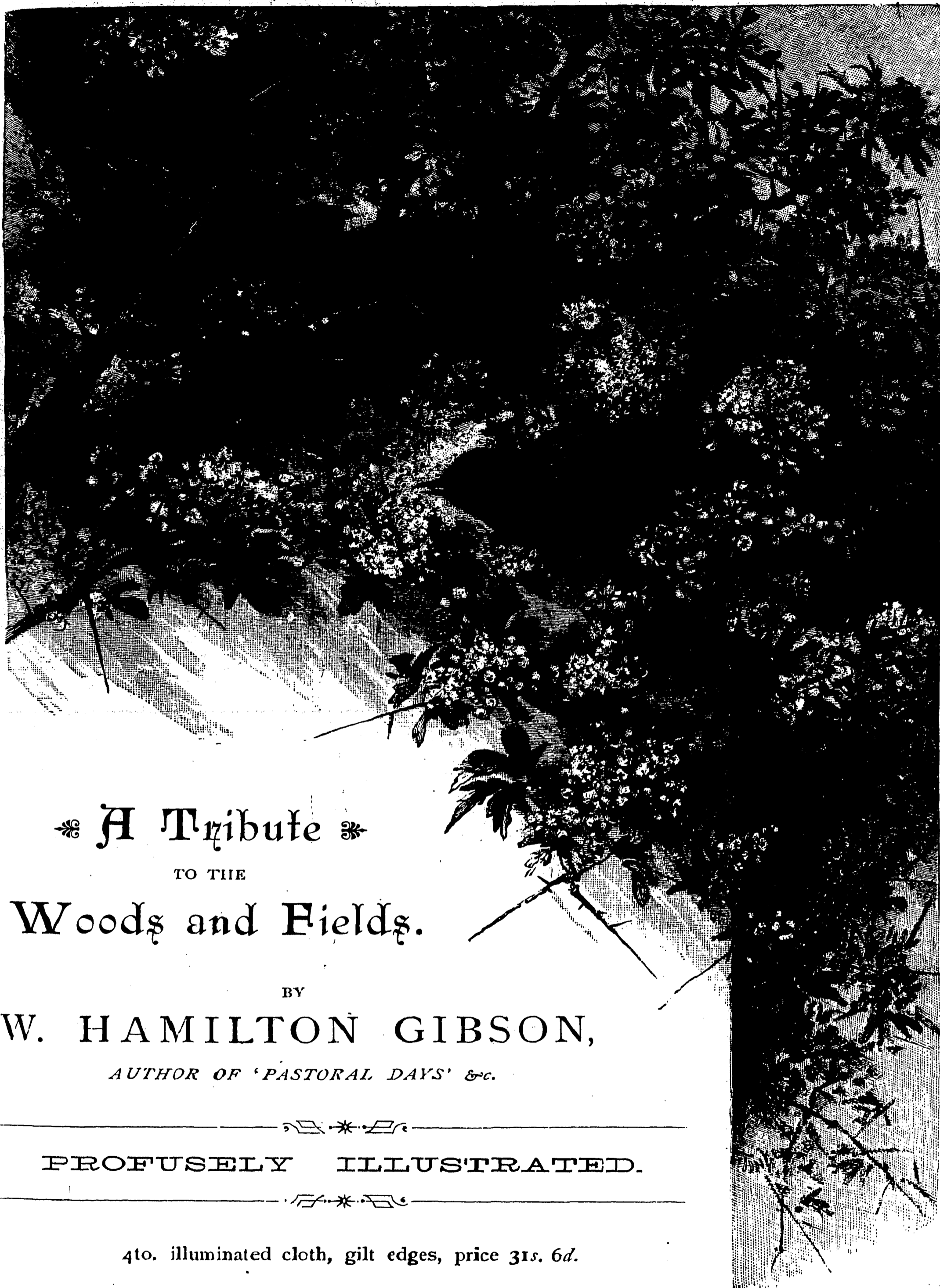
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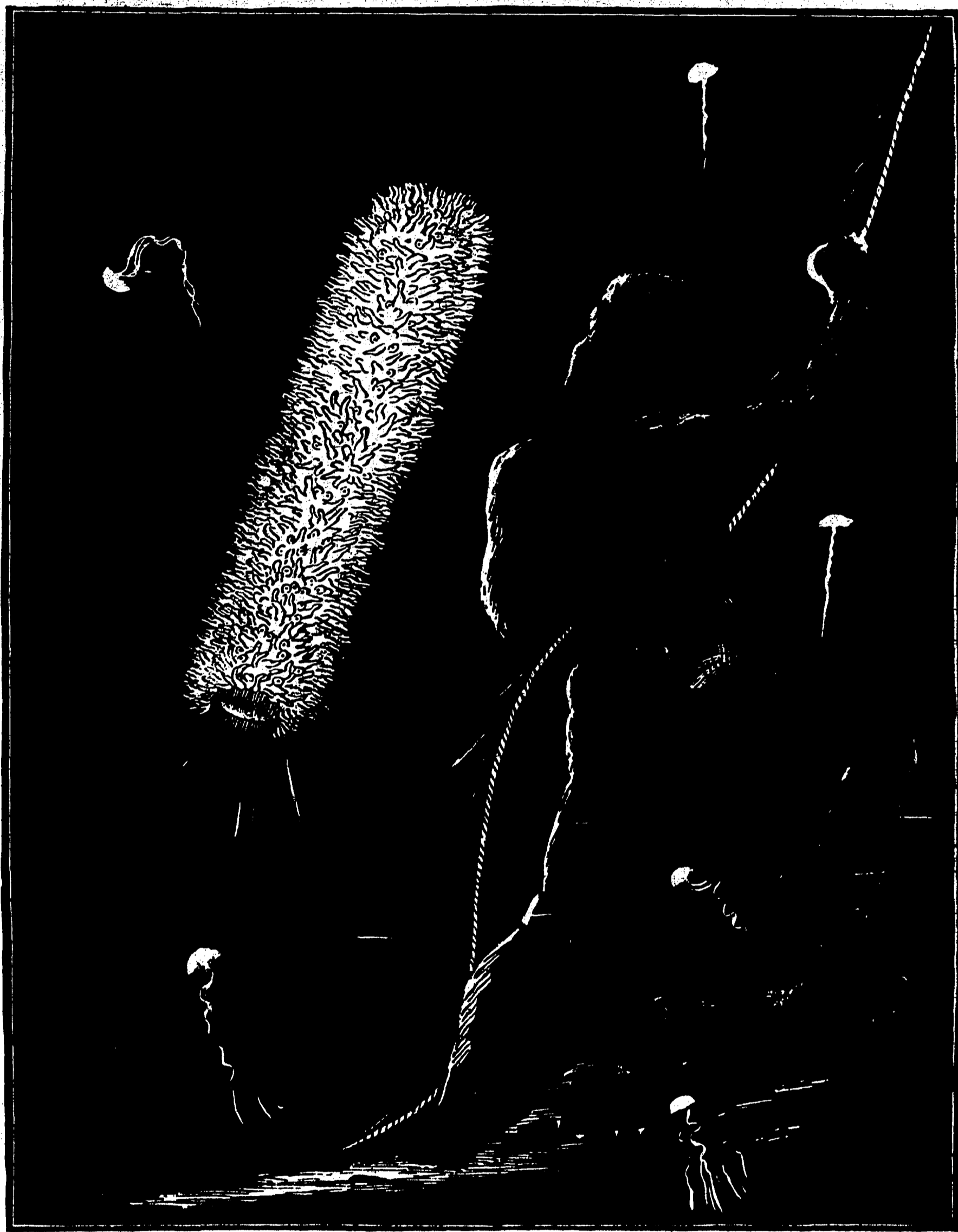


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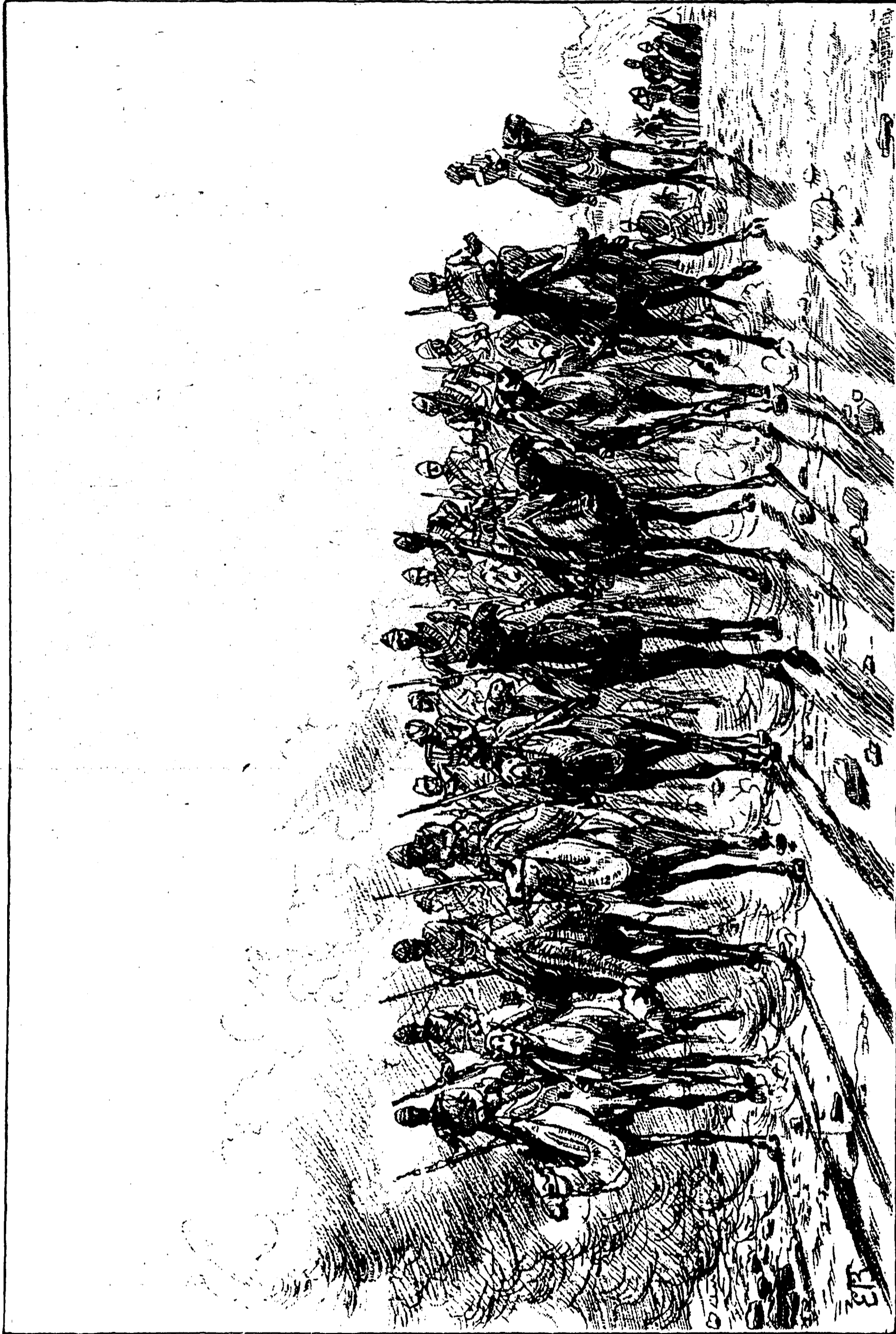
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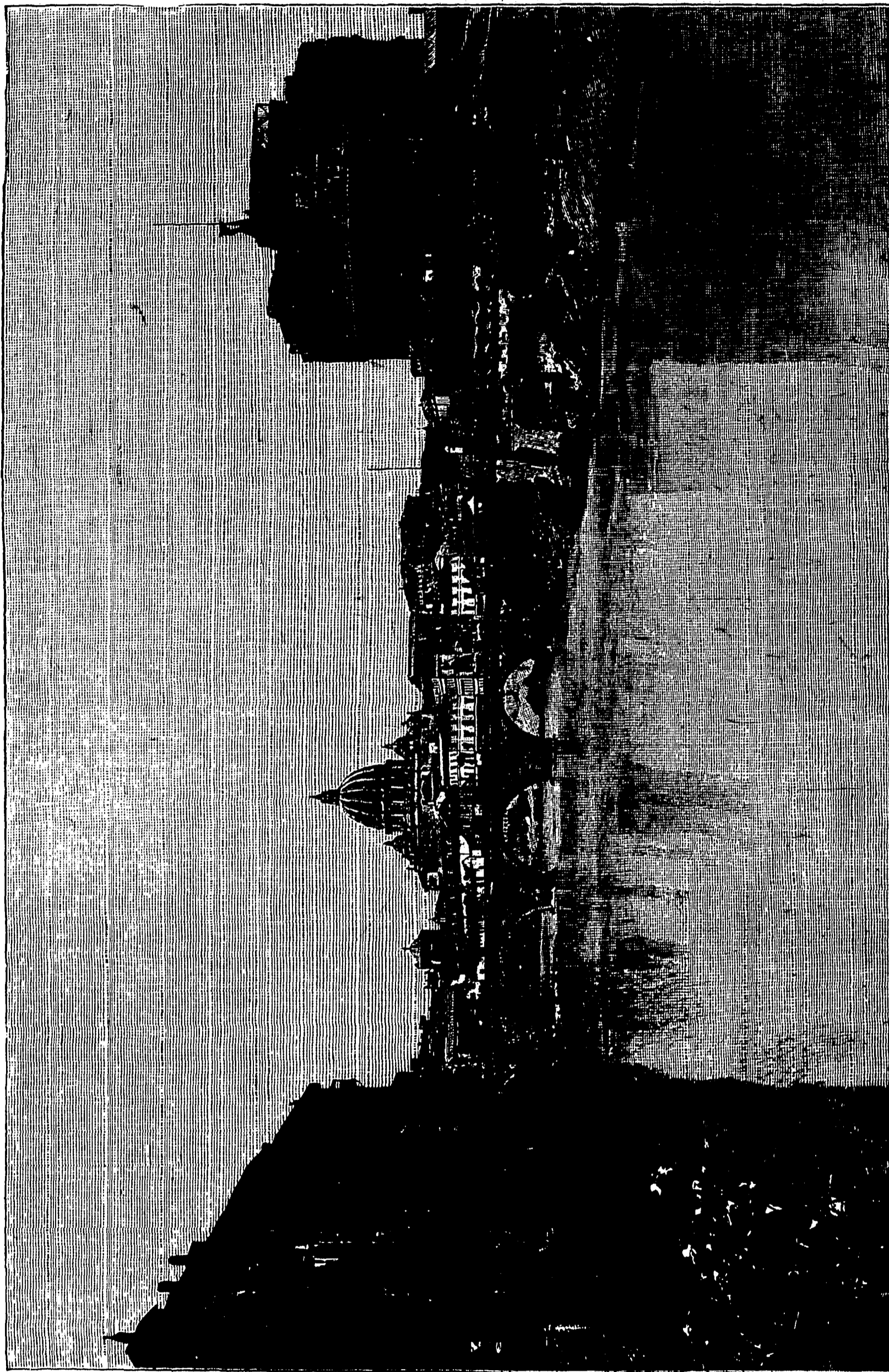
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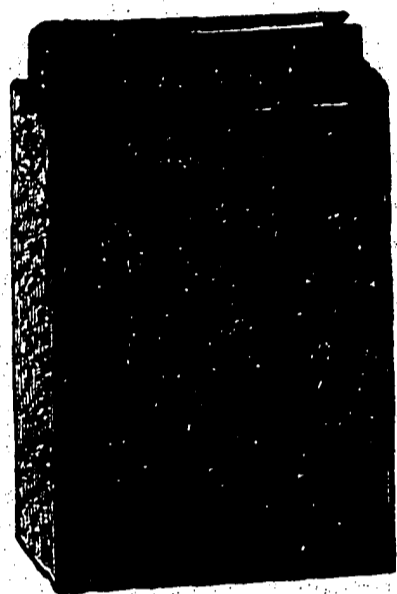
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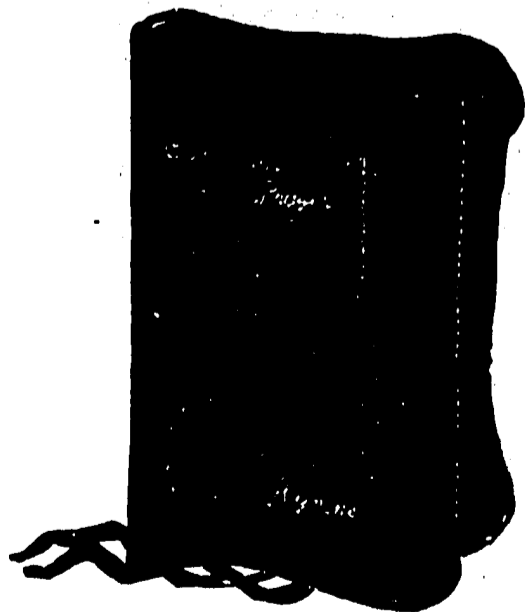
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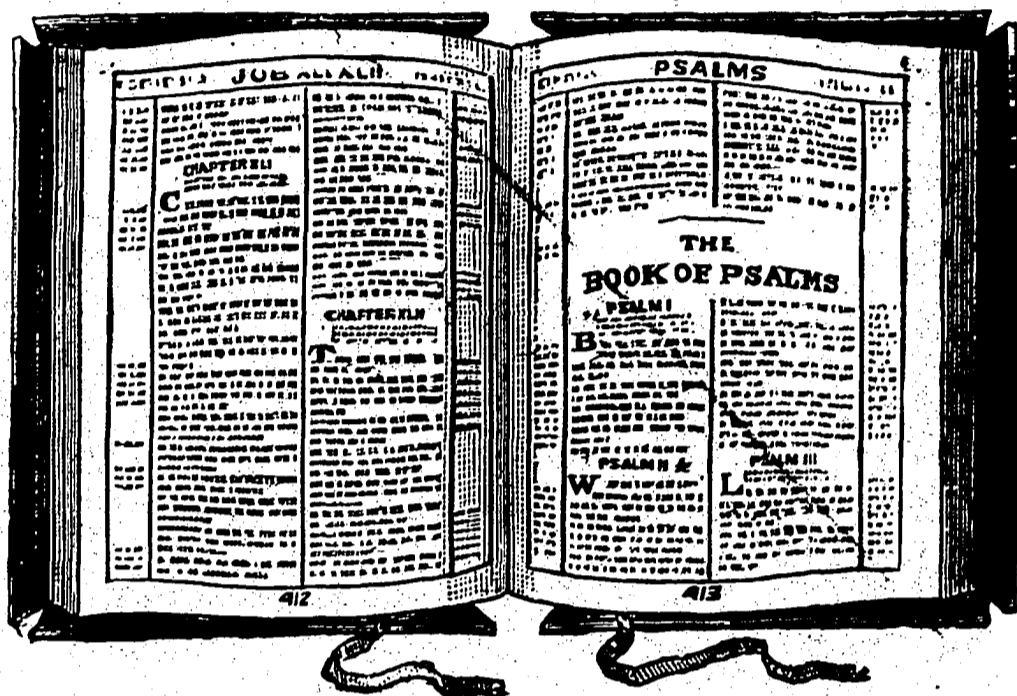
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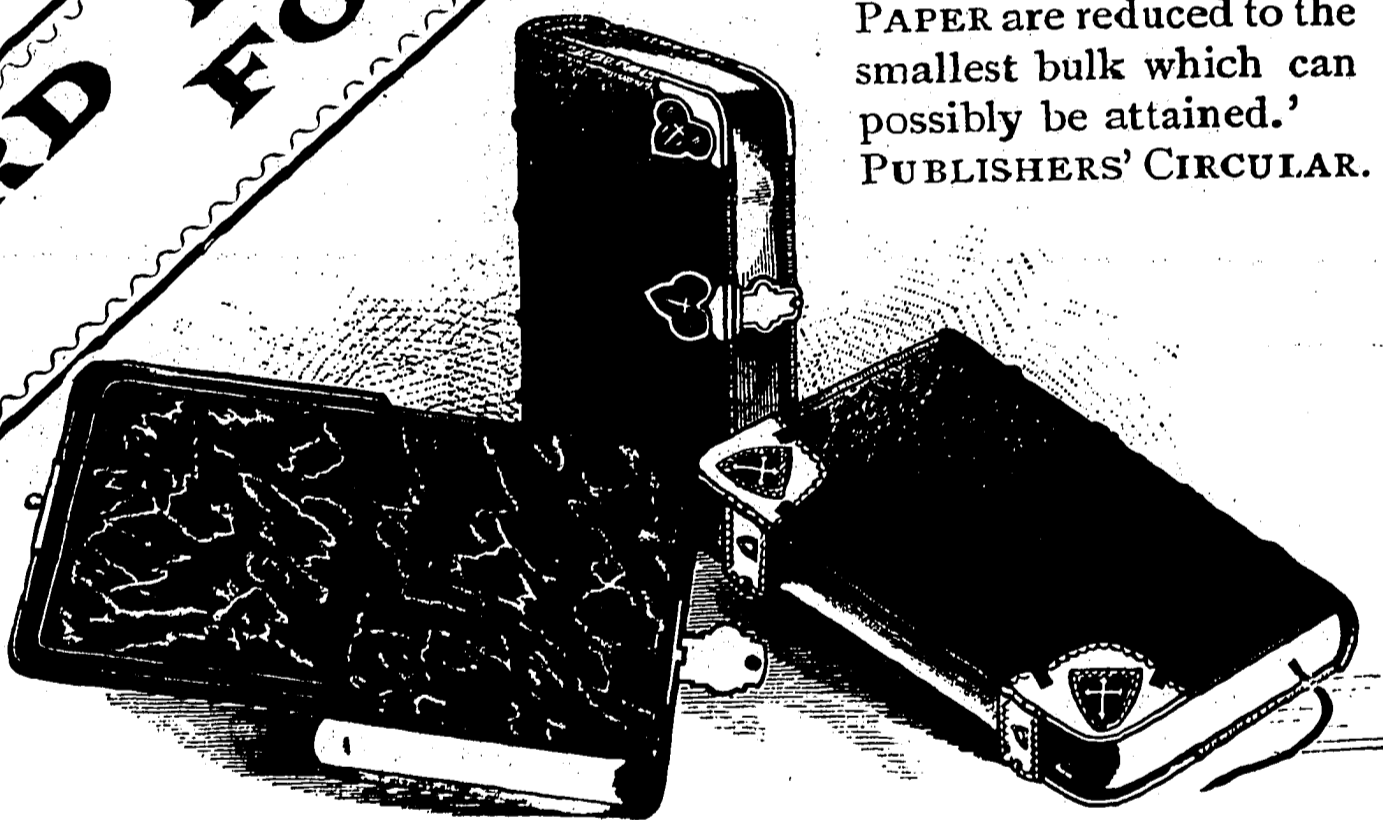
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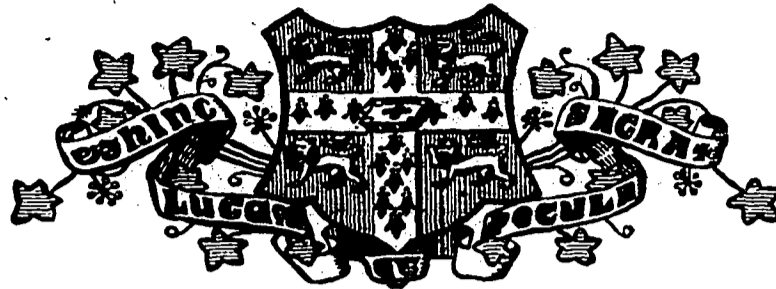
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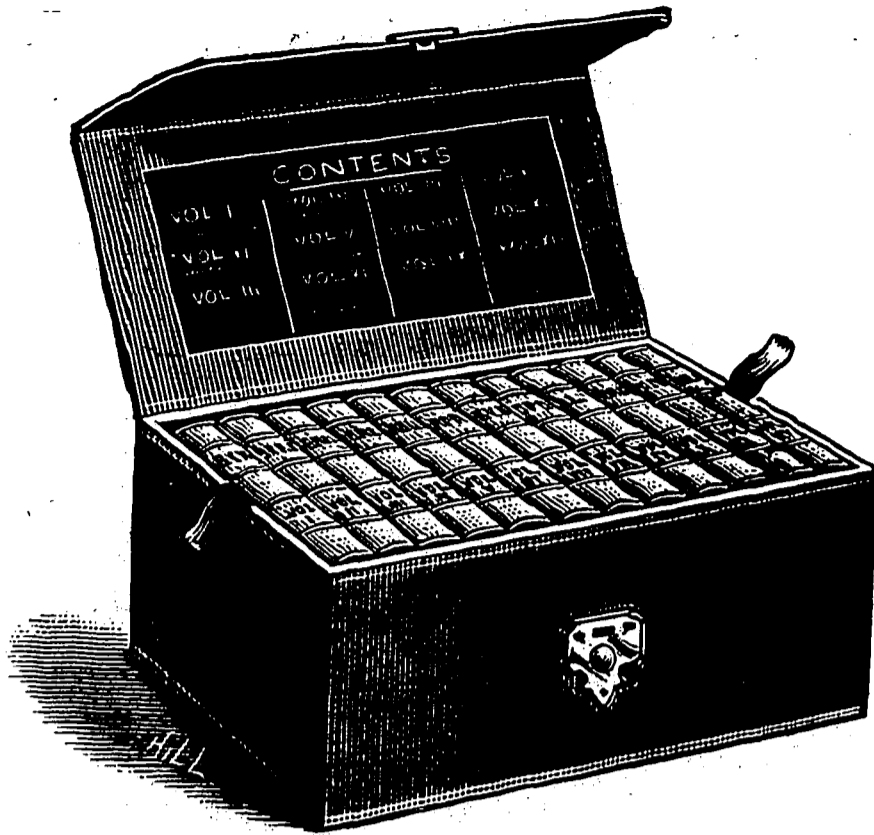
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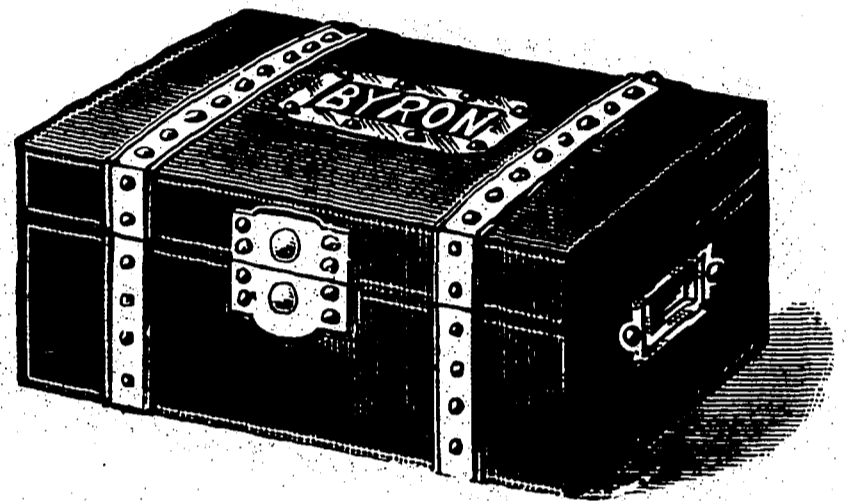
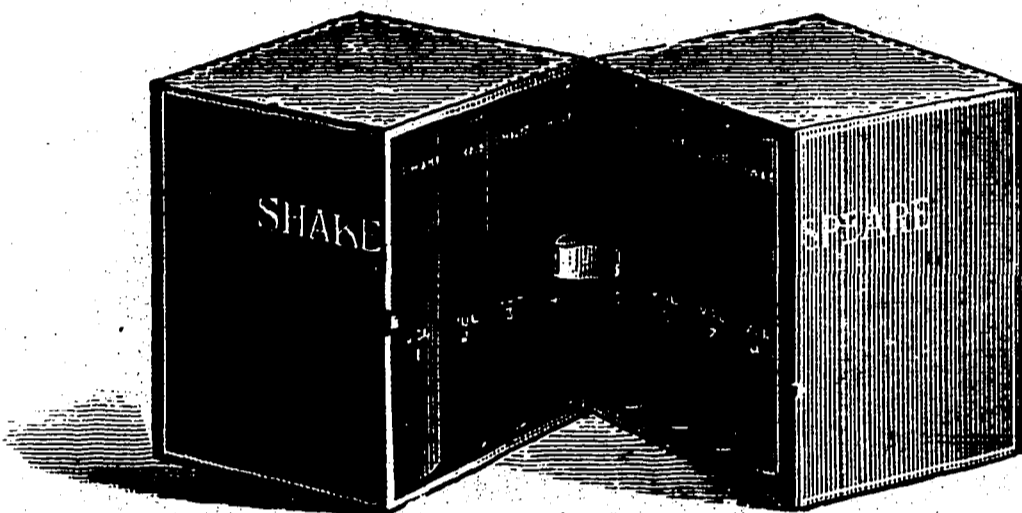
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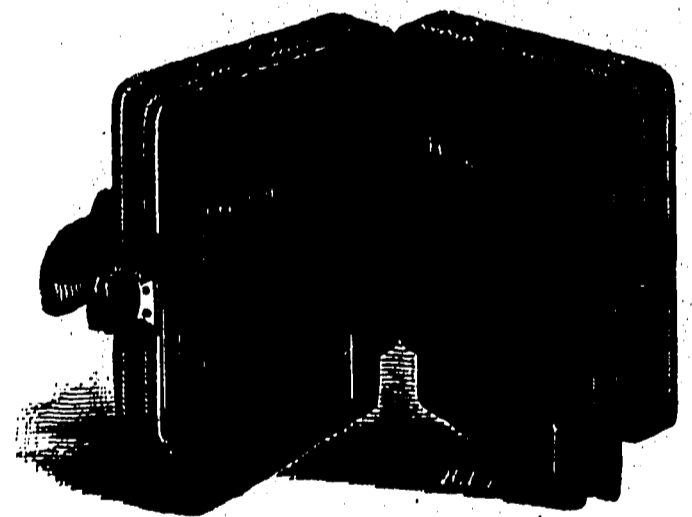
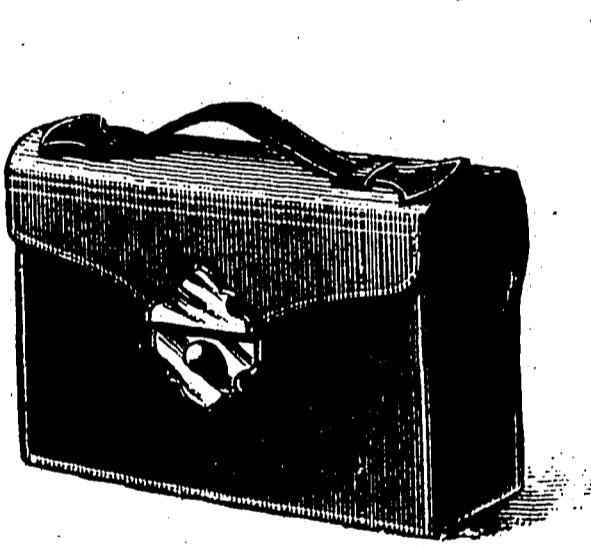
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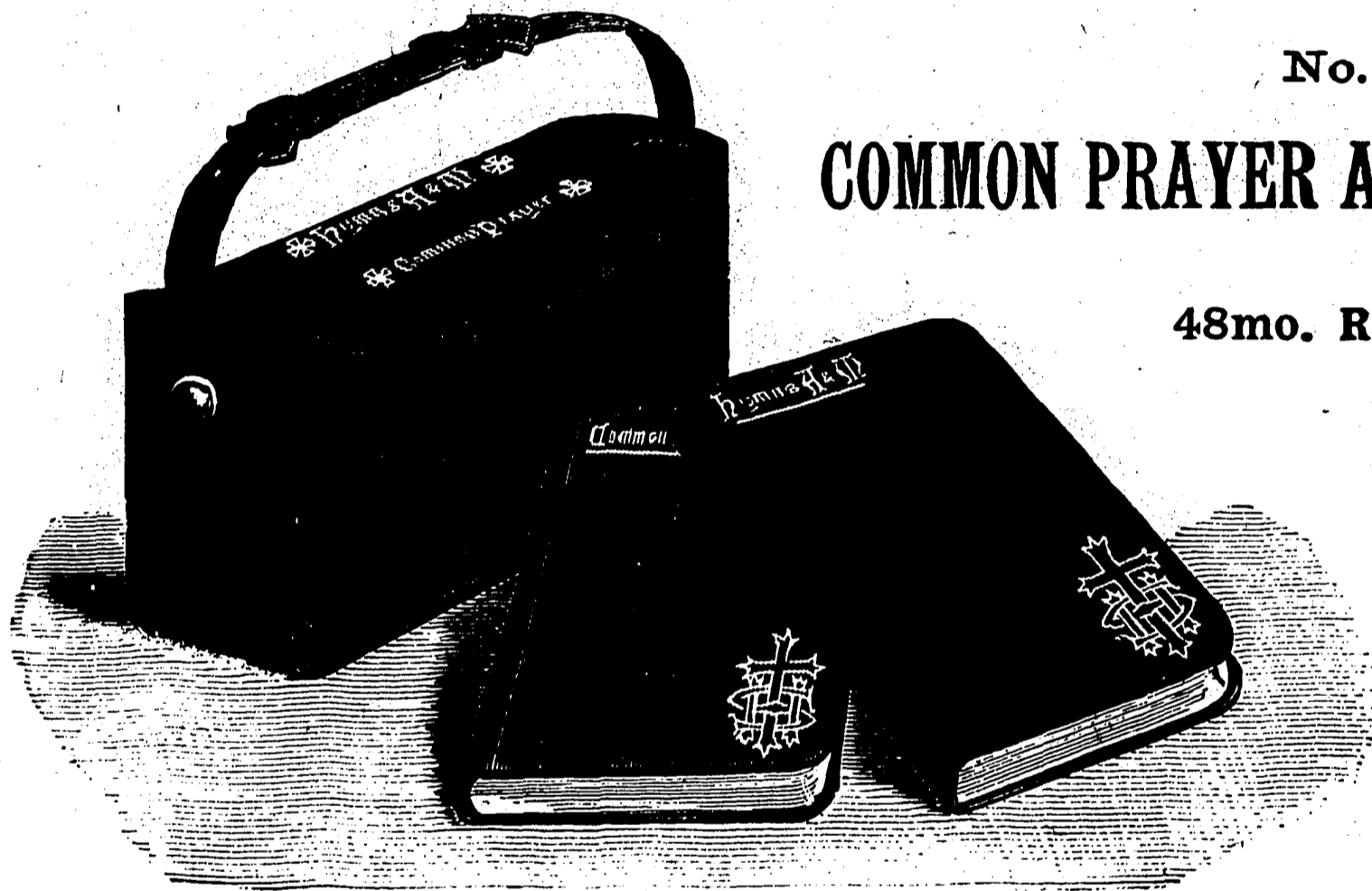
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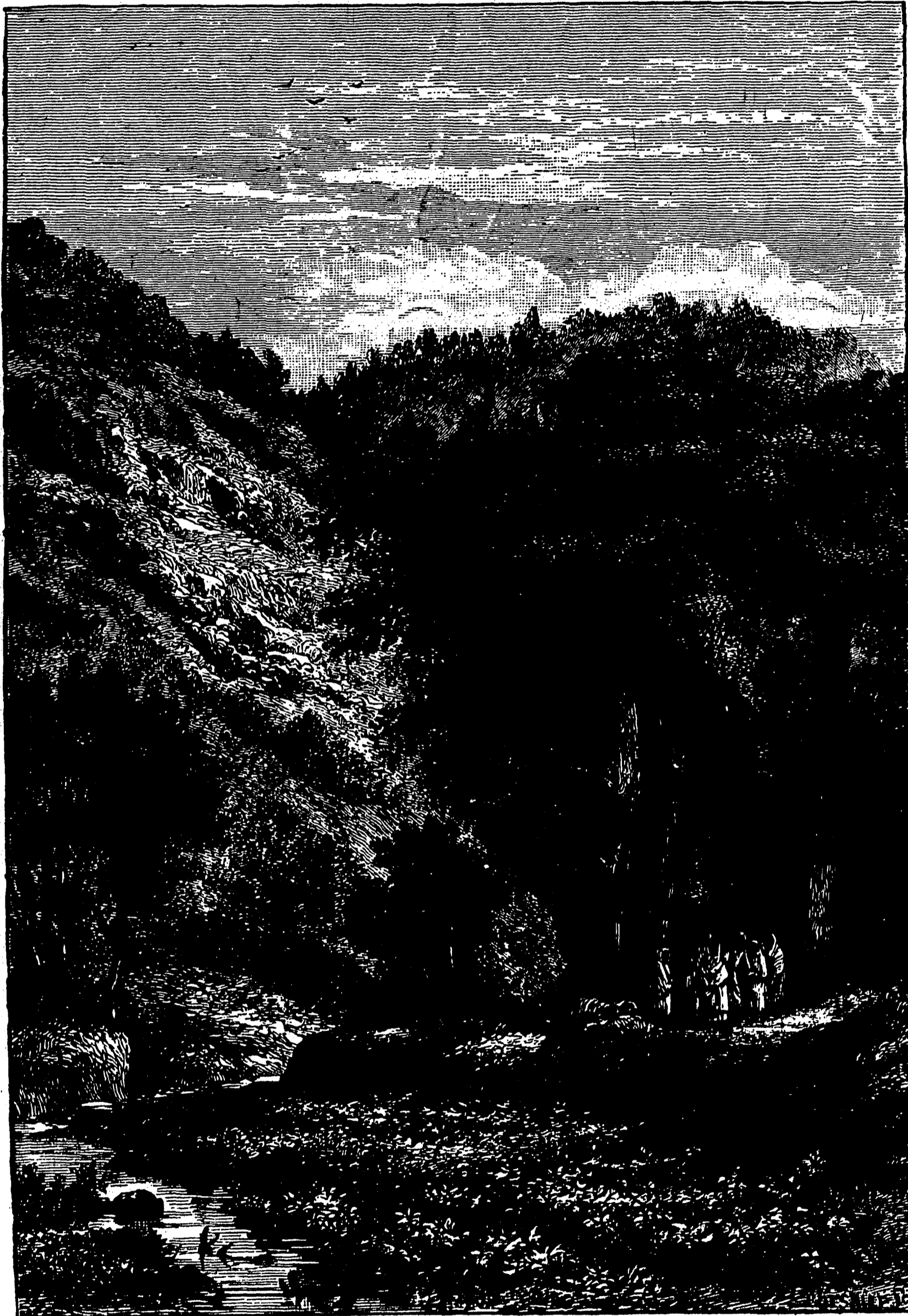
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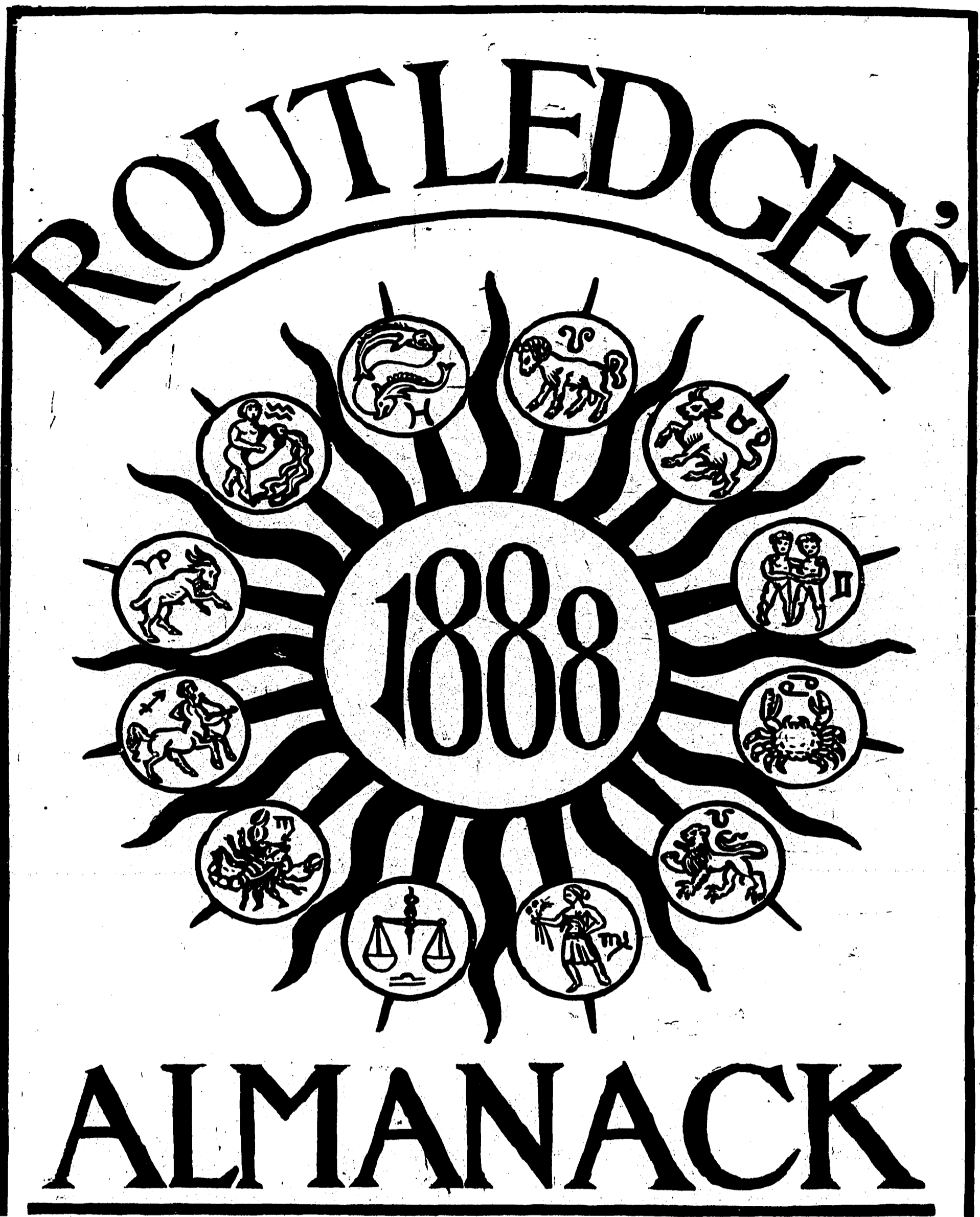
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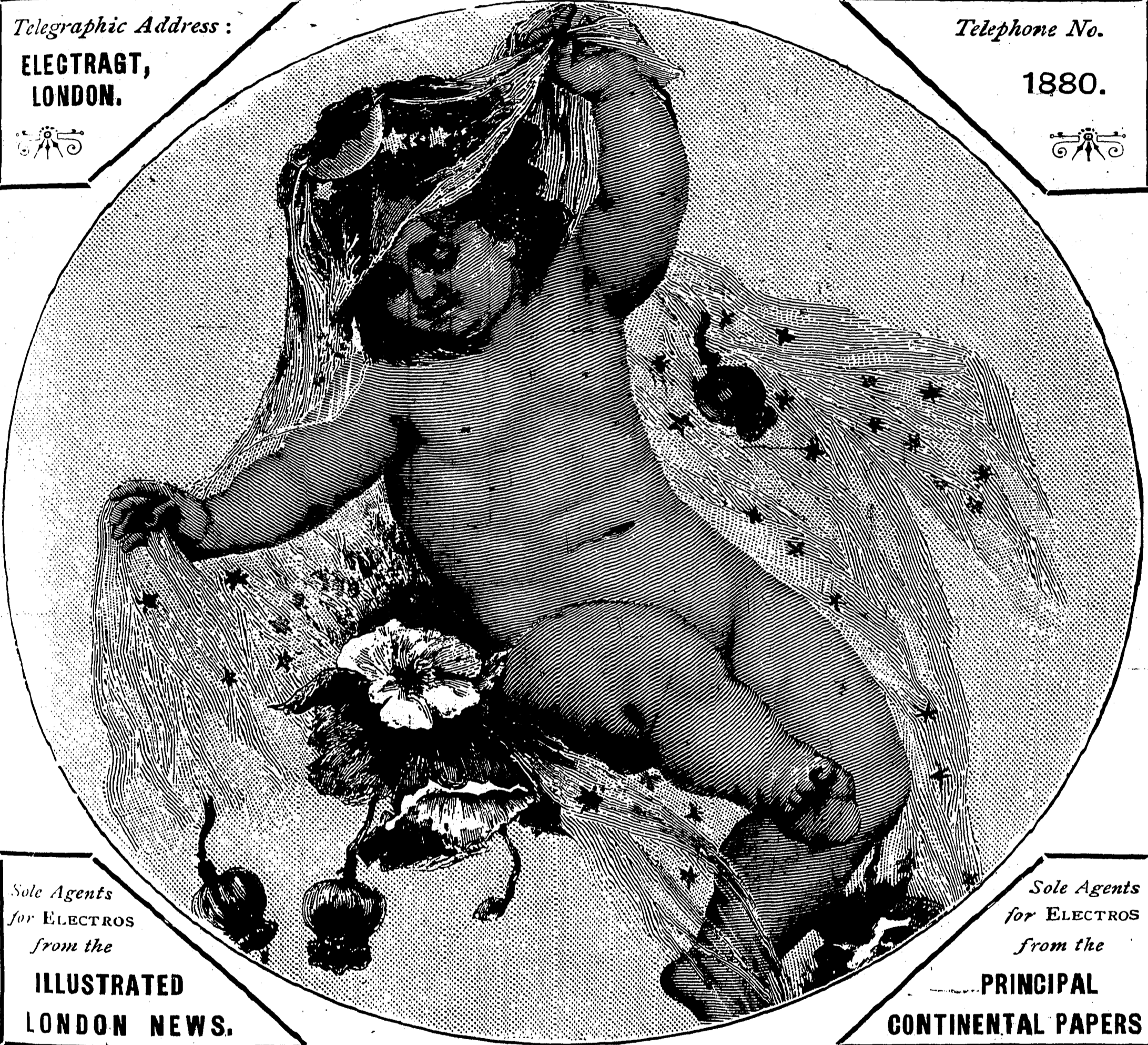
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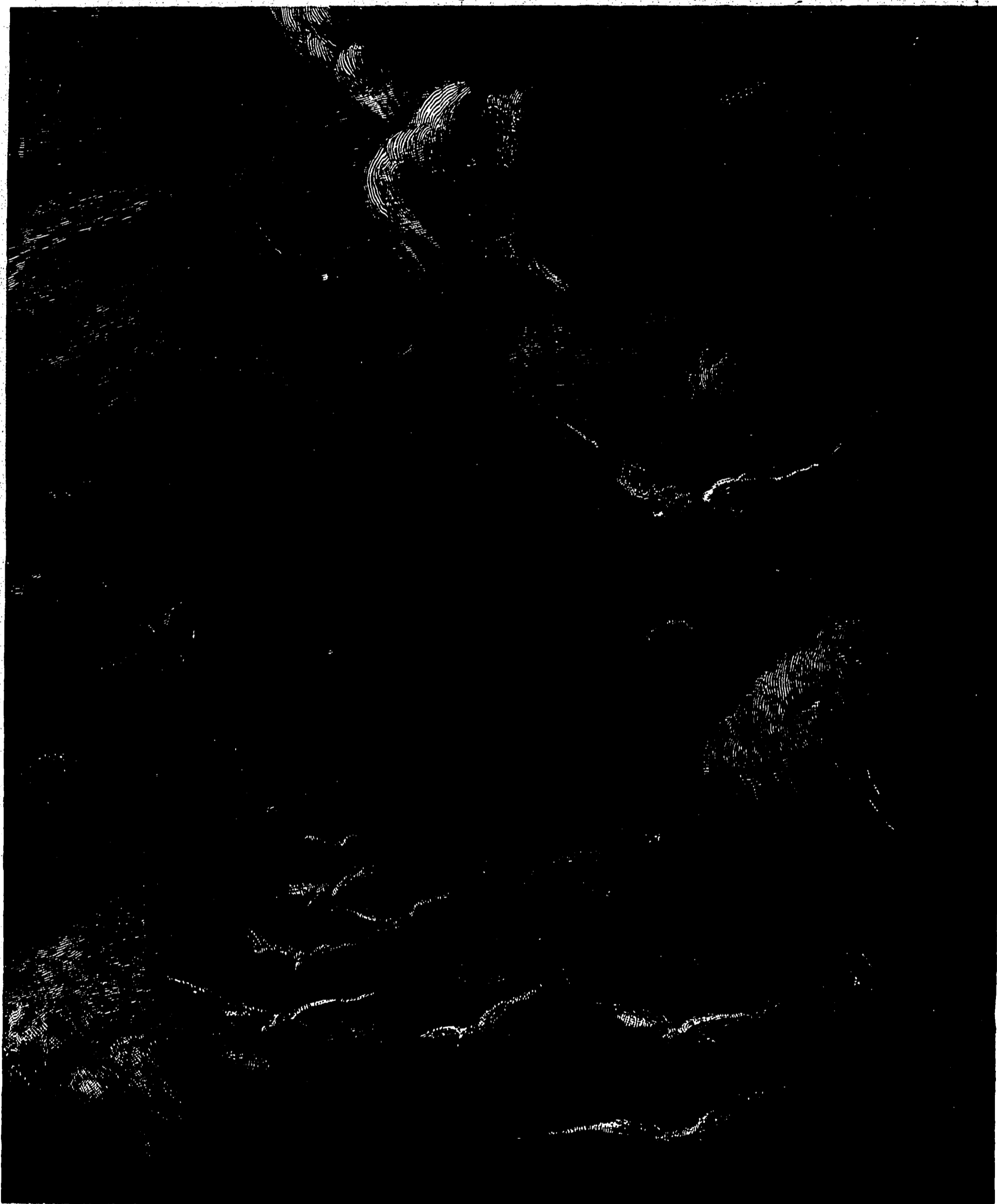
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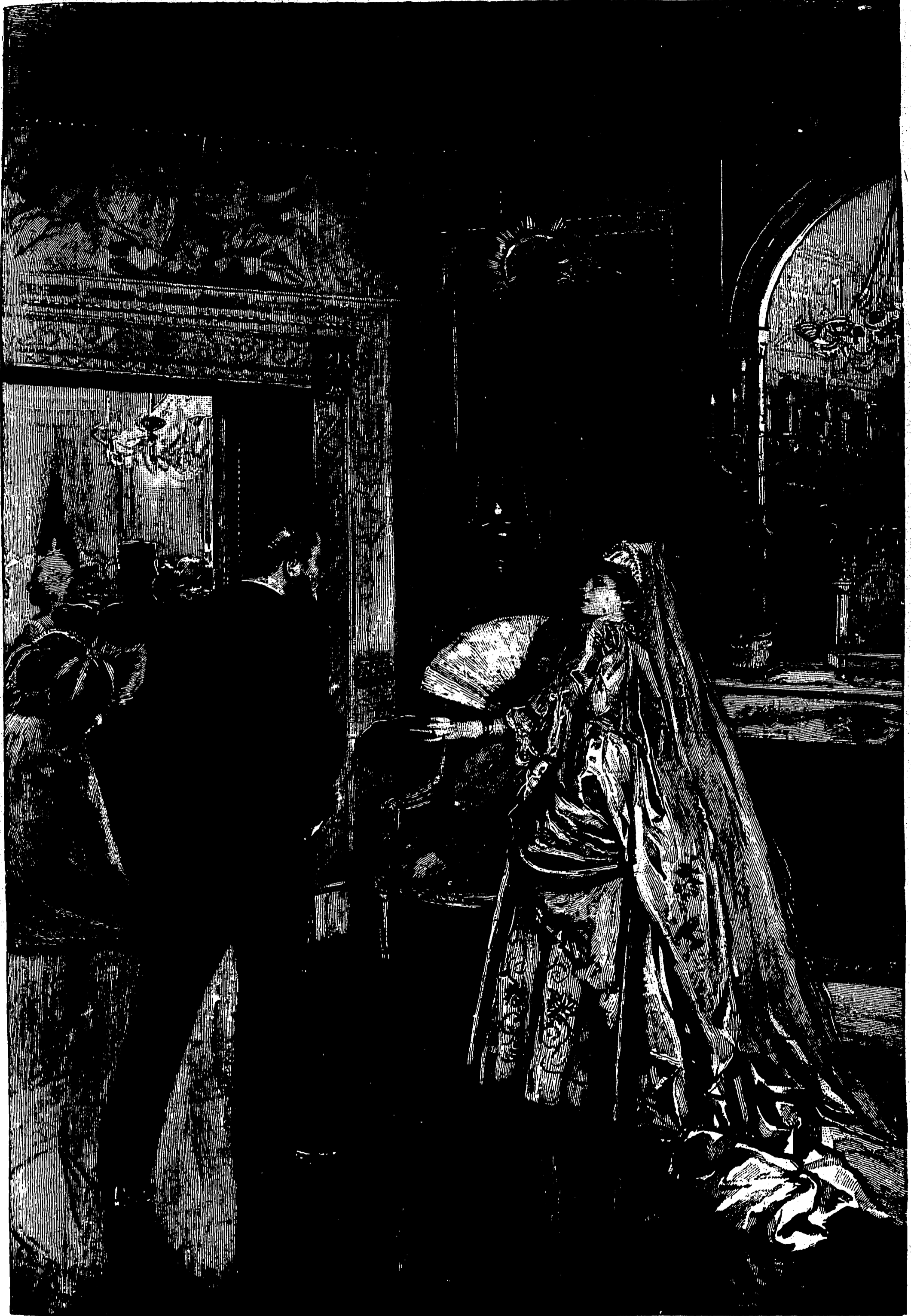
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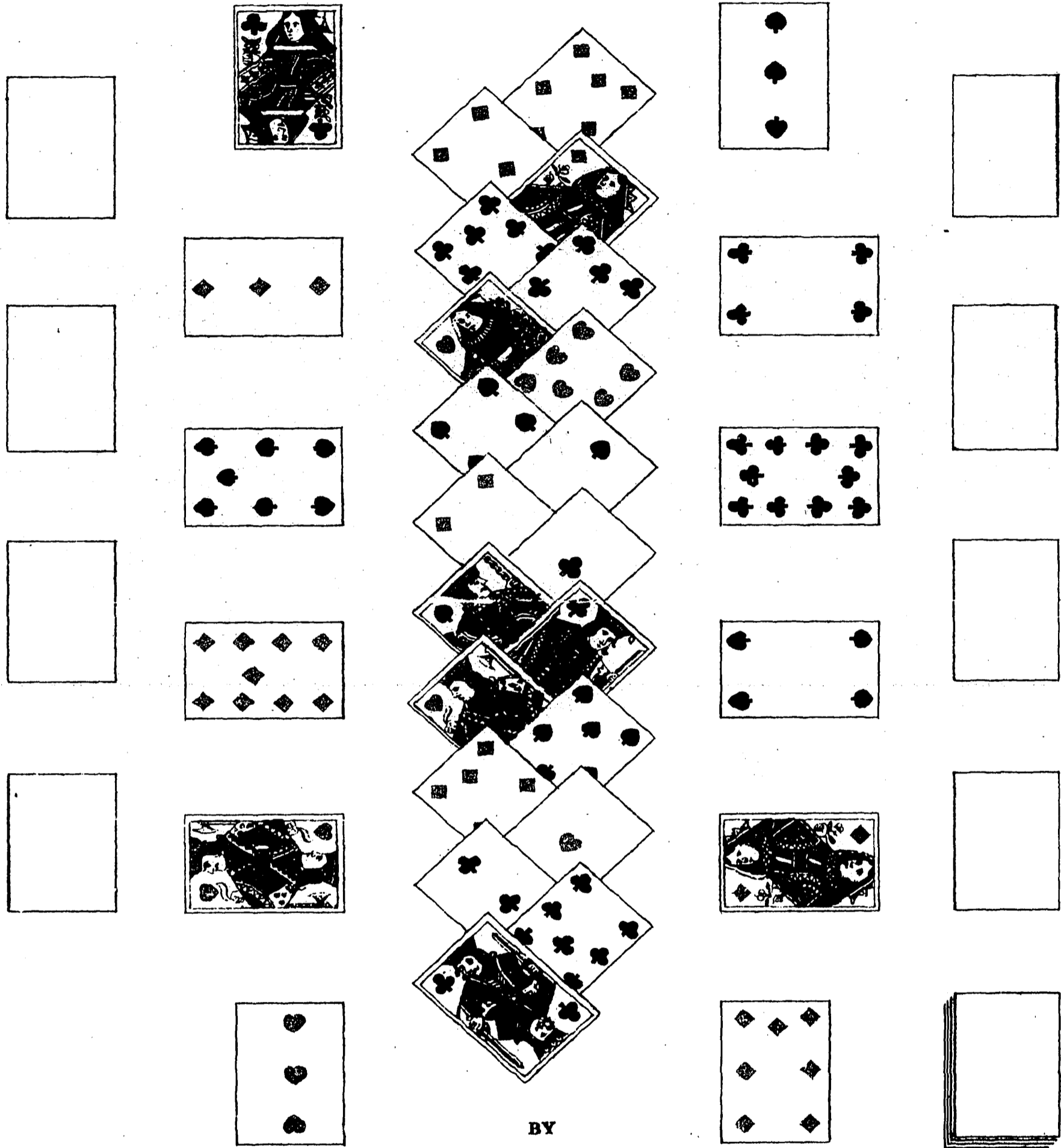
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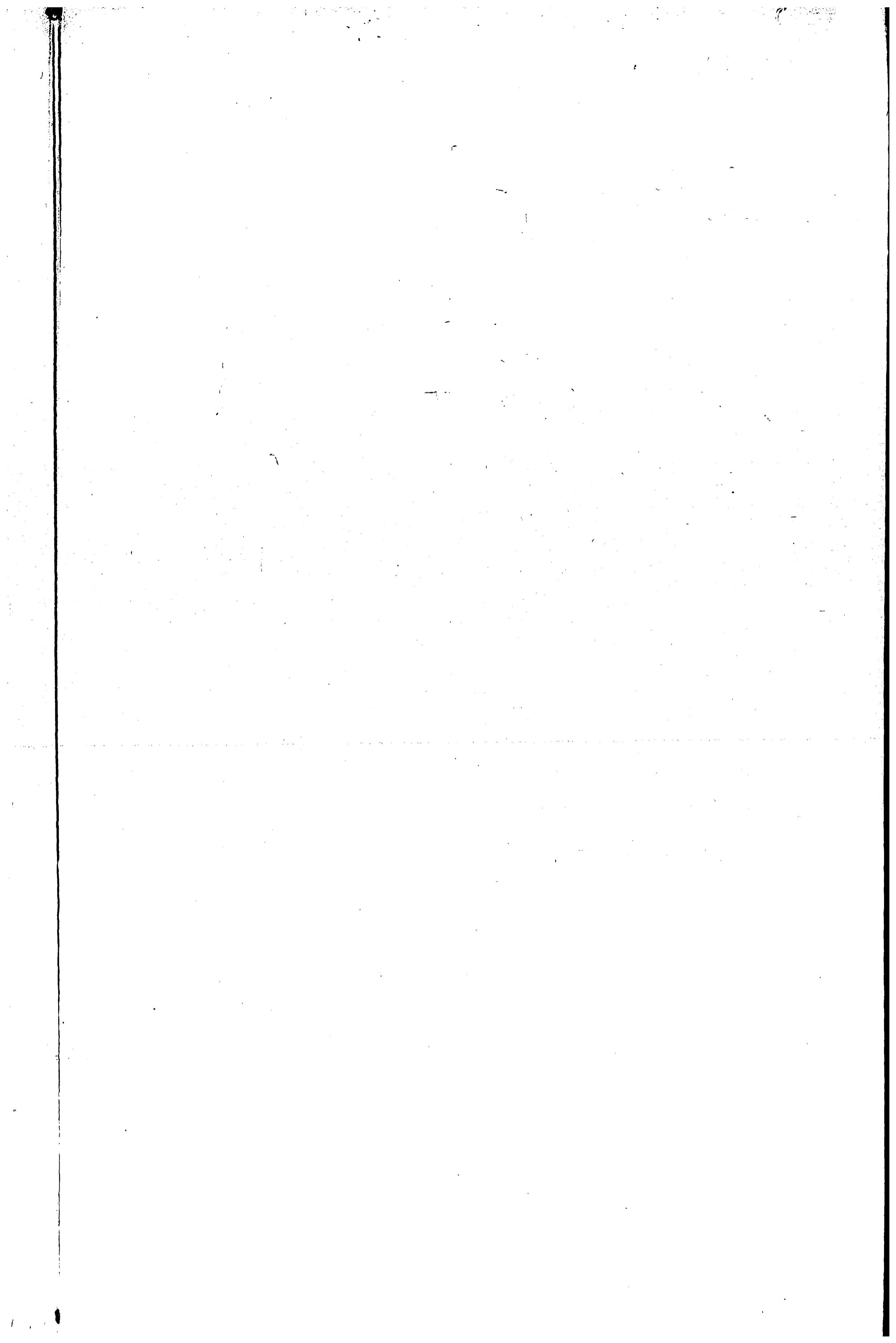
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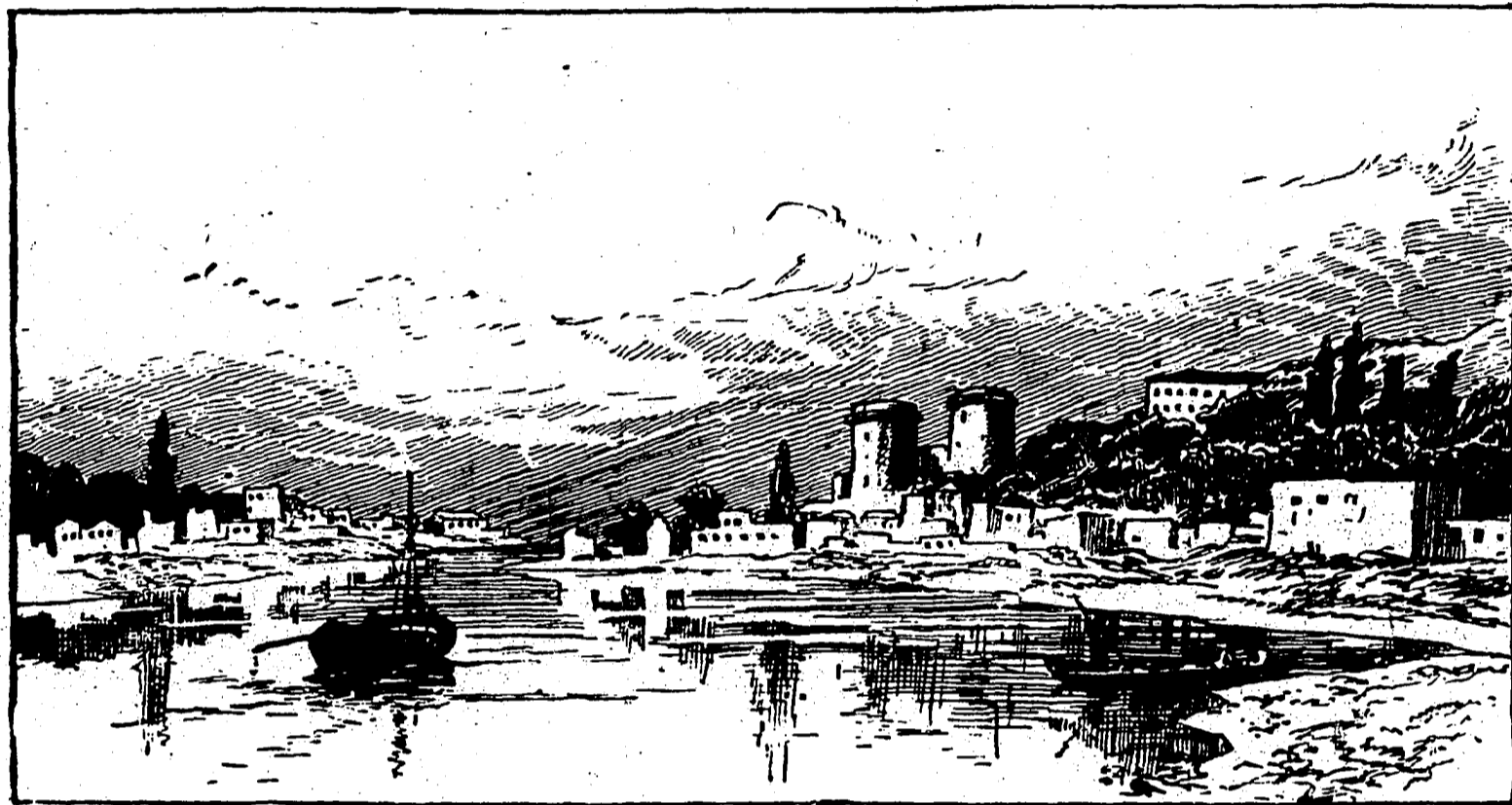
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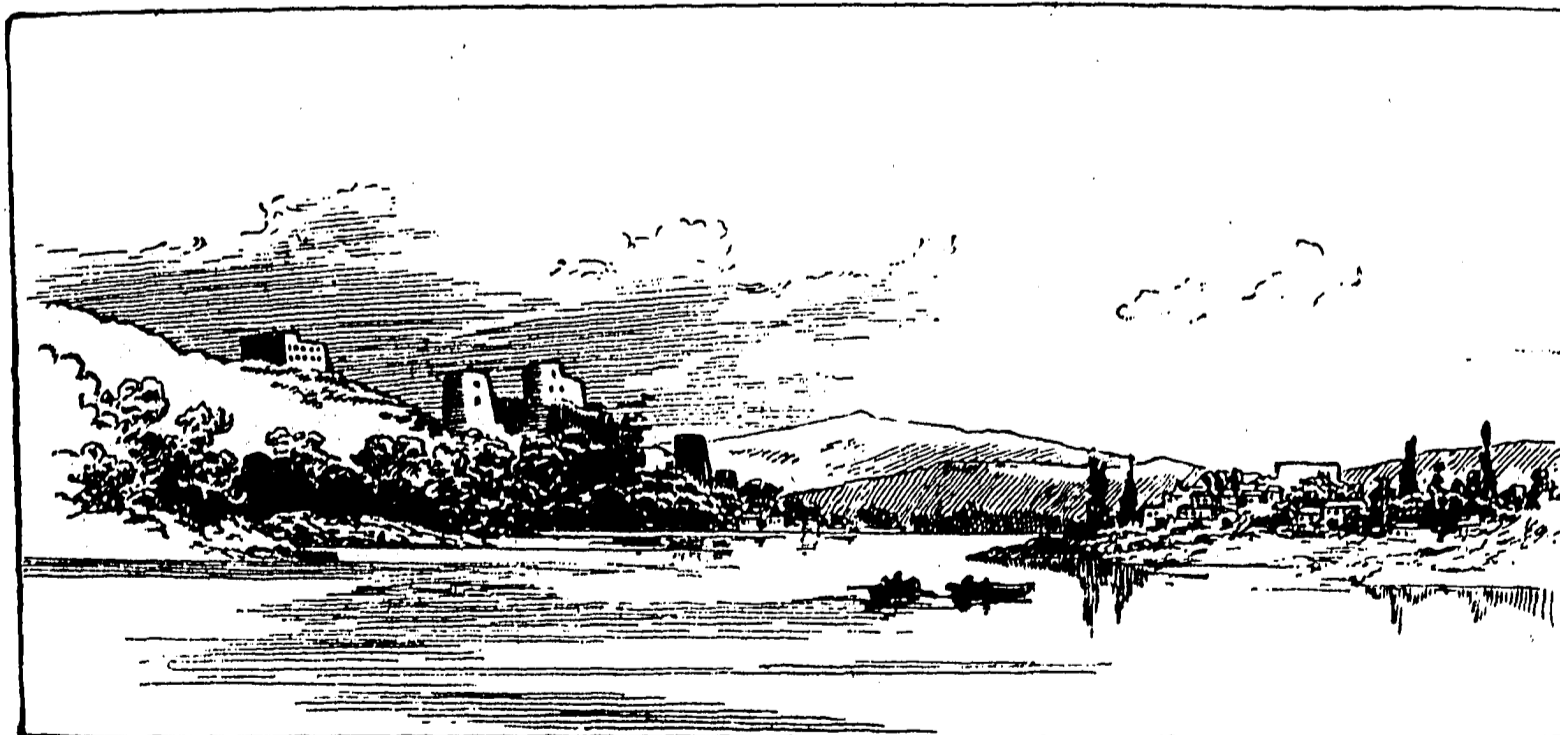
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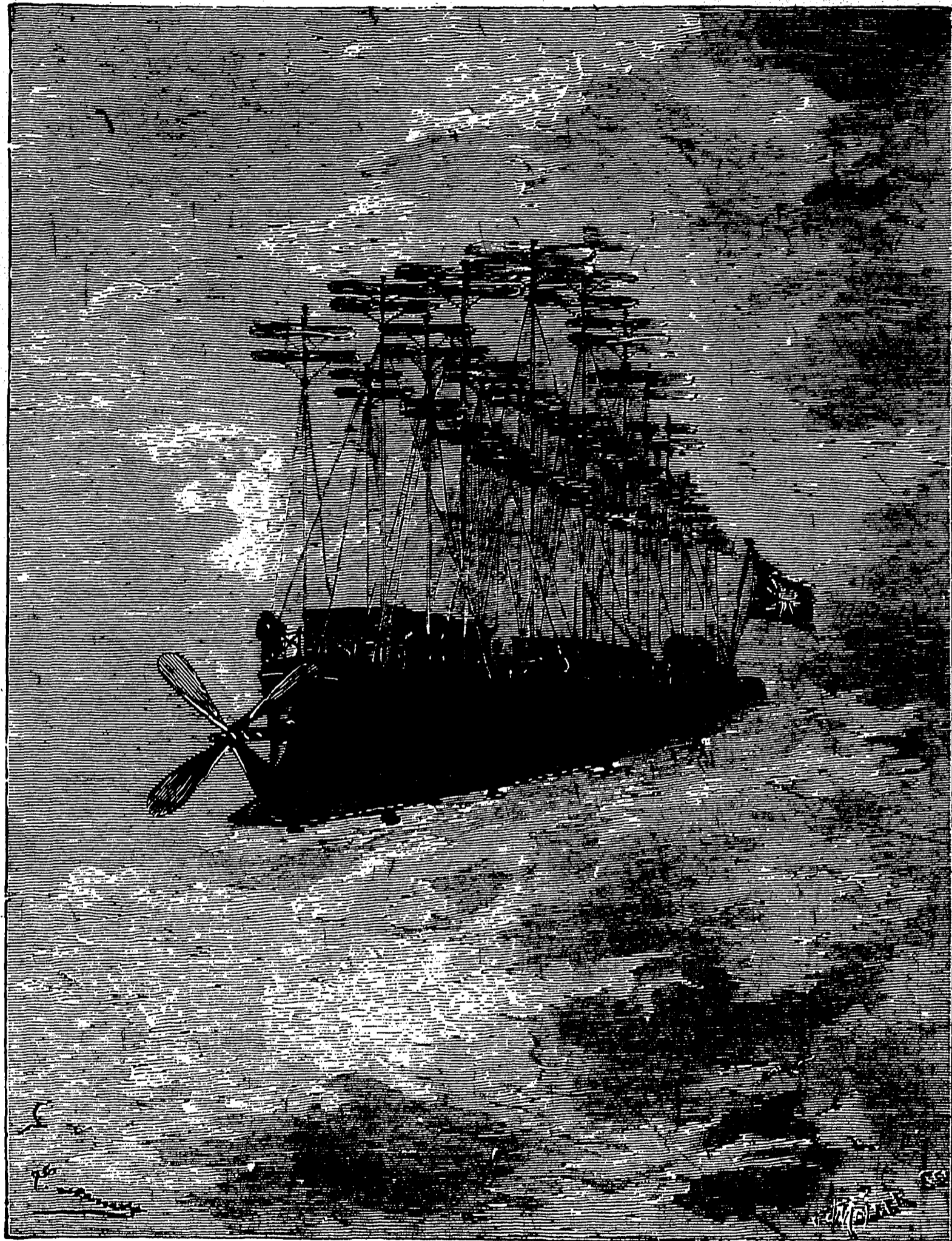
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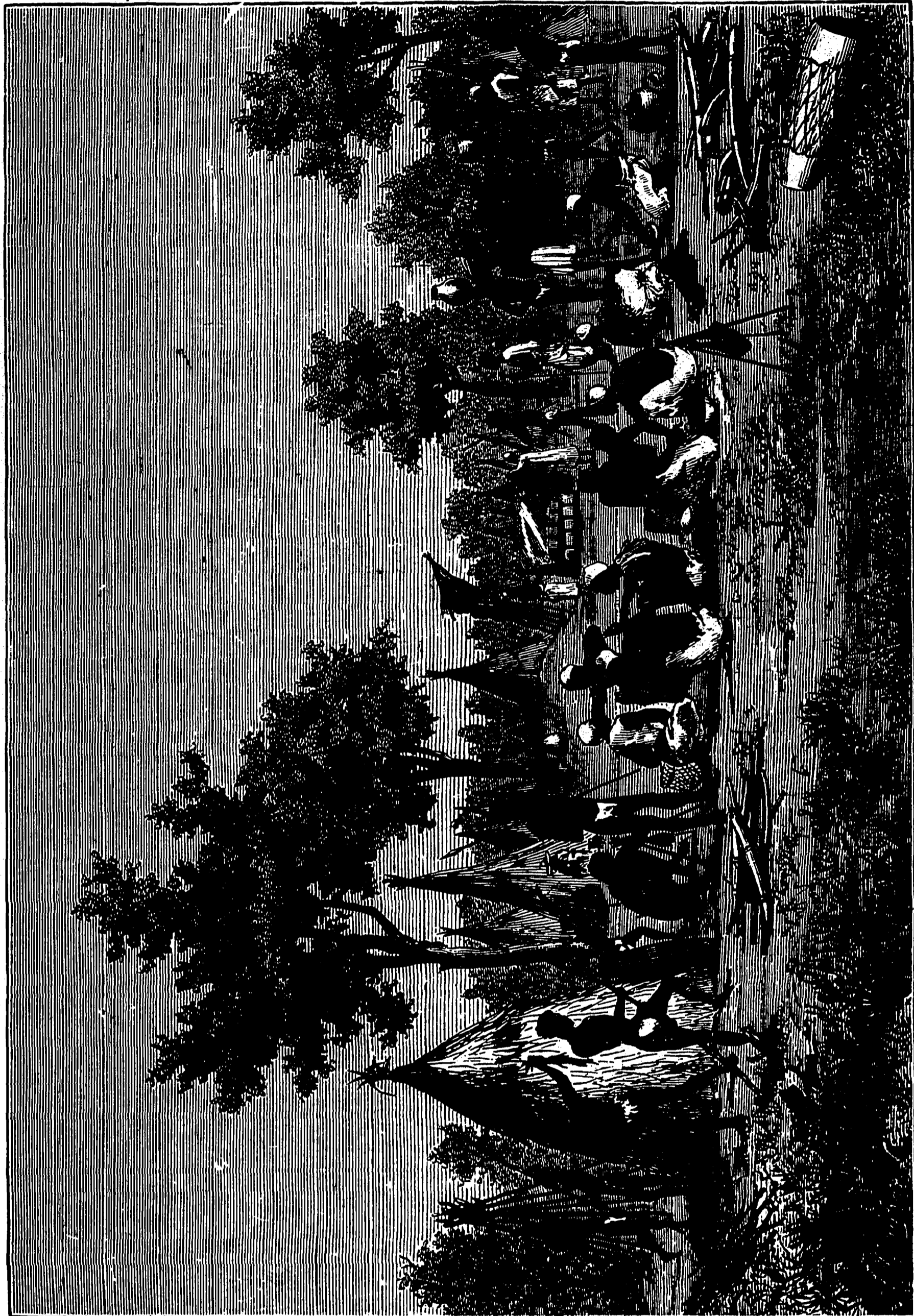
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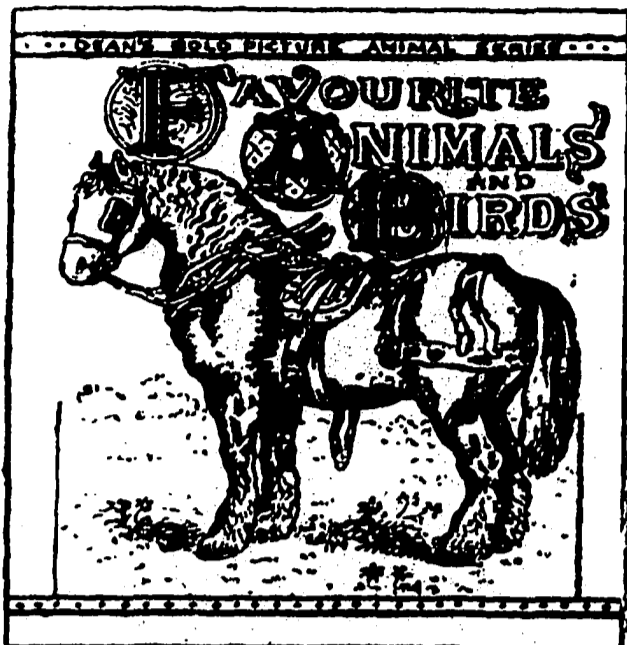
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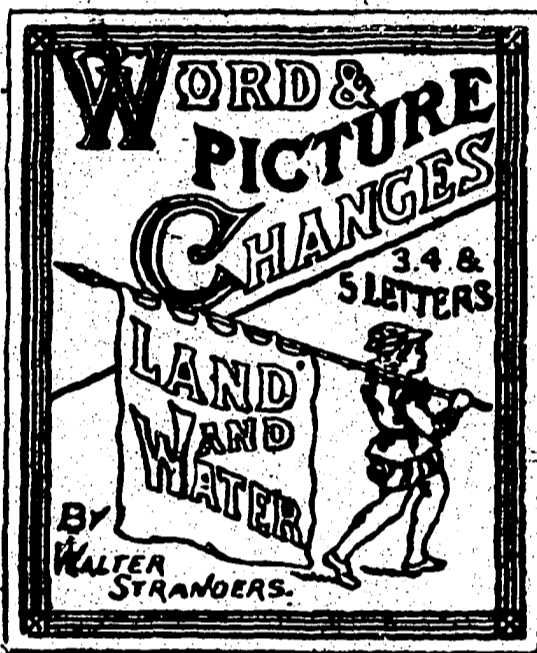
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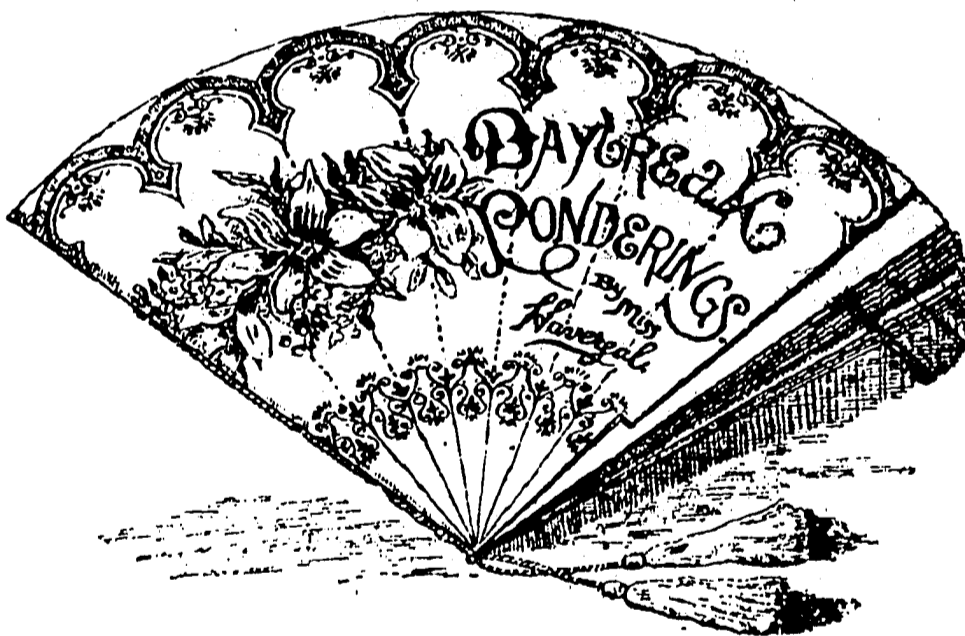


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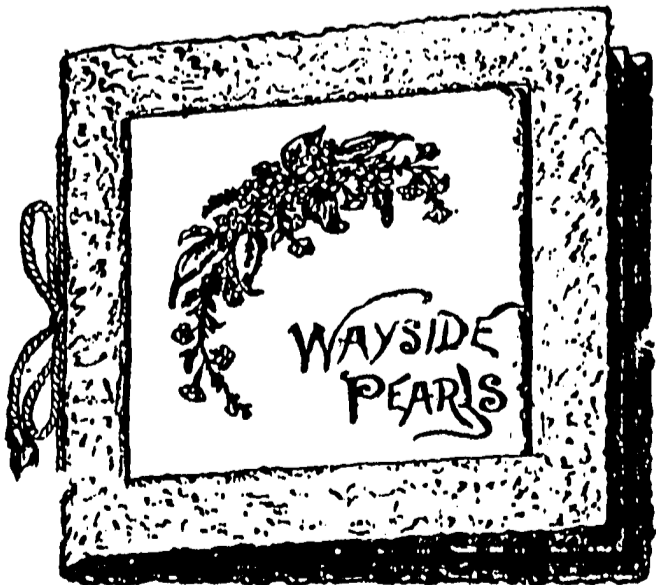
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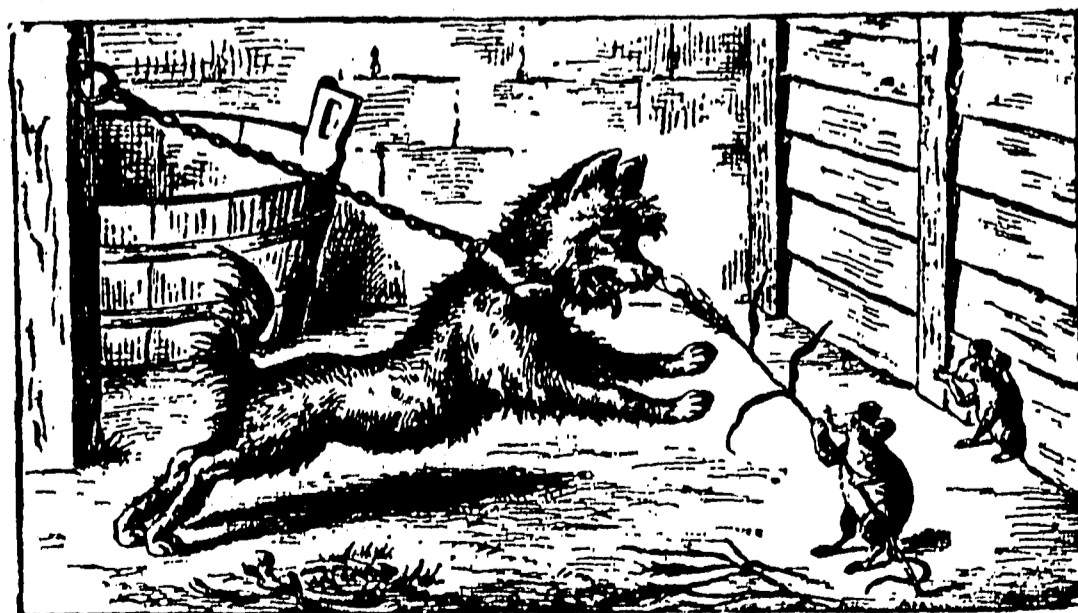
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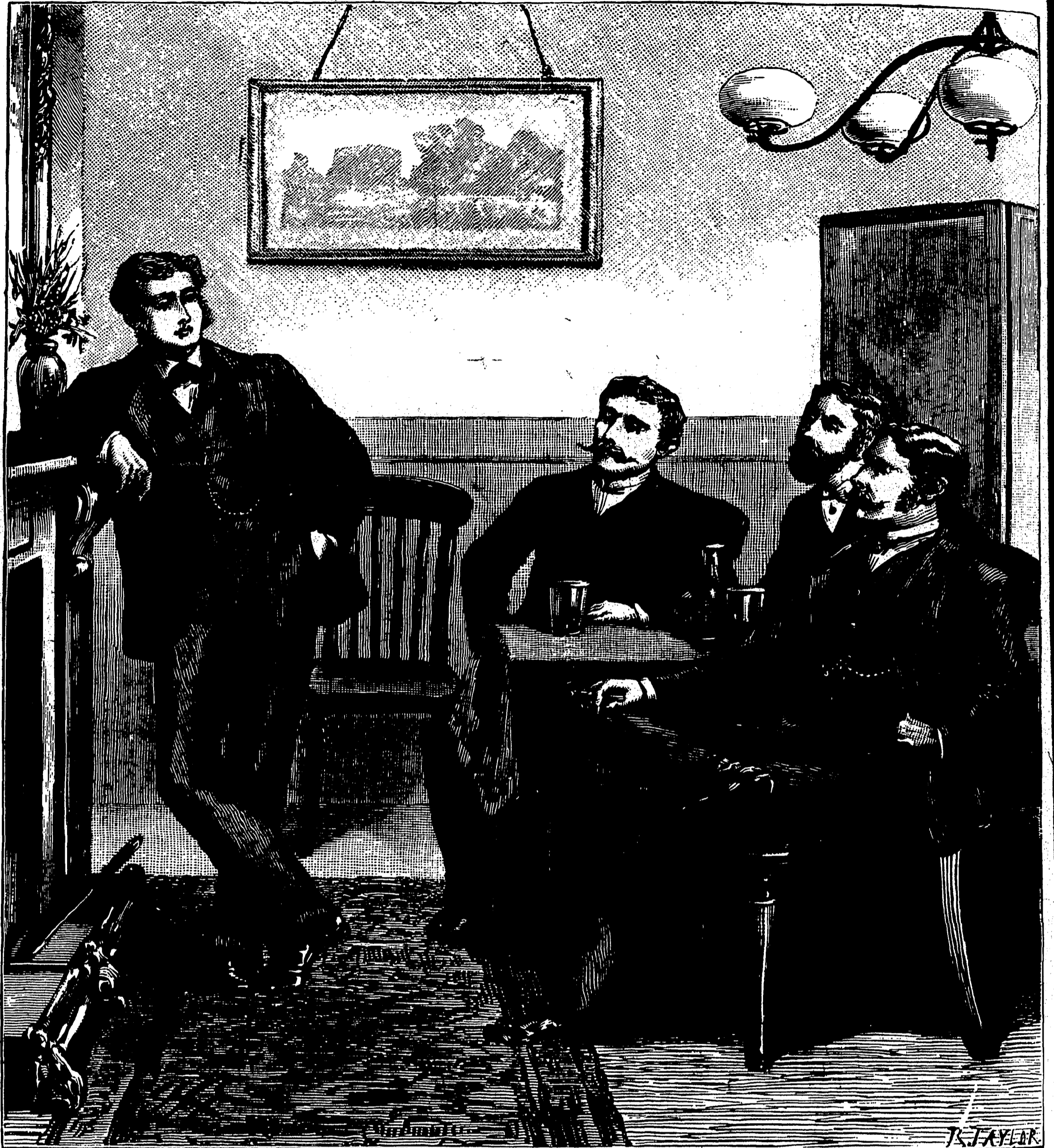
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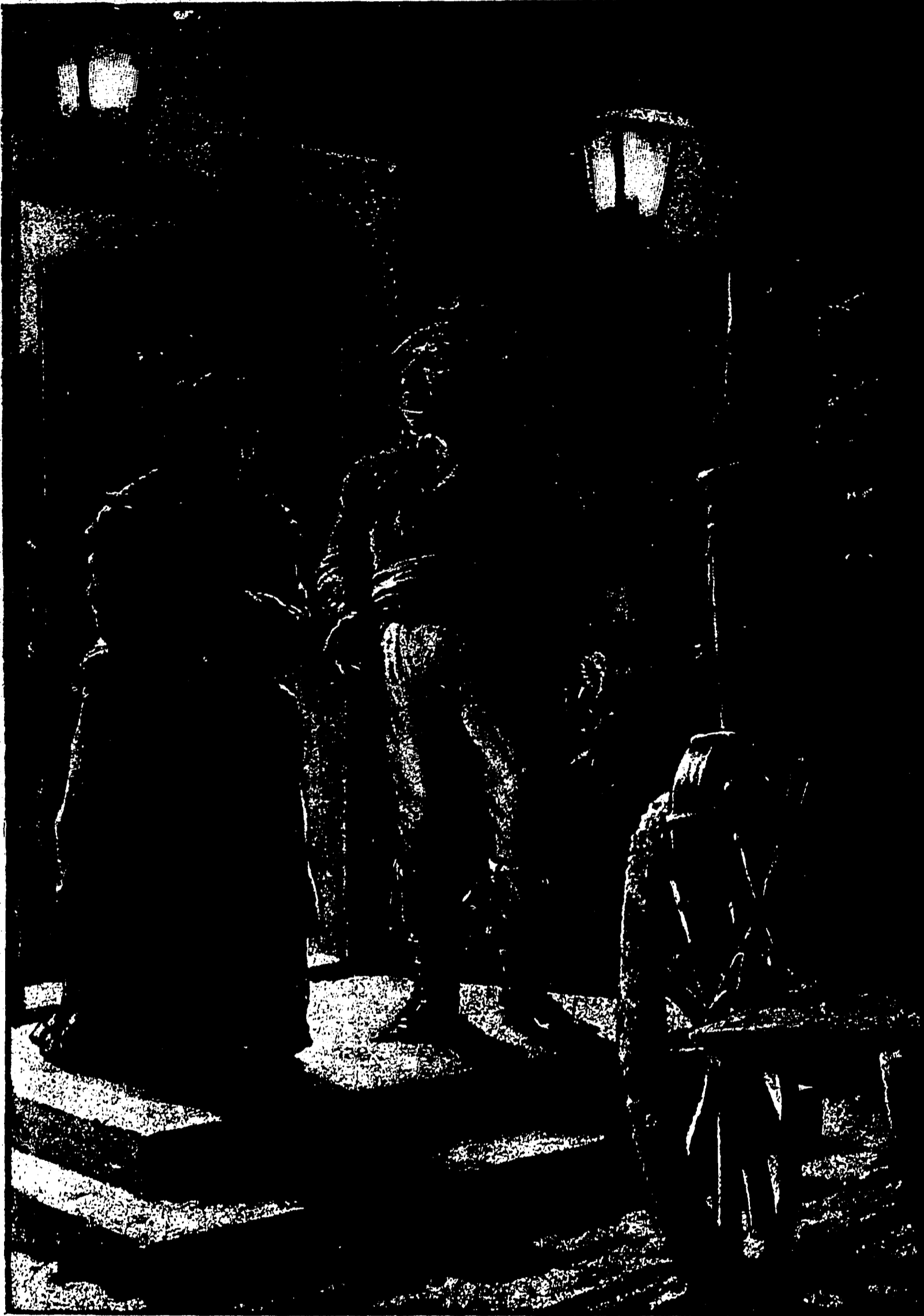
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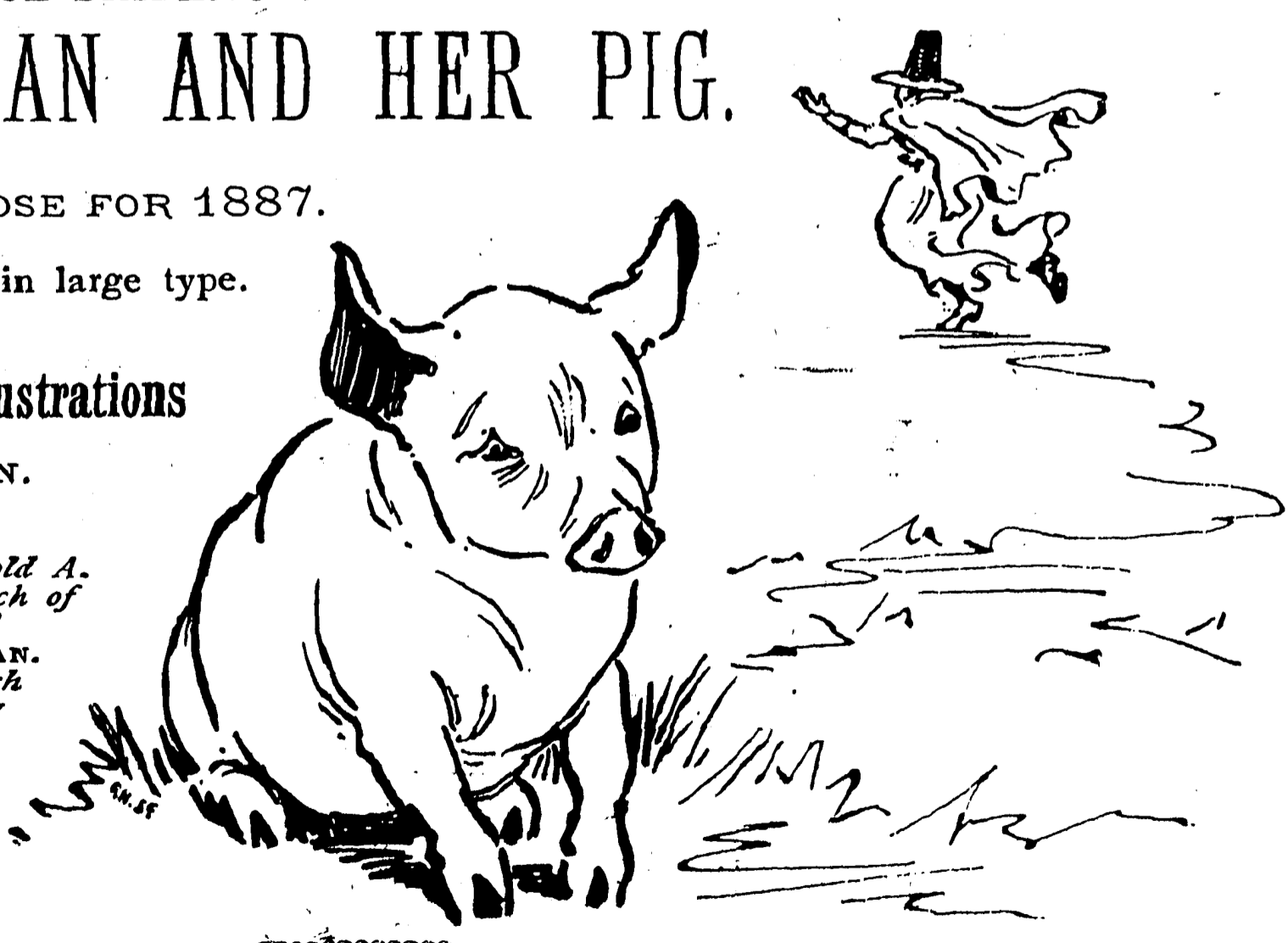
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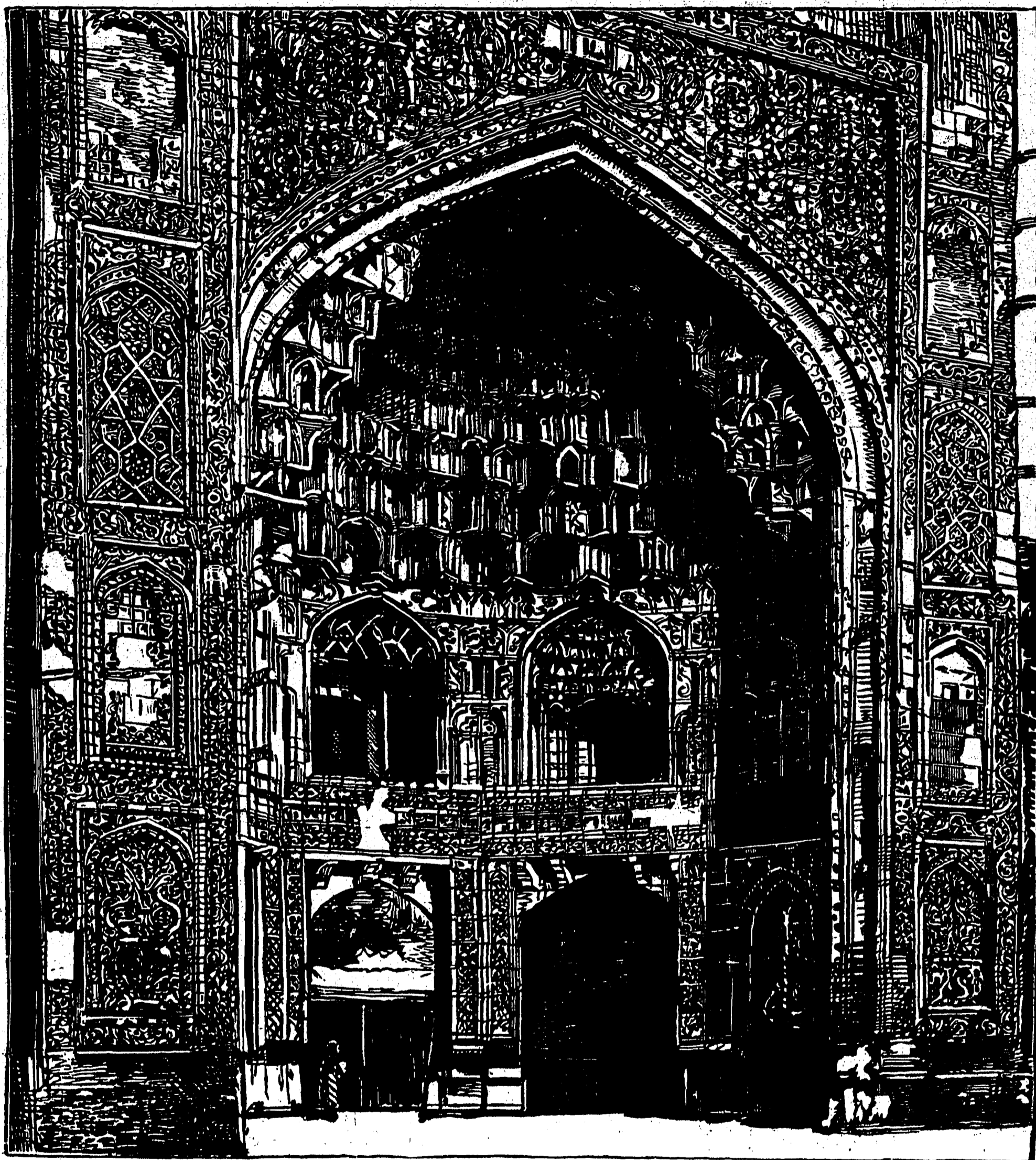
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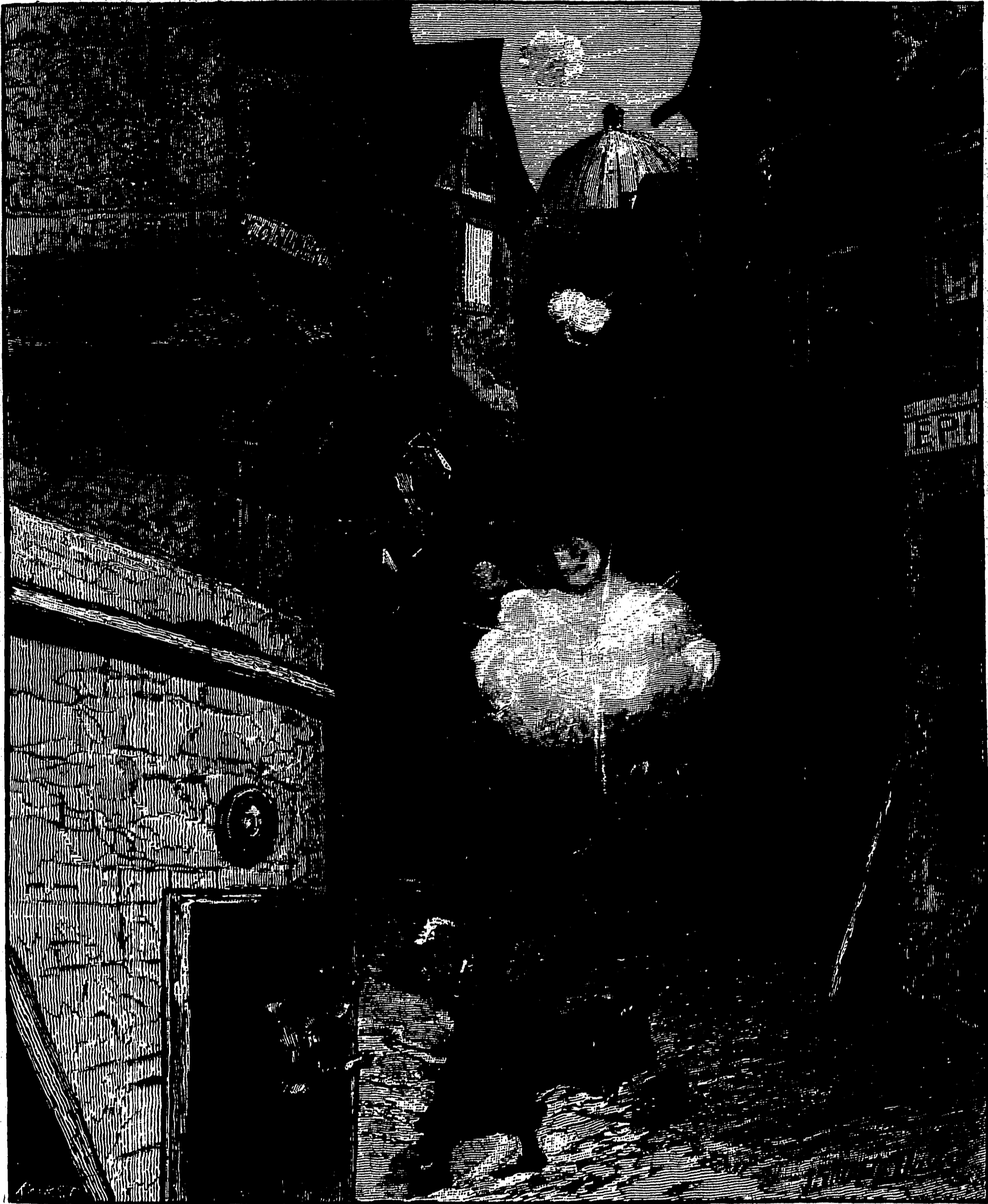
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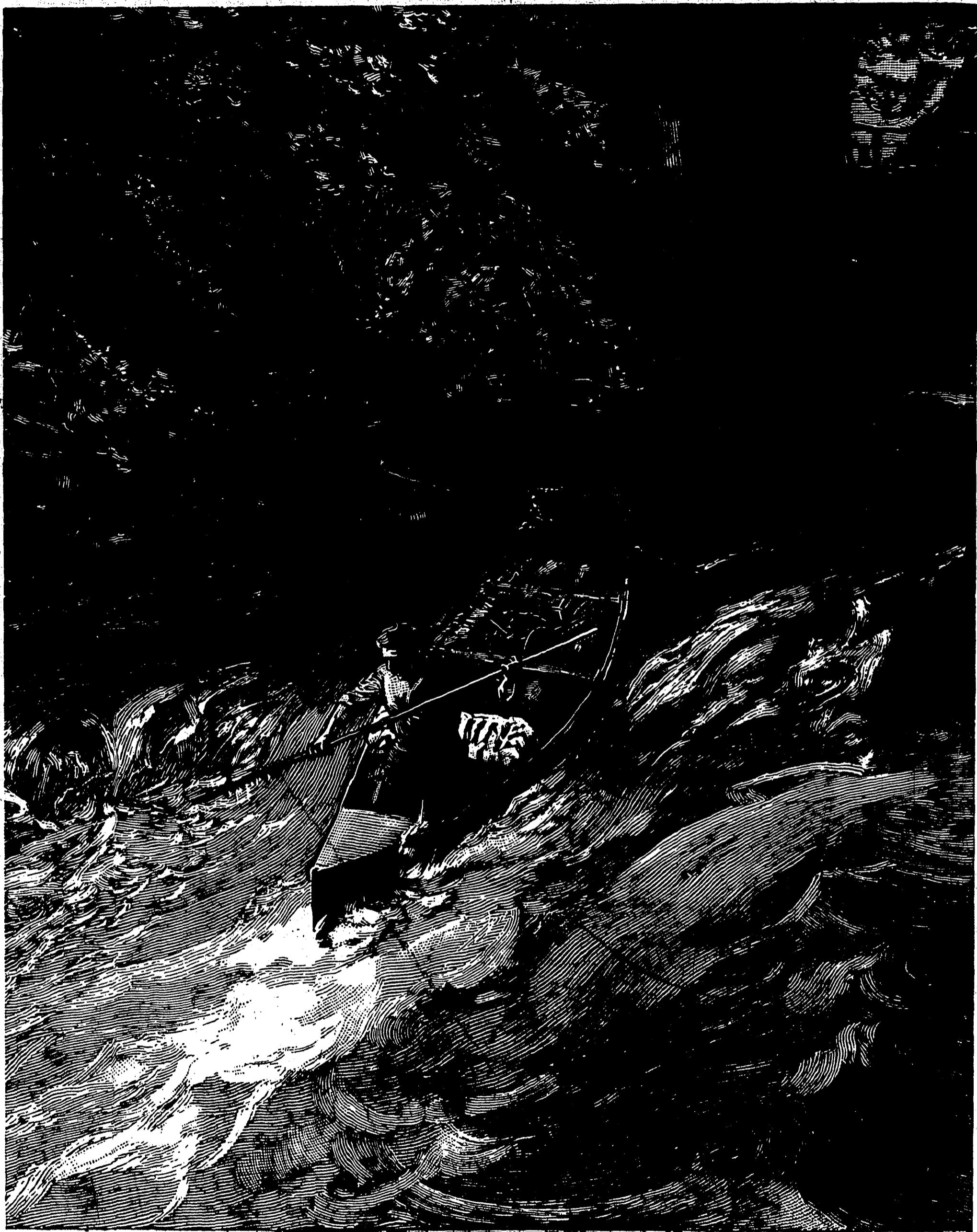
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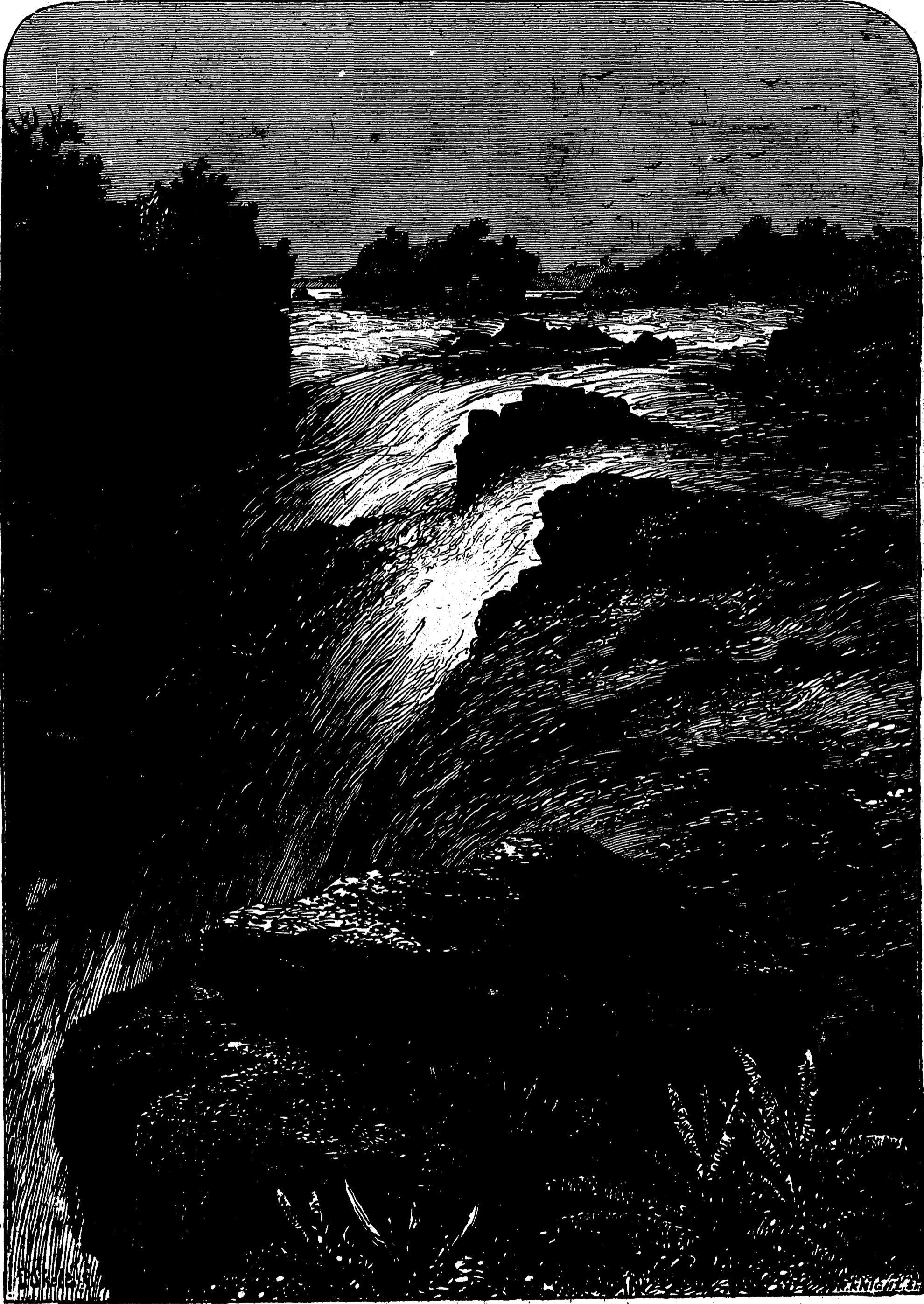
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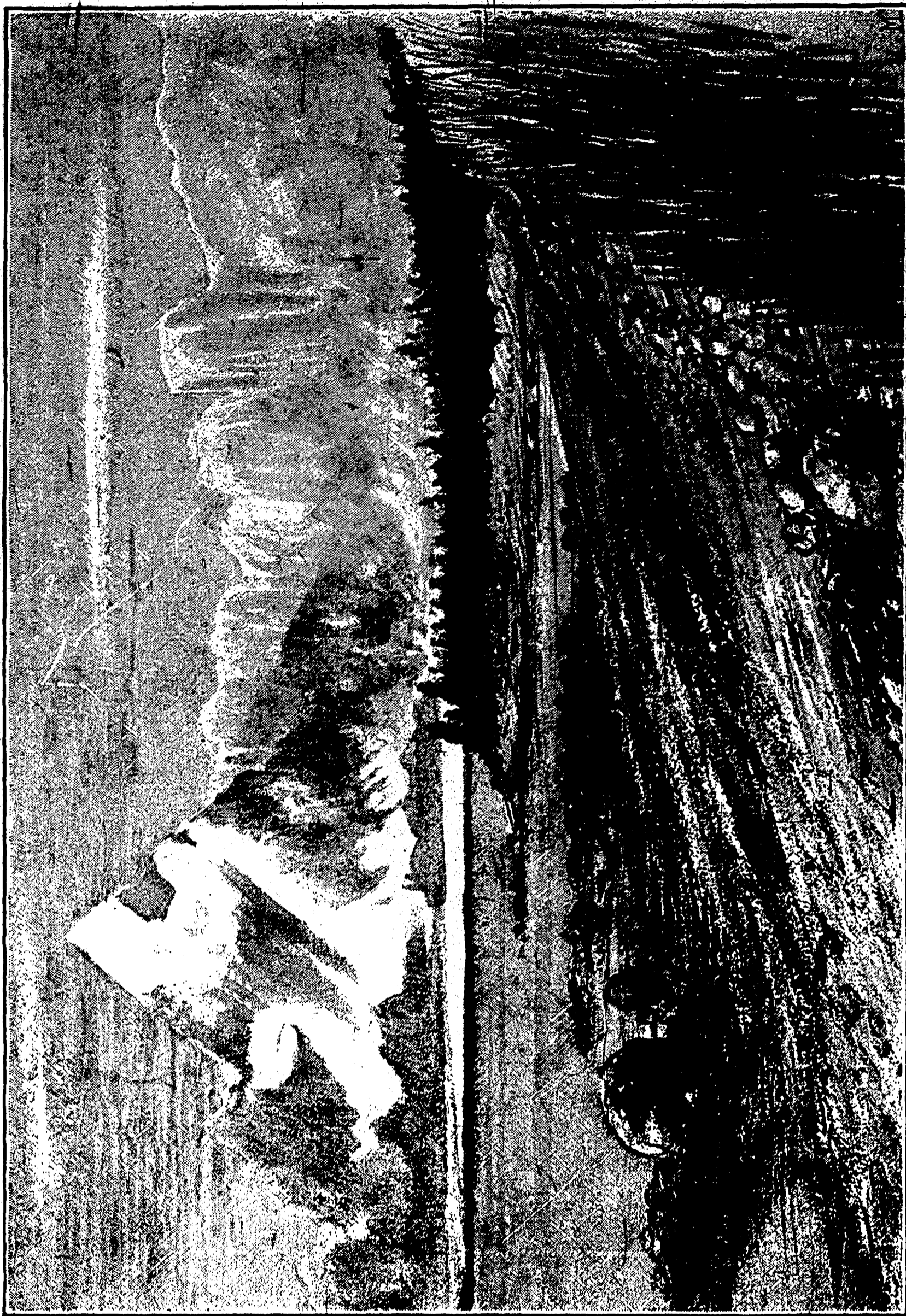


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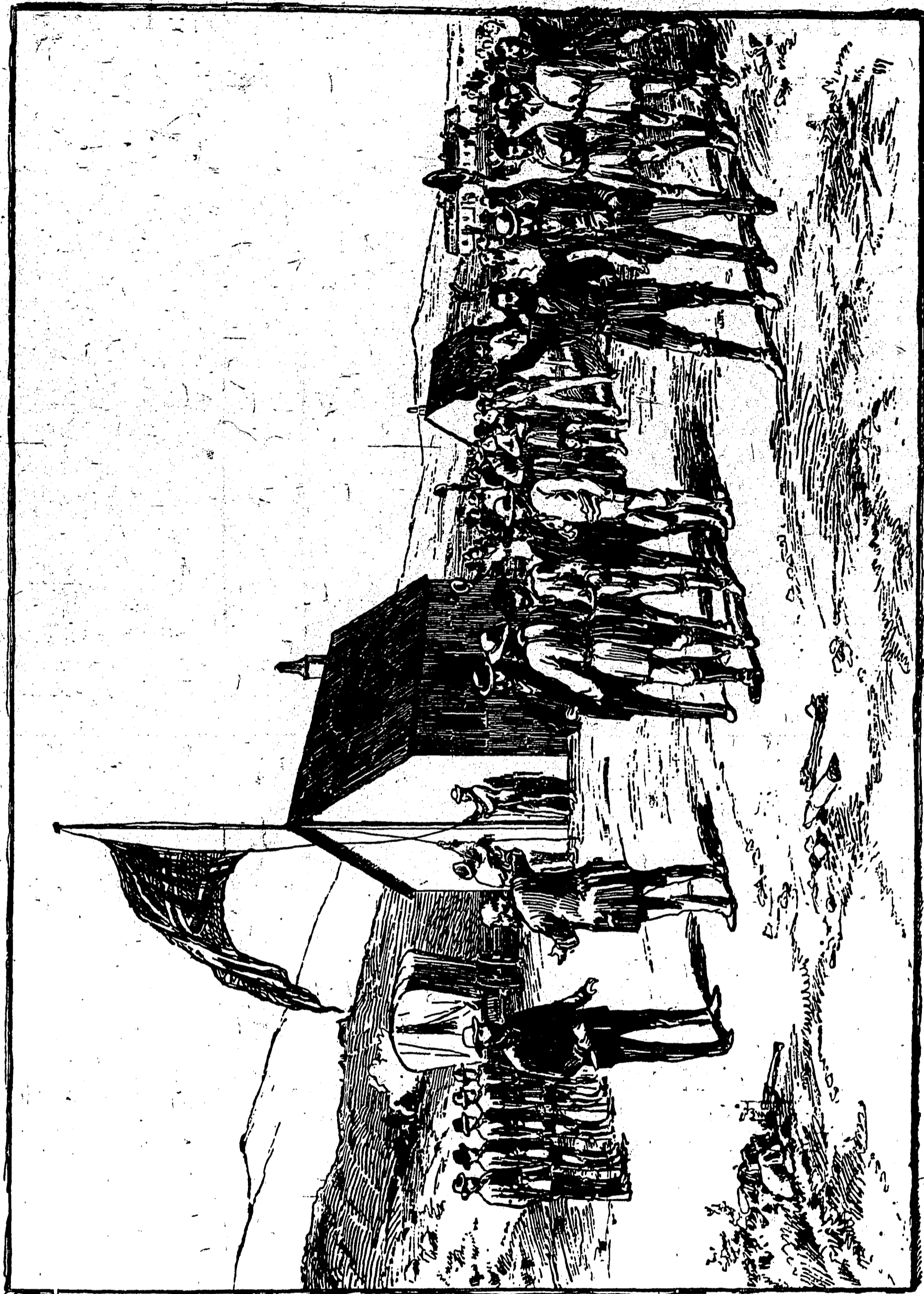
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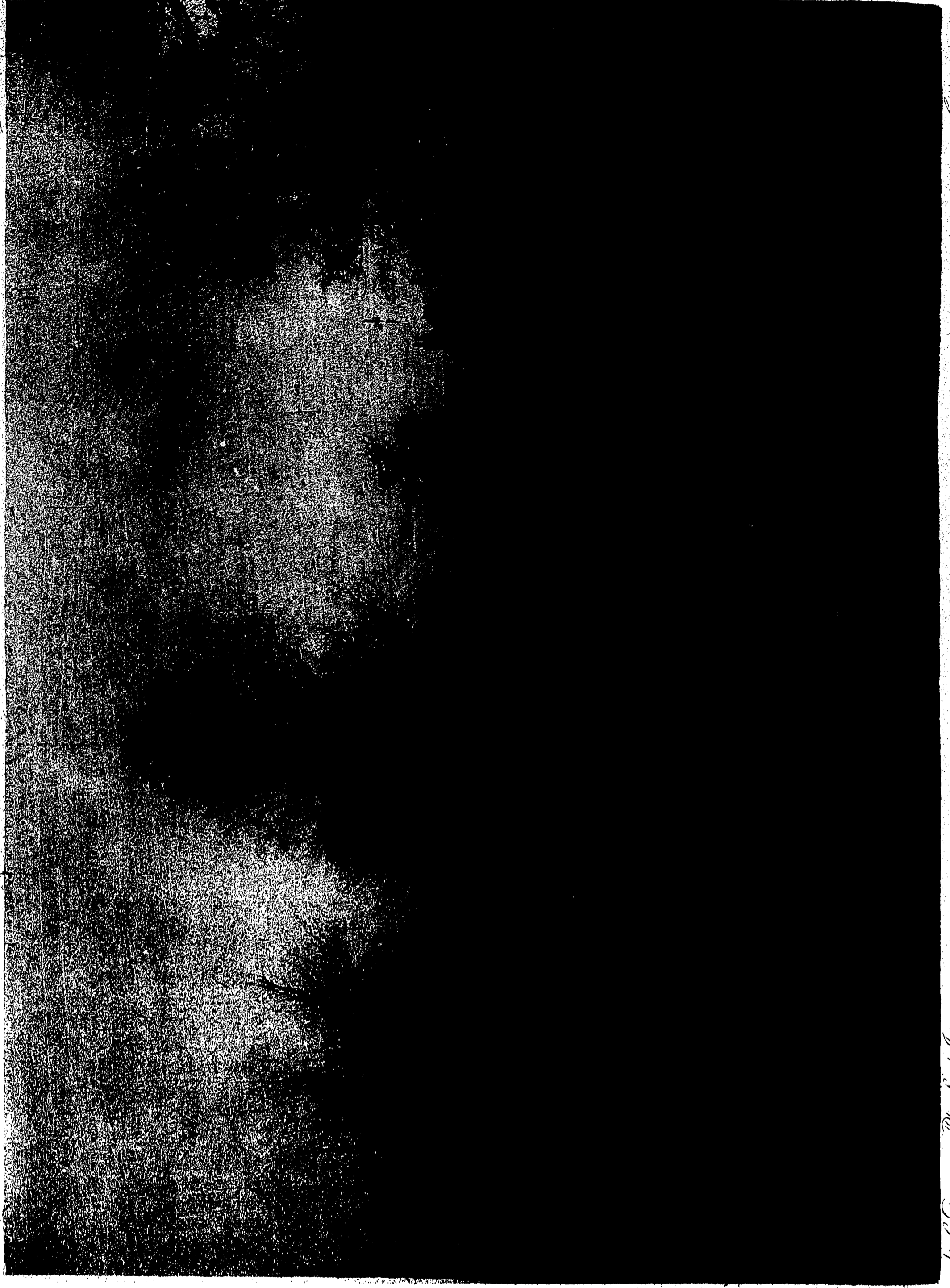
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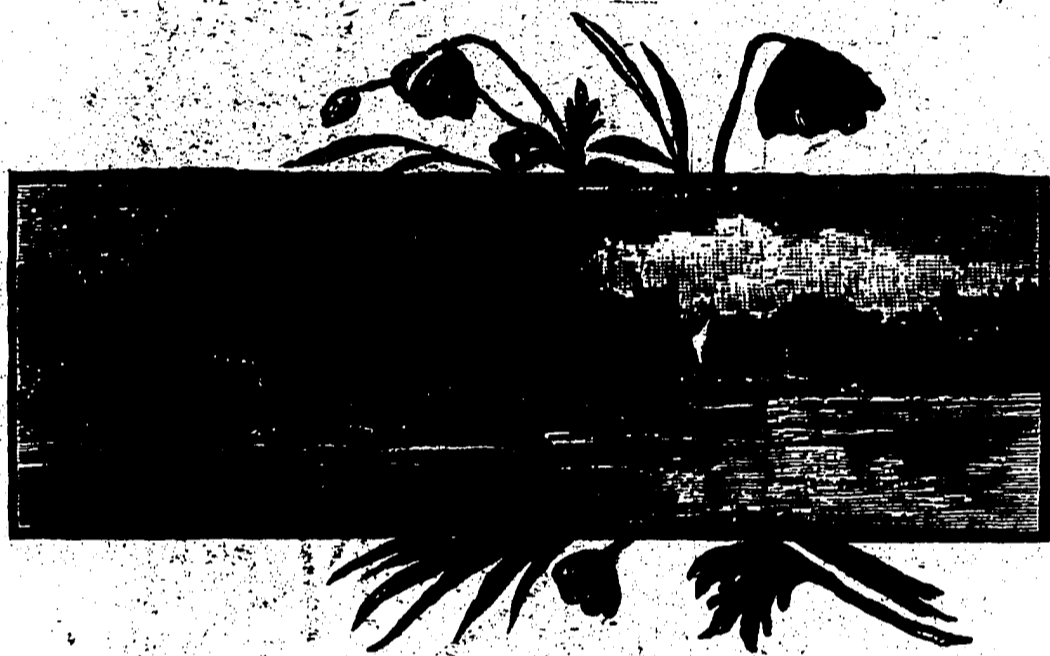
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The full scope of the work, and a synopsis of a portion of the hidden narrative revealed by the cipher key, may be gleaned from the Table of Contents which is presented herewith.

The DAILY TELEGRAPH of Nov. 26 has devoted a most interesting leader and two columns and a half (being a first instalment)—with further matter on the 28th—discussing the whole question so far as only a *limited portion of the proof sheets* placed before the Editor have enabled him to do so; from this necessarily inadequate examination he has been forced to conclude, 'with the evident reluctance which all lovers of the great poet must feel, that the new attack upon the magnificent reputation of Shakspeare is one which cannot be ignored, albeit he trusts it may be boldly confronted and perhaps controverted after further and final examination.' The writer adds: 'Whether these conclusions be true or false, it is plain that nothing of greater interest as a topic of debate and consideration could be laid before the innumerable lovers and students of Shakspeare, nor any question of more serious moment engage the whole community of letters.'

☛ These articles have already created much discussion, and caused numerous inquiries which can only be answered by the book itself.

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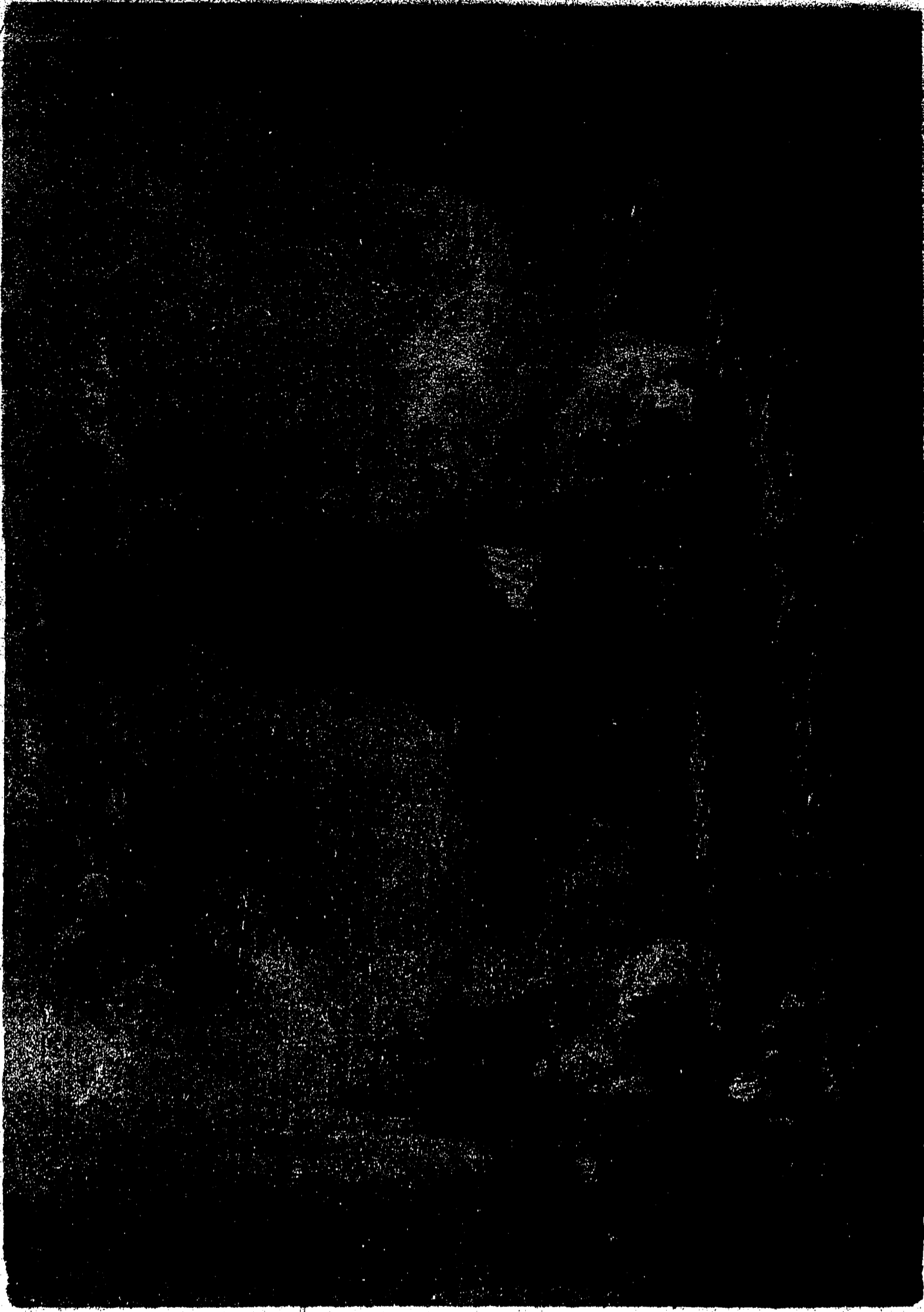
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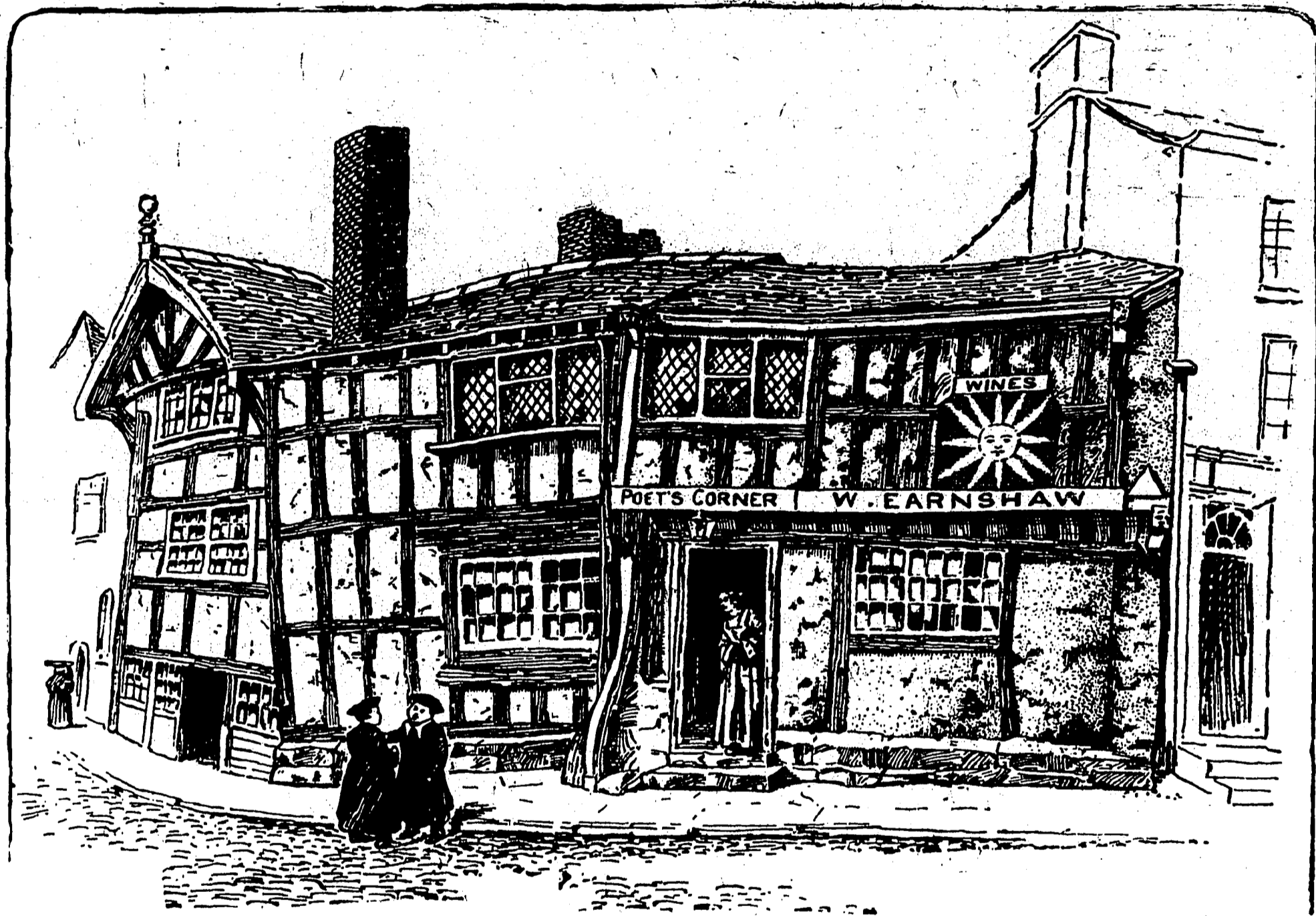
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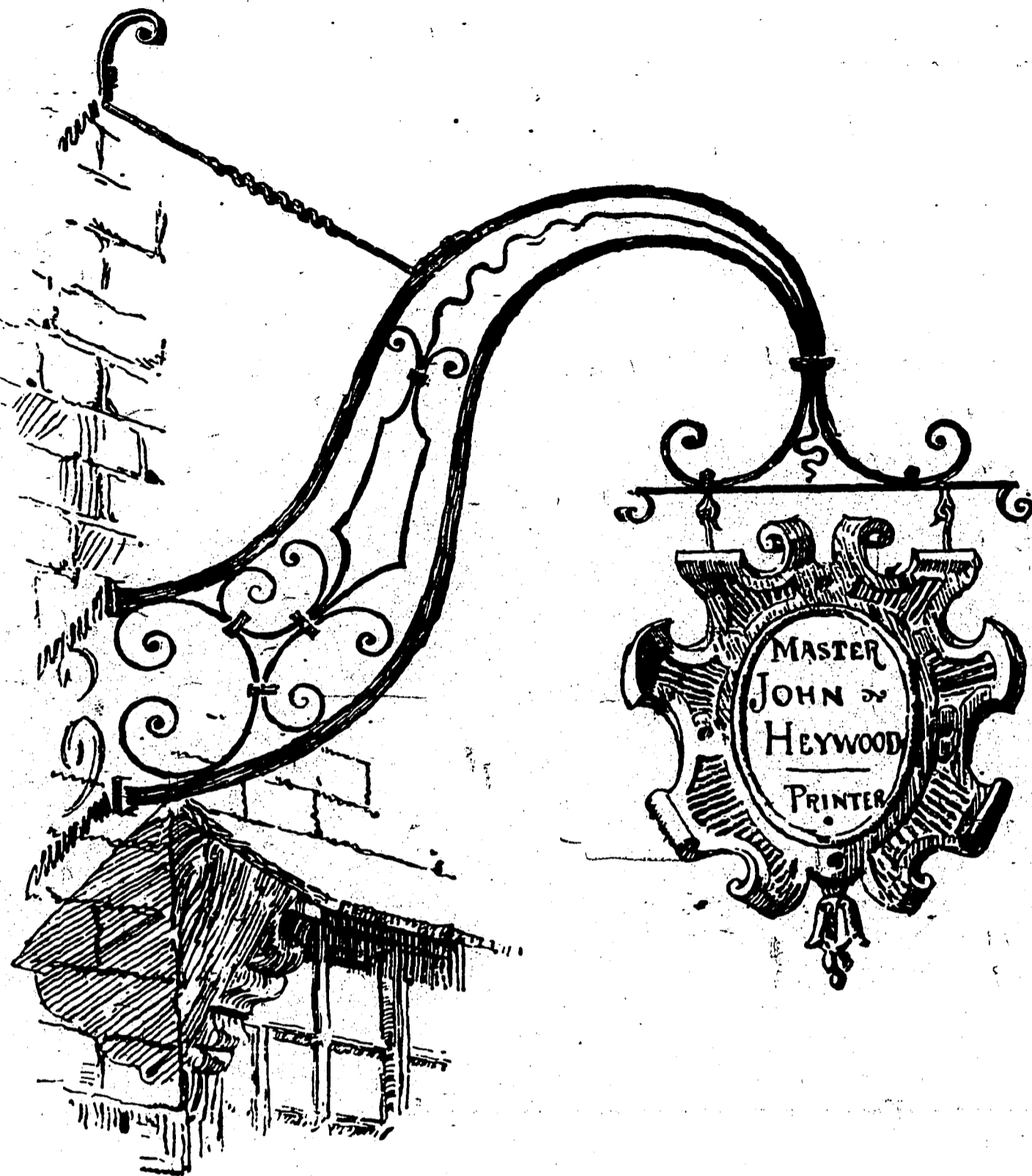
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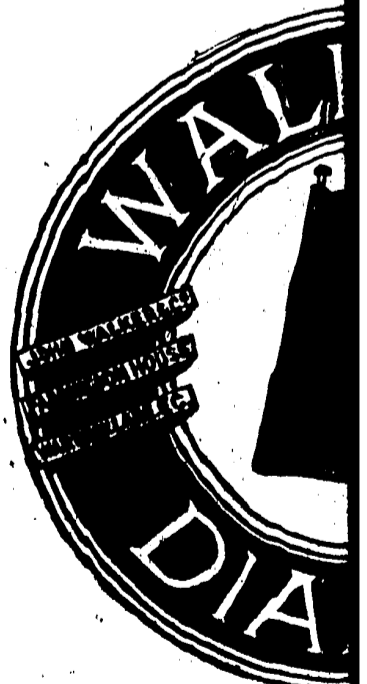
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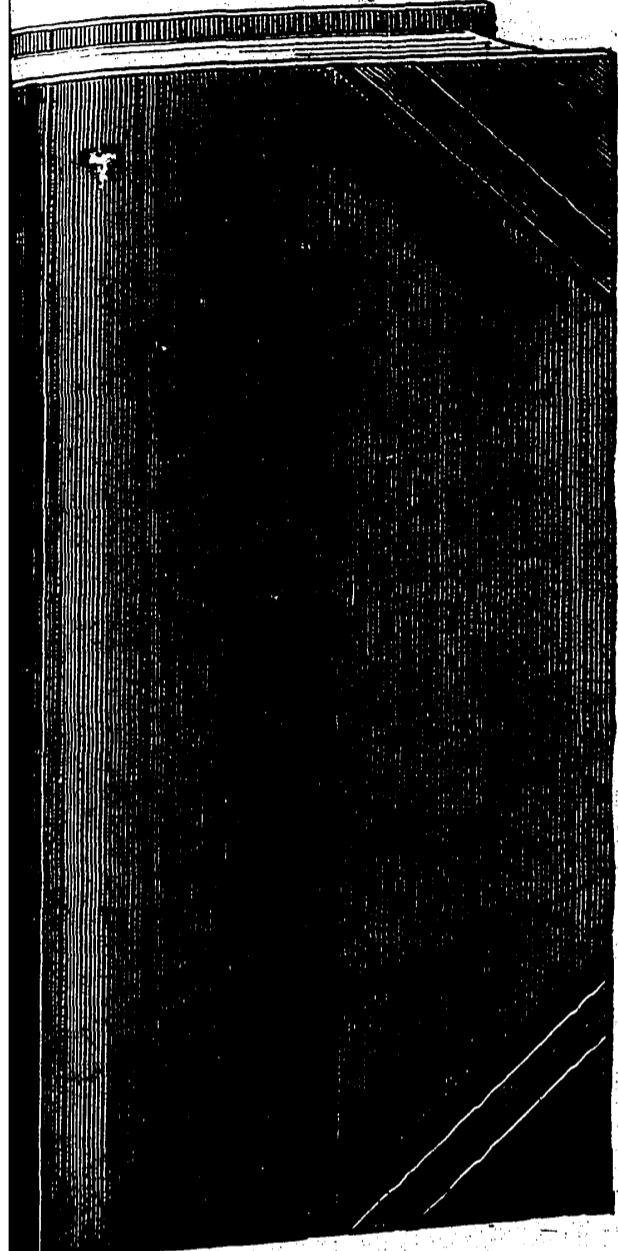
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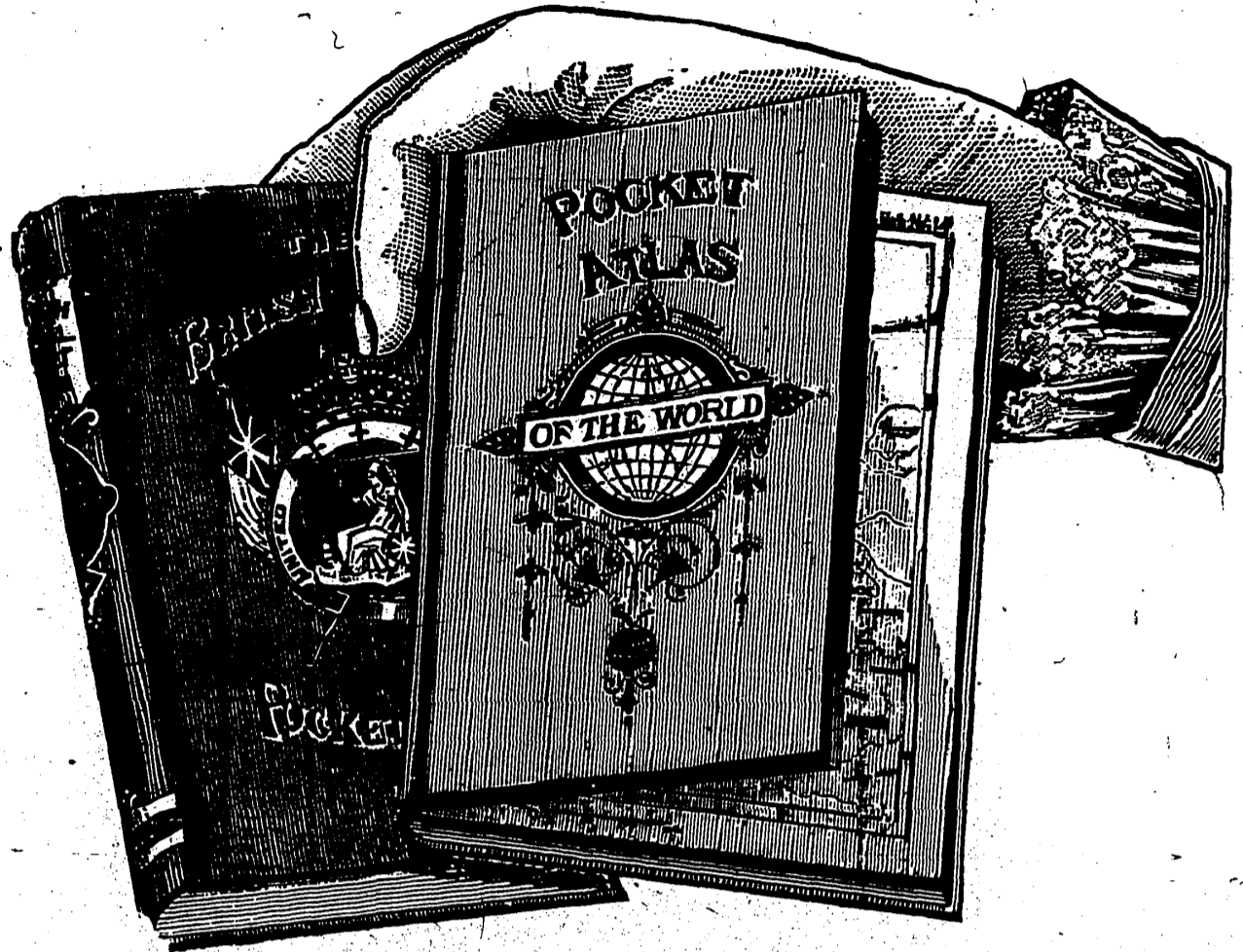
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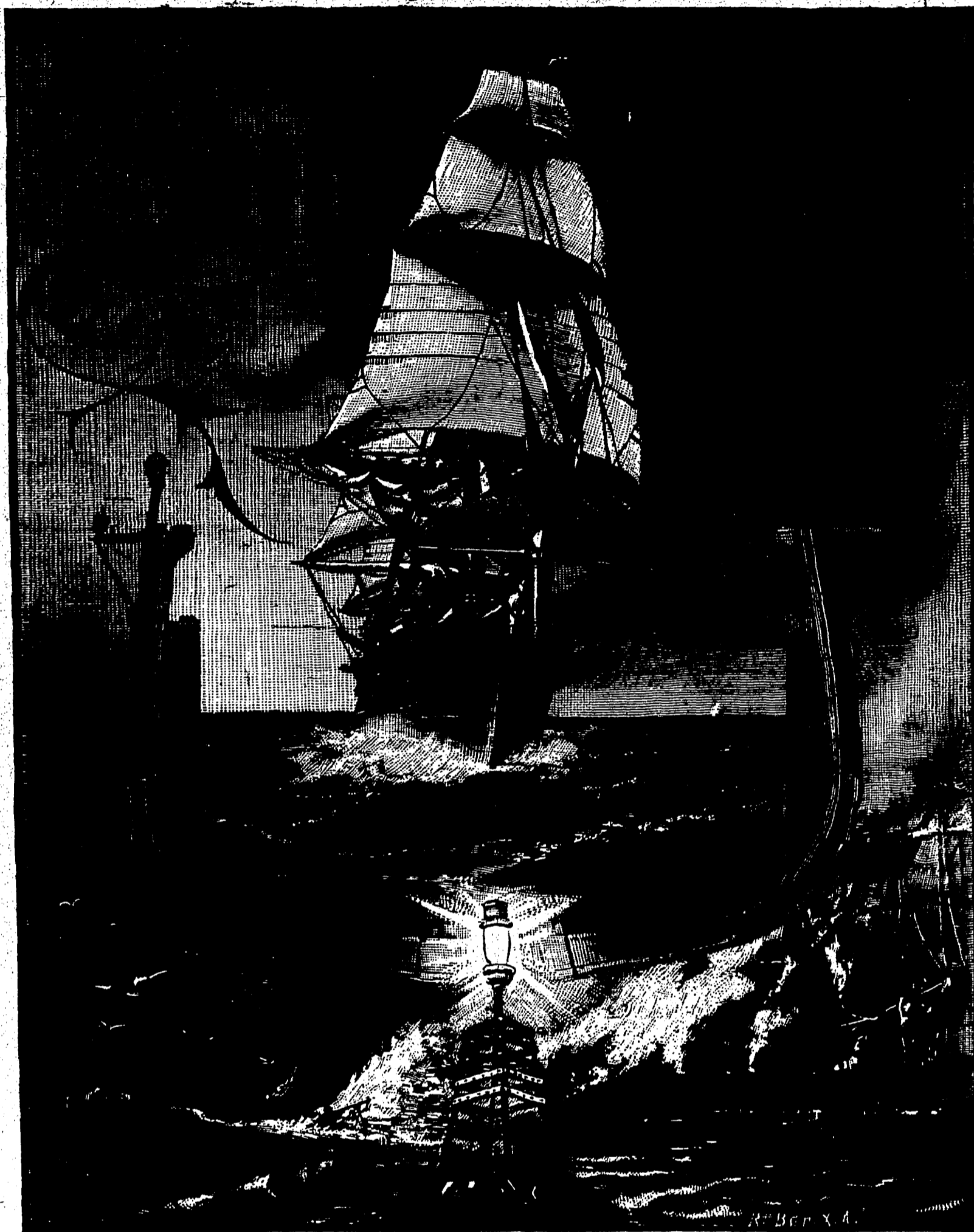
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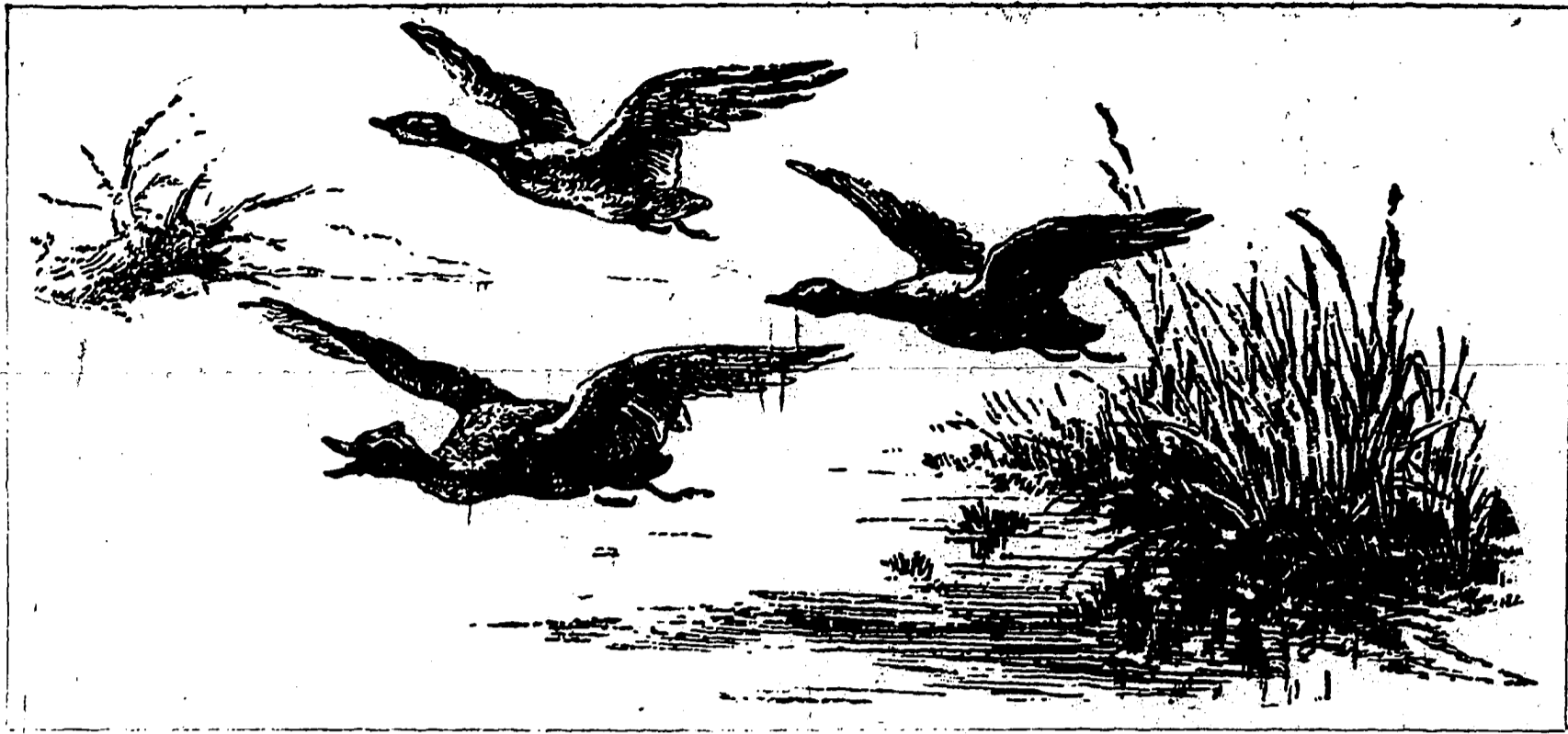
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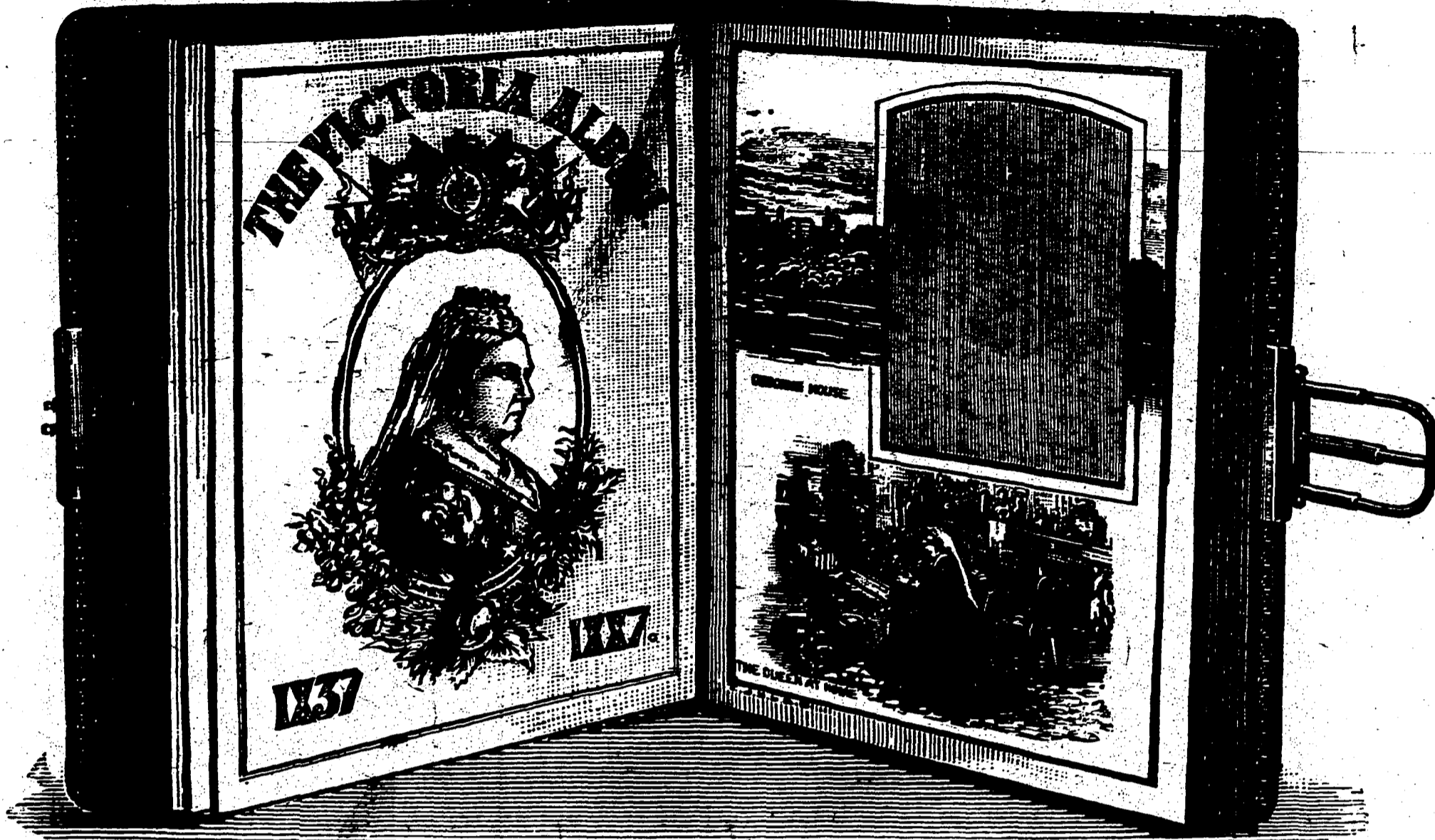
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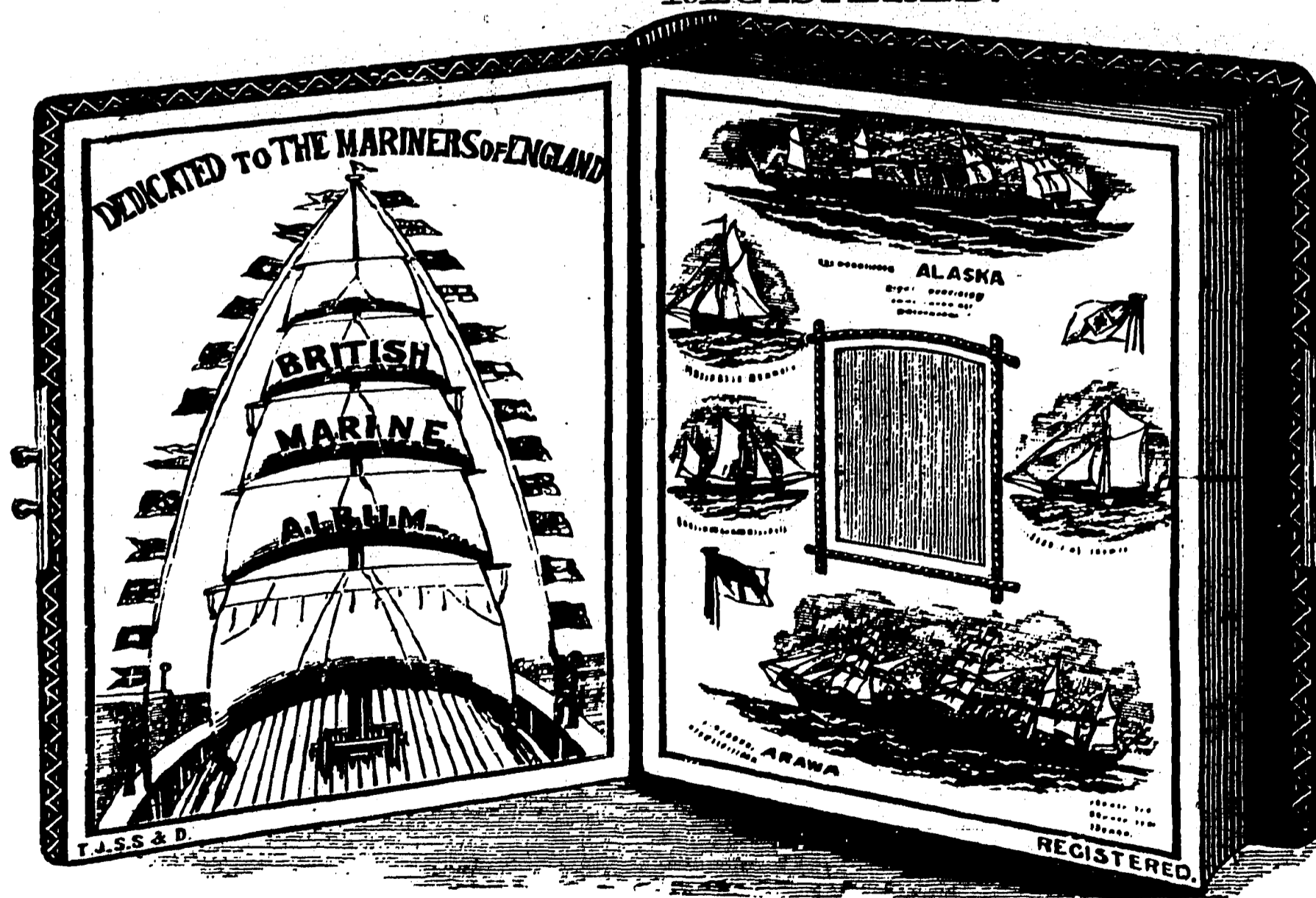
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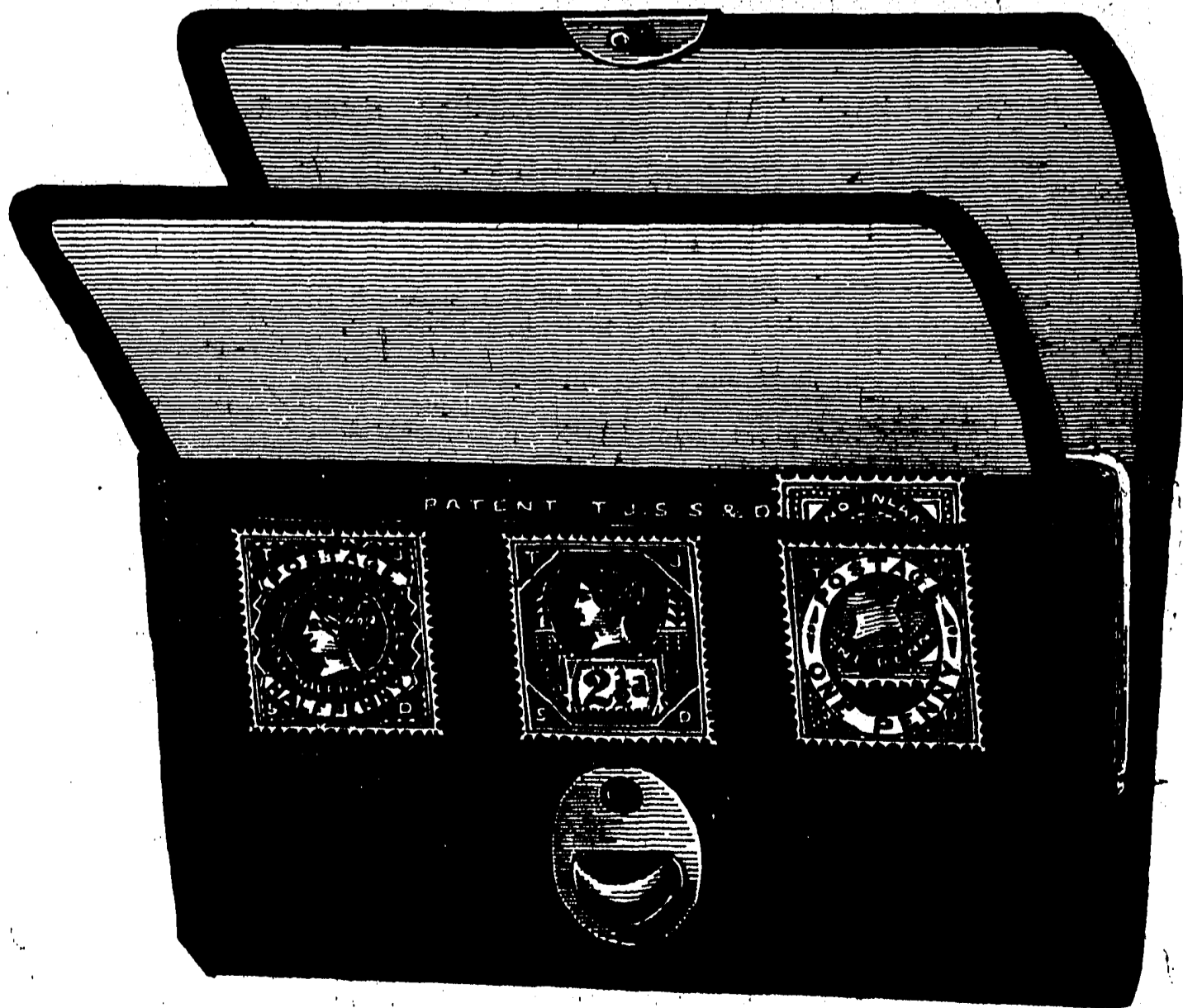
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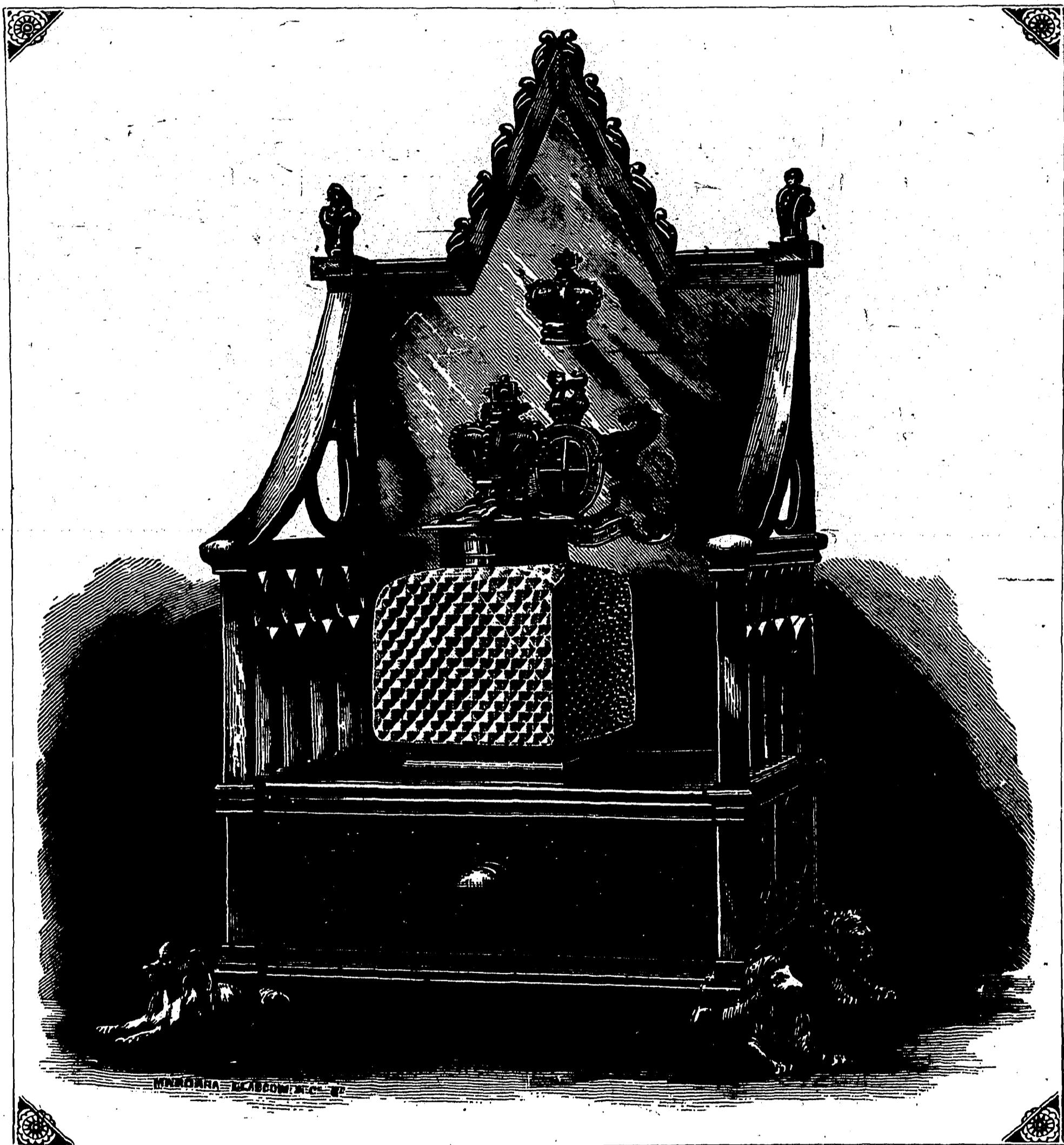
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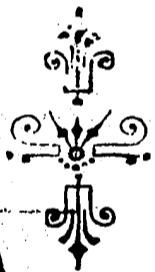
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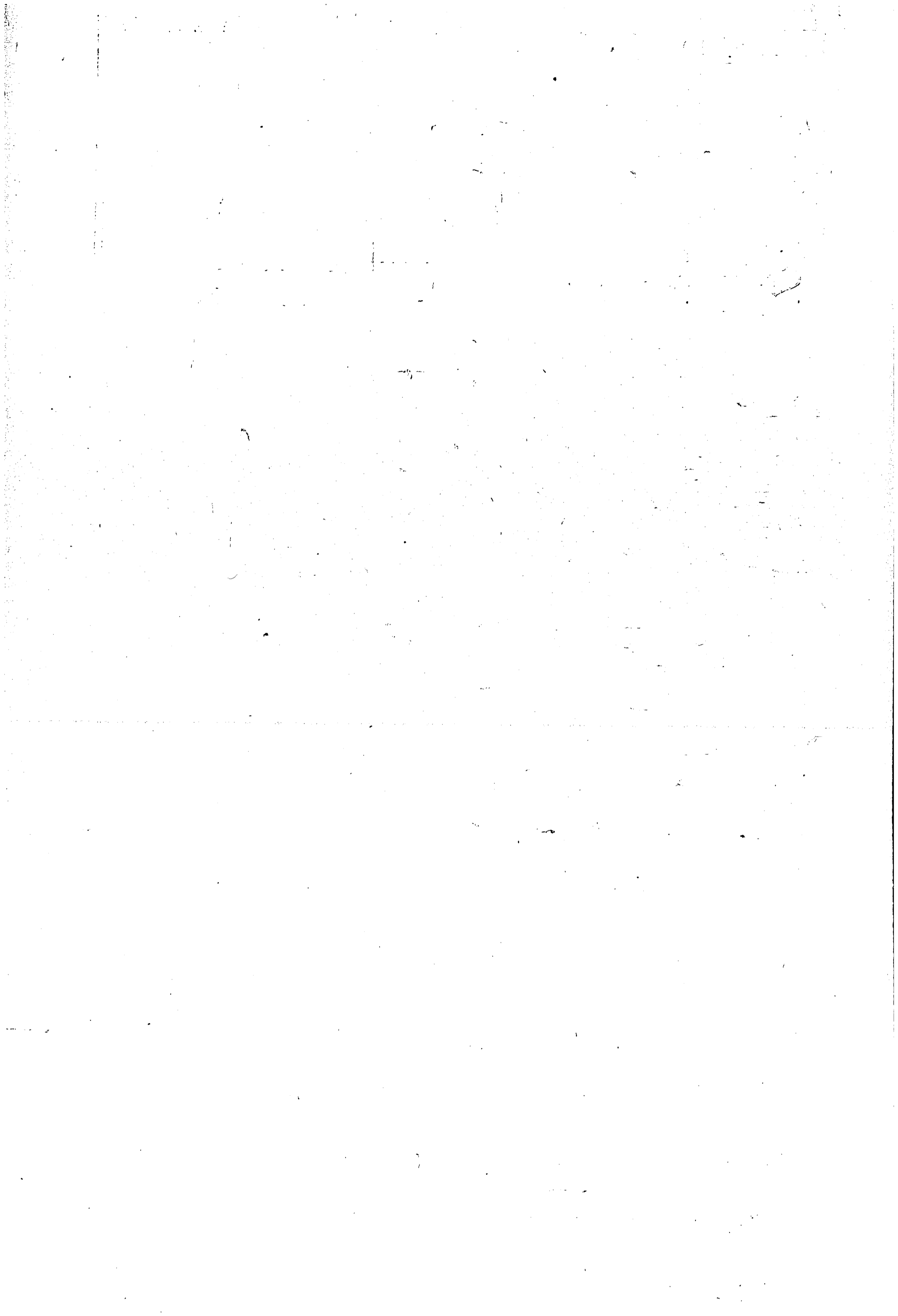
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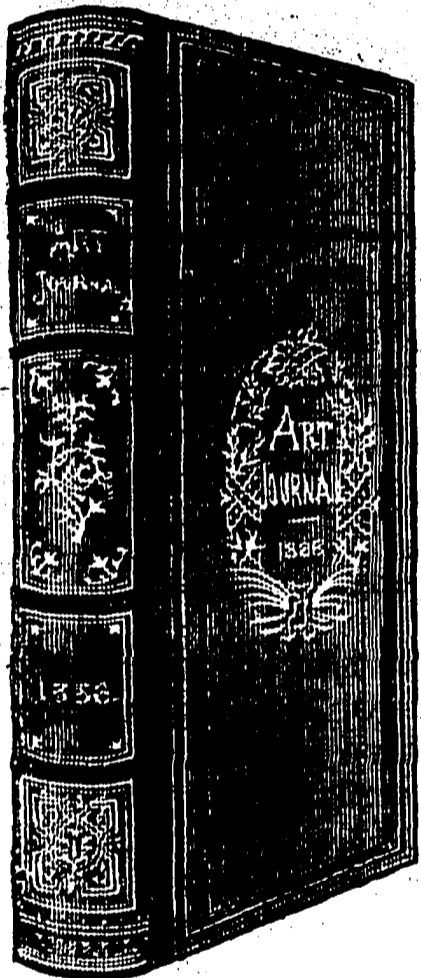
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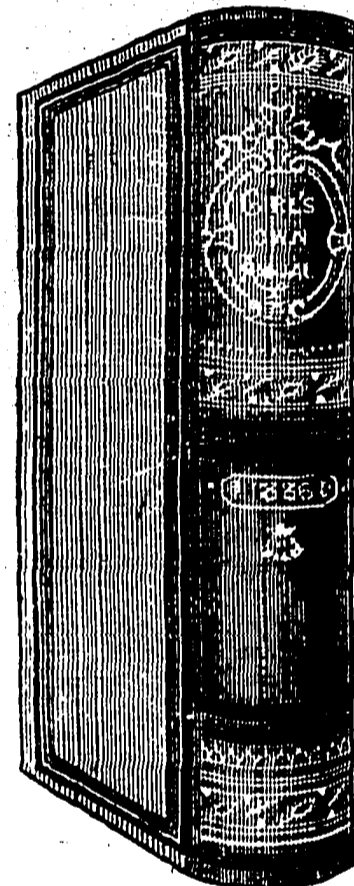
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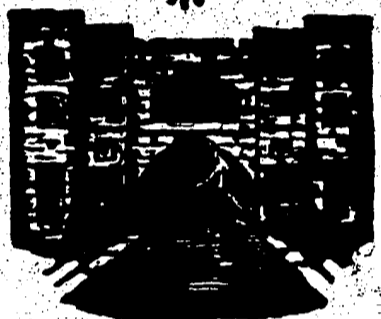
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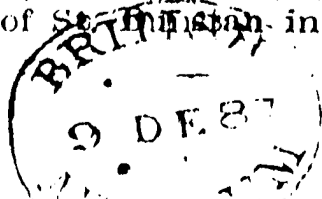
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