

yet there is no more delightful personage in fiction than Manasseh Bueno Barzillai Azevedo da Costa—verily a king of beggars. Any one more unlike the typical cringing, fawning Jew it would be difficult to imagine. Bold and audacious, he swaggers forth; a complete fraud, yet invested with a peculiar dignity and self-respect that render him irresistible. A complete fraud, yet so secure in his own sense of justice and probity that we are forced to respect him and to take him at his own estimate. There are other characters that, although forced by him into the background, are, nevertheless, wholly excellent in their way. From kindly old Joseph Grobstock to Yankeli and Beau Belasco they stand forth clear and distinct, and all the more delightfully comic in that they are treated throughout with a humor that never for a moment descends into caricature.

In this story Mr. Zangwill has chosen the close of the eighteenth century as a setting, because, as he tells us in his "foreword," while the most picturesque period of Anglo-Jewish history, it has never before been exploited in literature, whether by novelists or historians. He also tells us that these episodes make no claim to veracity; he has merely amused himself, and attempted to amuse others, by incarnating the floating tradition of the Jewish "schnorrer," a personage as unique among beggars as Israel among nations. Mr. Zangwill himself regards comedy as his natural rôle, and he has written a little play which has just been given as a "curtain-raiser" in London, and which the papers praise most highly. As a critic, too, Mr. Zangwill has had a great deal of success; but it is, nevertheless, in his sketches of Jewish life that he has done his best work. Just as "Children of the Ghetto" far surpasses his other two novels, "Merely Mary Ann" and "The Old Maids' Club," so, in the volume of stories of which "The King of Schnorrers" is the longest and most important, his "Flutter-Duck," "Rose of the Ghetto," and "Tragi-Comedy of Creeds" are decidedly better than any of the others, with the exception of "The Semi-Sentimental Dragon" and "A Principal Boy." The last is spoiled by its inadequate ending, but the Dragon is a thoroughly delightful bit of work. "The King of Schnorrers" and "Tragi-Comedy of Creeds" are by no means Ghetto sketches, but in "Flutter-Duck" Mr. Zangwill takes us back to the well-known scenes of the "Children of the Ghetto." The little story is filled with half-unconscious pathos, and the mere description of the room in which the furriers live and work haunts us unbearably. "Over everything," it says, "was the trail of the fur. The air was full of a fine fluff; a million little hairs floated about the room, covering everything, insinuating themselves everywhere, getting down the backs of the workers and tickling them, getting into their lungs and making them cough, getting into their food and drink and sickening them till they learned callousness. . . . And in this room, drawing such breath of life, they sat—man, woman, boy—bending over boas that bewitching young ladies would skate in; stitch, stitch, from eight till two and from three to eight, with occasional overtime that ran on now and again far into the next day, till their eyelids would not keep open any longer, and they couched on the floor on a heap of finished work. Stitch, stitch, winter and summer, all day long, swallowing hirsute bread and butter at nine, and pausing at tea-time for five o'clock fur."

Yet in "Flutter-Duck," as in all his other work, Mr. Zangwill just misses accomplishing something that is really very good. He often starts out well, but, sooner or later, he is sure to halt. Nearly all of his stories possess elements of excellence, yet they all lack the indescribable something that goes to make a supremely good piece of work.



The Fauna of the Deep Sea. By Sydney J. Hickson. Modern Science Series. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.) Two questions arise in reference to the animal life of the deep seas, and to the answer to them this little work is devoted. Do the animals show any striking and constant modification in correlation with the physical conditions of their strange habitat? From

what source was the fauna of the abyss derived? Briefly, the peculiar physical conditions of the deep seas are absolute darkness, so far as sunlight is concerned, cold almost to point of freezing, enormous pressure, extreme quietness of water, no plant life, and a bottom of soft, fine mud. This mud-bottom varies in structure and composition. Every one knows of the globigerina ooze made up of foraminiferal shells. There are other oozes of organic origin—pteropod, radiolarian, diatom—and the strange red mud. The members of the deep-sea fauna crawl upon or fix themselves in such bottoms, or float or swim above them. Without plant food the creatures are probably carnivorous—"deep-sea fish may feed upon one another and upon deep-sea crustacea, deep-sea crustacea feed upon deep-sea worms, deep-sea echinoderms feed upon deep-sea foraminifera, and so on through different combinations." But much food must come from above, from bodies of pelagic animals—protozoa, floating tunicates, crustacea, fish, and other animals—together with diatoms and fragments of seaweeds. The species "belonging to classes of animals that usually possess eyes . . . have eyes either very large, very small, or altogether wanting." "Deep-sea animals are nearly always uniformly colored. Very frequently they are black, or gray, or white, less frequently bright red, purple, or blue. Spots, stripes, bands, or other markings of the body are rarely seen. Deep-sea animals are brilliantly phosphorescent, the light being emitted either by special organs locally situated on the head, body, or appendages, or by the general surface of the body. Creatures with shells or bones have a very small amount of lime in these structures; bones are fibrous, fissured, and light; shells are thin and transparent. Among invertebrates stalked forms are relatively common." The author continues with a discussion of the origin of the abyssal fauna. He believes it to have come from migrants from shallow water, driven out by the severity of the struggle for existence. As this migration to the abyss has been long in progress, we find in this fauna some old-fashioned forms, but these are not so numerous as to give an antique aspect to the fauna as a whole. The author then considers the various systematic groups of animals in detail. The book is to be recommended as a plain and simple statement of an interesting subject.

The Brontë family has always been a source of interest, for there is an atmosphere of romance about their life and character that time and biographies serve only to intensify and enlarge. Mrs. Gaskell's book gives us the story of the weird and somber existence of the sisters and their father in the old vicarage on the lonely moor. Dr. William Wright has attempted to give the genesis of the Brontë characteristics and the evolution of the Brontë novels, in a highly interesting study called *The Brontës in Ireland; or, Facts Stranger than Fiction*. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.) He has investigated the early history of the Brontë family in their native land, and with patience and persistence has succeeded in unearthing long-forgotten events of the ancestors of the daughters of the Rev. Patrick Brontë. From his account it appears that "Wuthering Heights" is in reality the story of their grandfather, Hugh Brontë. Other characters of the Brontë novels are found to have originated in family history. The father of the writers was a genius as a *raconteur*, and it was out of his stories told to his daughters that they constructed their stories. The Brontë family for generations was esteemed odd by their neighbors and acquaintances. They kept themselves aloof from other and more conventional folk. At the close of his volume Dr. Wright determines that Miss Rigby, who afterward became Lady Eastlake, wrote that review of "Jane Eyre" in the "Quarterly" which was both scathing and insulting, and that the article in question was touched up and made virulent by Lockhart, the editor. His is the sole blame. As a study in the history of literary evolution, the book of Dr. Wright has a large and specific value, which students of literature will not be slow to recognize. It supplements without taking the place of other biographical accounts of the Brontës. It is, in truth, a strange family history, and they who are interested in tracing out hereditary influences will find in it food for reflection.

A Brief History of Panics. By Clement Juglar. "Englished" and edited by De Courcy W. Thom. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.) M. Juglar's work upon commercial crises won for him a prize from the French Academy and gained for him the Vice-Presidency of the Society for the Study of Political Economy. This, however, does not demonstrate the greatness of the volume, or even the value of having it condensed and translated. It is the kind of a book upon economics to win prizes, because it embodies a painstaking collection of facts and propounds no theory which could offend any one. The author and his translator have followed the history of the panics of the century, tracing, as far as it could be traced, their connection with banking loans and discounts. The theory propounded is

that periods of prosperity, panic, and liquidation follow each other in strict succession, and that after a panic "the completion of liquidation that precedes the beginning of another period of prosperity is characterized by lack of business, steady prices, and a marked growth in available banking funds." The practical advice which the translator and editor puts into italics is this: "Buy when the decline caused by a panic has produced such liquidation that discounts and loans, after steady and long-continued diminution, either become stationary for a period, or else increase progressively coincident with a steady increase in available funds; and sell for converse reasons." This is all very well, but would be much better if there were the slightest regularity in the length of the periods of liquidation which follow successive panics, so that one could determine whether "the long-continued diminution" of loans and discounts had ended. Unfortunately, the length of such periods is as unknown to the author, after meditating upon his statistics, as to the ordinary speculator, who, in a commonplace way, buys when he thinks stocks are cheap, and sells when he thinks they are dear.

Leonidas Polk, Bishop and General. By William M. Polk, M.D., LL.D. In 2 Vols. (Longmans, Green & Co., New York.) Bishop General Polk is not so portentous a figure in the great world as in the Episcopal Church and in the Southern States of the Union. Had his life been written twenty years ago, it would have had a larger circle of his contemporaries to whom to appeal. The general reader will find that his interest gravitates from the subject of the biography to the account of the Civil War as seen from the Southern side, or to the relations of the Episcopal Church North and South. Dr. Polk, the author, has done his work in a careful and conscientious manner, deserving of praise. His book is embellished with war maps and minute accounts of military maneuvers. As to the question of the propriety of Bishop Polk taking up arms, we say nothing; the Episcopal Church pronounced in 1865 that it was "incompatible with the duty, position, and sacred calling" of the clergy to bear arms; but this was after the war, and it should be recollected that Leonidas Polk was a graduate of the West Point Academy. He was a good soldier, a good commanding officer, and his course met with the approval of most of his fellow-Churchmen at the time, although some have since seen reason to express regret that Bishop Polk should have taken the course he took. Those who are interested in military affairs will find that the author has dwelt very carefully upon the Atlanta campaign, in which General Polk was engaged. As to the rest, we have only to say that both the author and the publishers have done their task in a workmanlike manner.

St. Andrew's. By Andrew Lang. Perhaps this sketch of the famous Scotch University is all the more interesting because, as Mr. Lang tells us frankly, he writes with the knowledge that a more exhaustive historical work from another pen is to appear later. It is certainly a rather rambling narrative, but it is delightfully anecdotal and personal. Mr. Lang deals John Knox some hard blows, as he has more than once before, and one can only wish that the grim old Calvinist were alive to reply; what a charming "duel in the press" would follow! The ancient history of St. Andrew's, with discursions on universities of the Middle Ages generally, is treated at length, and there are chapters on all great events of the college life—including the visit of Dr. Johnson. The illustrations by Mr. T. Hodge are capital, and in all ways the book is worthily printed and bound. (Longmans, Green & Co., New York.)

Philadelphia is certainly taking the lead in the rapidly growing movement to spread a better knowledge of municipal institutions. Following close upon the heels of the welcome volume from the Wharton School of Finance giving the history and workings of each department of the city government, we receive from Mr. Charles A. Brinley *A Handbook for Philadelphia Voters*, giving the election districts, the rules of the party organizations, the State laws affecting the municipality, the salaries of city officials, the city institutions in receipt of State funds, the city's receipts and appropriations, etc., etc. Such a volume is the outcome of municipal public spirit, and municipal public spirit is the outcome of such volumes. Knowledge of public affairs and interest in them are, in the long run, conterminous.

Socialism: Its Growth and Outcome. By William Morris and E. Belford Bax. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.) This volume, which appears in the goodly company of the Social Science Series, is not an agreeable addition to its numbers. It is cynical and contemptuous in a trying degree. A volume which scoffs at the liberalism of the past is not the volume to awaken faith in the liberalism of the present. If the aspirations of the reformers who have preceded us have given us a civilization which is merely a loathsome ship of the dead, pessimism

is the only possible belief for a rational observer. It is to be regretted that the author of so suggestive and inspiring a volume as Mr. Morris's "Hopes and Fears for Art" should have collaborated in producing so dreary a volume as that before us.



Literary Notes

—Not a novel, but a collection of short stories, will be "Our Manifold Lives," the forthcoming book by Madame Sarah Grand.

—Mr. John D. Barry, whose work has won high praise from Mr. Howells, is about publishing a serial story to appear in the Sunday "Tribune."

—At an early date Mr. Besant's new volumes will be put forth. They are entitled "Literary Essays" and "Social Essays." The author has as yet decided on no title for his recently finished novel.

—If the difference in the dictionaries stamps the progress of a dozen decades, so do the hundreds of thousands of dollars expended by the "Century" Company on its monumental achievement in comparison with the \$7,500 which Dr. Johnson received as reward for his work. The old London house in which the lexicographer labored is soon to be demolished.

—It is now said that legal proceedings will be taken to oust M. Brunetière from the editorship of the "Revue des Deux Mondes." "Valbert," who is none other than M. Victor Cherbuliez, had been the choice of the Pailleron party, who, in consequence, were greatly dissatisfied with M. Brunetière's election, and claim that he did not possess the amount of stock required by the statutes.

—"Platonics" is the first attempt at fiction of Miss Ethel Arnold, a granddaughter of the famous Master of Rugby and a sister of Mrs. Humphry Ward. Speaking of the latter, it is interesting to know that for "David Grieve" she was paid \$80,000 for the English and American markets alone, exclusive of Australia, India, etc. With Mrs. Ward authorship is hardly an underpaid profession.

—Mark Twain tells us that there are "three infallible ways of pleasing an author, and the three form a rising scale of compliment: 1, to tell him you have read one of his books; 2, to tell him you have read all of his books; 3, to ask him to let you read the manuscript of his forthcoming book. No. 1 admits you to his respect; No. 2 admits you to his admiration; No. 3 carries you clear into his heart."

—A complete translation of Catullus, the metrical part of which was the work of the late Sir Richard Burton, while the abundant notes come from Mr. Leonard Smithers, is about appearing in large octavo form in England, the American agents being the Burrows Company, of Cleveland. The issue will be limited to subscribers, and will not exceed fifteen hundred. Blake's portrait of Catullus is to be etched for the frontispiece.

—The poet Aubrey de Vere and his family were for many years intimate friends of Tennyson, who borrowed the whole of his famous Lady Clara's name from them. Lady de Vere, however, did not quite fancy the association of her name with the haughty and hard-hearted Clara. "Why should Lady de Vere be aggrieved?" was Tennyson's jesting reply. "I have not given her name to an ugly woman, nor to an old woman—only to a wicked one."

—Wishing to honor the seventieth birthday of Dr. Edward Everett Hale, his staff of editors and assistants made a copy of his poems in their own handwriting and gave it to him. When Dr. Hale saw the collection he resolved to print it, and with this motto from Colonel Ingham's Life: "If it were his duty to write verses, he wrote verses; to fight slavers, he fought slavers; to write sermons, he wrote sermons; and he did one of these things with just as much alacrity as another."

—"The Yellow Book" is the name of the very serious new quarterly projected by Messrs. John Lane and Elkin Mathews. It will be just the size and shape of an ordinary French novel, will contain something over three hundred pages, and is expected to sell at five shillings. The art editor is supposed to be Mr. Aubrey Beardsley. It is also generally supposed that the editor-in-chief will be, not an Englishman, but an American, and probably Mr. Henry Harland (Sydney Lusk).

—The wide class of readers who take an interest in travel and exploration will find in "Around the World" a remarkably well edited and finely illustrated monthly magazine devoted to such topics. It follows in many points the example set by the French "Au Tour du Monde," and by some of the best German magazines. The process pictures and color-printing of "Around the World" are quite out of the common. It is edited by Professor Angelo Heilprin; and to say this is to say that it represents accurate scholarship and thorough knowledge of recent scientific work. (Contemporary Publishing Company, Philadelphia.)

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