

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES



Johnston. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. (The Stone & Barringer Company, \$1.50).

In this story Miss Johnston has sched a degree of excellence which has not hitherto attained. "To we and to Hold." "Prisoners of character, he accomplishes nothing; and consequently does not loom heroic in retrospect. To our mind, this is not a sound criticism. It has been truly remarked that "he that ruleth his own spirit is greater than he that taketh a city," and we feel that although Rand's plans for the conquest of an empire failed, nevertheless in conquering the savage in Lowis Rand. he has achieved heroically impressed upon the mind. Miss Johnston unquestionably has gift of holding a reader's interest in the first paragraph to the last to the first paragraph to the last to the first paragraph to the last to the first paragraph to the last the savage of feet on as has appeared on this side of the Atlantic for several the savage of the said of the Atlantic for several the savage of the said of the Atlantic for several the savage of the said of the Atlantic for several the savage of the said of the advantage of the said of the law.

It has been said of this book that it disappoints because in spite of charge in spite of charge and force of charge in spite of charge Have and to Hold," "Prisoners of Hope," "Audrey," "Sir Mortimer" were all good stories in their way, but "Lewis Band" has a breadth and nobility of sweep undiscoverable in the earlier works. The book grips one tighter and tighter as the story develops and before the end is reached the tragic significance of the whole is forcibly impressed upon the mind. Miss Johnston unquestionably has the gift of holding a reader's interest from the first paragraph to the last the sift of holding a reader's interest from the first paragraph to the last page. Her scenes, whether dramatic or dyille, never drag nor become wearisome. Each has its proper bearing upon the development of the plot, and each is told in flowing, lucid English of rare grace and charm. Truth te tell, Miss Johnston is sometimes slightly hackneyed; she is overfond of a liguistic curtain; there is perchance a trace too much of the firing of guns and the fisshing of naked steel. But spols upon the sun do not obscure the brilliancy of that orb, nor do minor defects vittate Miss Johnston's title to a very high place among contemporary story writers.

Lewis Rand, the hero of the present

Lewis Rand, the hero of the present work, is a man of the people who, netaphorically, dashes his head gainst the stone wall of caste, as that true was understood in the Virginia efferson. His father, plain, obstinate, boerish; his mether of gentler blood and instincts; his early circumstances rough. Lewis Rand struggles for an education and wins admission to the sar, where he rapidly takes a foremost piece. Meanwhile his career in politics as a follower of Jafferson is not less remarkable, and he appears to be the coming man in Virginia, at a time when that meant the coming man in the republic. Chance throws him in the way of Jacqueline Churchill, an aristocrate of the aristocrate, a daughter of the most exclusive landholders the world ever saw. From that moment she becomes the chief goal of his ambitions. On her part, Jacqueline is irresistibly attracted by the tremendous force thand possesses, and in spite of the flery denunciations and bitter opposition of all her relatives and friends, the blue-blooded damsel marries the man she leves.

Having attained what he had long oked upon as summum bonum, and discovers that he is not yet sat-Rand discovers that he is not yet sat-isfied. His love for his fair young wife has grown out of a far more elemental and primitive passion—the desire of the humbly born to he ac-cepted on their own footing by the eepted on their own footing by the upper class. Apparently our hero has beaten the people he envies at every turn of the game. Not only has he gone farther in his profession than any of them and overwhelmed them in the political field; he has struck deeper, and won their fairest woman for his wife. But having done all this, Rand realizes that he

done all this, Rand realizes that he is as far as ever from being accepted as one of them.

His first impulse is to win his way to the governorship of Virginia, and become an Elisha to Jefferson's Elijah. Apparently nothing can prevent the fulfillment of his purpose. At this juncture, the serpent in the human form of Aaron Burr crosses his path and whispers subtle treason in his ear. Rand eagerly embraces Borr's Southwestern project but with a totally different end in view from that pursued by the daring leader of Barr's Southwestern project but with a totally different end in view from that pursued by the daring leader of that audactous enterprise. The young Virginian purposes to aid and abet the New Yorker in founding his empire; but that once accomplished, he intends to supplant his leader, in whom he sees many vulnerable points, and seize the supreme power for himself. He fancies things will be on a different basis when he brings Jacqueline back as Empress of the West. The open sesame to the doors of her people will he heen discovered.

Rand secretly prepares for his journey. On the eve of his departure his whilom rival, the man he envies most among all the gentry, Ludwell Carey, gets wind of hig plans and also of the imminent collapse of Burr's enterprise. For the sake of the wife, who, although last to him, has never faded from his heart, Carey delays Rand by fercing a duel upon him. Before the hubbub dies away, news of the discovery of Burr's plot arrives and Rand's schemes are dashed to the ground.

It is only by Jefferson's special clemency to his former protege that clemency to his former protege that Rand is allowed to escape a trial for high treason. During his absence from home on legal business his wife, opening his mall to forward it, reads an ice-cold epistic from the sage of Monticello, which conveys to her husband the news that he is not to be prosecuted. This is her first inkling of the state of affairs and the shock quite overwhelms her. At this draof the state of arairs and the shock quite overwhelms her. At this dra-matic moment Carey comes, and seeing her in grief, comforts her as a brother might comfort a sister. Rand returns home to find that, at the hour of his wife's sore need. It

is one of her own caste that admin-isters consolation—and the very one who most irks him. Jealousy bears no part in his emotion. Jacqueitne's love and loyalty is beyond suspicion. But the rankling thought that he could never be what his wife was born, and could not help being, tears the very fibres of his being.

which has rea lited since his earliest childhood. His nerves are on edge, and the sight of his smiling enemy suddenly raises the tension to an un-controllable point. Without a word or gesture of provocation, he draws his pistol and shoots Carey through the heart.

With the echo of the pistol shot we

With the echo of the pistol shot we such the climax of the story. Everything preceding has tended to this seed. Skillfully indeed has the autor traced the circumstances and indents which have rendered the murrer practically inevitable. When it tomas, one feels that it was bound to cur sooner or later.

Successfully obliterating all clues hich could possibly point to him, and returns home and arquiniss his fe with what has transpired. His ser instinct cries out for the consistent of his crime. Per contrative is unable to occupy this viewfor at all. Many penerations of his desire, and with her whole soul outmoons her husband to tell the ind what he has flore and tace the magnetics. He has no such instance, and resists her persuasions, as the easilier scores all led up to iregis deeth of Carey, so all the most led to the ullimate constitution of the man's will by the work and nouths pass in the strip-iregisted with shows her highland faisity of his position and the same fairly of his positi

Will Irwin contributes an article to the New Year's number of the American, dealing with that unique institution if the chronicles attached have been clever and some have been dult. The sanatomy of all the stories, to change a strong of all the stories, to change the figure somewhat, has the same general character. An outsider, dropping into the country for mere pastime, falls desperately in love with the most beautiful princess of the reigning house, who is at the same time the most beautiful woman who has ever lived, does now exist, or shall ever exist, or shall ever be. Usually the two, together with their allies, manage to thwart the machinations of a wowuld-be-usurper, who halts

the average novel of its class. It has all the above-named features of the all the above-named features of the species, tegether with, rather more than its share of vividity described deeds of "dering do," but it has more. The picture of the dwarf, who moves the machinery of the drama almost at his will, is extremely well-drawn. We do not say it is original, for in the main it is not. But the twisted little figure occupies a place in the story

main it is not. But the twisted little figure occupies a place in the story just a little out of the ordinary, and therefore excites interest.

Novels of this sort are not written to be, like Thucydides, "eternal possessions." Their primary function is to seize and hold the attention of their readers until they have caused them to forget the cares and burdens of this work-a-day world for a couple hours. This very needful and honorable function the specimen be-fore us is excellently qualified to per-form; and performing it, 'twould be a bold man who would declare the vol-

THE NATIONAL REVIEW FOR DE-CEMBER.
An author signing "Sofia," furnishes

the most interesting contribution to this month's Review in "The Lesser Tsar—a Character Study." Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, is subjected to a most merciless scrutiny, one which goes behind his apparent success and superficial brilliance, and reveals what manner of man this princeling seems to the author. Americans have little data upon which to base a discriminating opinion in regard to Ferdinand; the present article, while very severe, will materially increase the amount of that data, and bears many internal evidences of credibility. If truth it be, then were worth the day for Bulgaria!

The great economist, Alfred Marshail, has lately taken up the cudgels in behalf of England's traditional policy of free trade. His position is attacked in a very able paper by J. L. Garvin. It appears to be but a matter of time before Cobden's policy will be reversed, and England once more have a sizable tariff.

A paper which furnishes much for hard thought is H. J. B. Montgomery's "The Extinction of the Professional Criminal." The author knows his subject from experience, having at one time served a term of penal servitude. He takes decided issue with professional criminologists, and suggests what has often been suggested before, namely, that society's proper solution

H. Tiddy. Elam and Deoly Char-lotte, N. C. Stone and Barringer, \$1.50.

This dainty little love story has excited no small curiosity in this city, in the first place on account of its anonymity. Piqued by this universal feeling to giance over it, the casual reader is charmed by the freshness and fragrancy of the little tale it contains. All signs point to a Charlotte authorship, but so far as is known to this column, that authorship has not as yet been divulged. been divulged.

The old estate in Virginia is describ-

Lewis Rand, he has achieved heroically and proved himself a man.

We do not know that "Lewis Rand" will take rank among the classics. We feel sure that it is as important a piece of fiction as has appeared on this side of the Atlantic for several years. We recommend it to our readers as a sweet, strong and absolutely wholesome romance from which they cannot but derive pleasure.

Vayenne. A Novel. By Percy Brebner. Illustrations by E. Fuhr. The John McBride Company, New York.

In the same general direction as Ruritania and not far distant from Graustark, lies the duchy of Montvillers with its charming capital city, Vayenne. It is a pleasant country where twentieth century people are aurrounded with conditions bodily taken from almost every preceding age.

Lewis Rand.

The old estate in Virginis is described with great vividness and strict fidelity to the life. The characters depicted are few in number, and their outlines are but vague; but a grace and charm makes them lifelike and enjoyable. Not a few of the pages are devoted to musings on the pleasures of a comfortable library on a winter's evening and like topics of a sort that usually find their place in an essay rather than fiction. Such passages give the very lighest promise. Their thought is good, their style elegant. It is greatly to be dewith great vividness and strict fidelity to the life. The characters depicted are few in number, and their depicted are fe

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TO THE

IN THE REALM OF STAGELAND

MAY HEAR MME. CALVE.

Effort Being Made to Get the Noted Singer During the Coming Month at the Local Playhouse. General Manager S. A. Schloss, of the local Academy of Music, has se-

cured Madame Calve, the noted singer, for two performances in his cir-cult under big guarantee, and the patrons of his seven theatres will have an opportunity to show how well they would like to hear this accom plished woman.

Mr. Schloss controls theatres in Asheville, Raleigh, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Charlotte, and Wilmington, North Carolina, and Danville, Va. He has not decided which towns he will favor with Mme. Calve, but will give each a chance to bid for the attraction, and the town which shows the biggest subscription list by Sat-urday will be given the opportunity of hearing this celebrated artist and

her company.

Mr. Schloss has undertaken a tremendous obligation by guaranteeing Mms. Calve a vast sum for the two performances, and it is hoped that the music lovers of Charlotte and surrounding towns will ofter their support and bring the famous singer to this city.

Manager Cravo has arranged with

Manager Crove has arranged with Hawley's Pharmacy to accept all or-ders for seats, from both the city and out-of-town folks, beginning to-day, so he can notify Mr. Schloss just what his subscription list is by Saturday. Should Calve be sant to Charlotte it will be during the week of January 25th. Mr. John L. Crove, manager of the

pany are at the Auditorium day, December 30th.

BLANCHE WALSH.

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In 'The Test," which Miss Blanche Walsh will produce at the Academy of Music to-night, the actress has found one of the most powerful dramas ever seen on the American stage. Jules Eckert Goodman, the author, not only has freated the problems of to-day in a most furceful, intelligent and highly interesting manner, but he has woven into four acts of absorbing dialogue, heart interest and action, a phase of modern life that appeals to men and women in every walk. In the leading role, the dramatist has given to Miss Walsh an opportunity such as seidom falls to the lot of an actress. He has gone deep into the soul of a noble woman, seen her passion and her emotions, and Miss Walsh gives a faithful, convincing portural of what he saw. The play is virile, masterly and fearless in its presentment of truths. The moral lesson is there in all its intensity, but is never permitted to trench upon the enjoyment of the work as one of true dramatic art. The scenes are laid in New York, and the story, briefly, is this: In the past a man. Tretman, has stolen for a girl he leves. Emma Eltynge. Another man, Frederick McVane, tells the girl that if she will yeld to him, he will free Treiman. The girl consents, but McVane proves false and Treiman goes to prison for ten years. When the stage story opens, Emma has fallen in love with Arthur Thone, a young novelist of broad views, who knows a great deal of her past. His sister, Pegsy, wants to marry Mo-Vane, whom she knows to have lived an extremely unconventional life, but who has given many assurances that he will reform.

The motive of the play is furnished.

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"THE RIGHT OF WAY." The attraction at the Academy of Music, next Monday night, will the Sir Gilbert Parker's attring dram "The Right of Way," with Gastanding and Theodore Roberts, and the balance of the original companuader the management of Messe Klaw & Erlanger.

Charlotte is the only city in North Carolina where "The Right of Way" will be presented on this tour. The sale of seats will begin Friday norning at Hawley's.

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The regeneration of a man through the power of a great, pure love is a theme that has been used by novelists and dramatists almost since the world began. But in apits of this it is still as fresh as it was the day it was first used, for no plot that the mind of man has ever devised is more fascinating, more compelling. A pure and holy love is the most wonderful, the most consuming passion the human houl has ever known and for that reason it has for centuries been the foundation of the world's greatest stories and for centuries to come it will continue as such.

To the great loves of history and of fiction has of late years been added the love of Charley Steele and Rosalie Evanturei. Of all the stories, either of the novel or the stage, that the past ages have brought forth not one has brought more forcibly to the front the power of a great, pure, unselfish, spiritual love to overcome the ville passions that the human soul is heir to than has "The Right of Way." Sir Gibert Payker's most powerful novel. In the love of Steele and Rosalie this brilliant author has developed an old idea and applied it in a manner so powerful as to bring it before his readers almost as a new thought. The dramatic version of this powerful novel by Eugene W. Presbrey will be presented at the Academy of Music on the night of January 4th by Klaw & Erlanger's original New York company, headed by Guy Standing and Theodore Roberts, the actors who originated the principal parts in the pilliant, but

time previously married a woman, whose love he now knows has nover been his but rather has remained with a former lover. The discovery that his but rather has remained with a former lover. The discovery that his wife's brother has embezaled trust funds for which Sisele is reaponsible and the general wreck of his life and his early dream of happiness culminates in his often asked and never answered question. "In there anything in this gray old world worth living for after all?" Portugals is acquitted of the murder charge and in return for Sizele's help warns him that he must not go again to the Octe Dorion, the river tavern he has been frequenting, for the river men have threatened to have his life because of his insulfs to their tellgion and his attentions to La Belle Suzon, the pretty har-maid, the only woman Steele has over found who understands him. Sizele's cynical mood, and his decision that life is not worth the trouble of living work on his brandy-soaked brain and he determines to court the danger at the Cote Dorion, if death comes, so much the better.

The second act shows the interior of the tavern with its crowd of drunken, brawling river men and La Belle Suzon. To them comes Steele and fired by the effects of coppous draughts of brandy he heaps multi after insuit on the rough, brunal lumbermen, openly makes love to Suzan and when death is approaching insuits the man who would help him because of an admiration for his occurage and in the fight that follows is struck down and left for dead. He does not die, however, but is reccued by Joe Portugals and in the third act he is seen in Joe's hut on Vadrone mountain, hundreds of miles from Montreal. Three pears have elapsed and while Sisels has recovered his bedily health his memory is a blank. He remembers nothing prejeding the hour he awake in Joe's hut of the blow at the Cote Dorion, with the assurance that returning memory will be the remait. This at first he returns to all the remait. This at first he returns to all the remait. This at first he returns

Where the Clemens laming save dead living since last June.

As a result of these capsulations is was decided that the surest way is keep the carrings of Mr. Clemens books continually in the family, even after the copyright on the books themselves expires, was to incorporate the "Mark Twain" name itself. The Mark Twain Company of New York has accordingly been formed the purpose of which is to secure in the author and to his family all right in the nom de plume. Mr. Clemens himself is president of the company Mr. Asheroft secretary and treasurer Mr. Clemens two daughters and his secretary. Miss lashelle V. Lyon, are the directors. Mr. Hobbs, the attorney, forwarded the articles of incorporation to the Secretary of State on Monday, and they were formally placed on file yesterday.

The frilled-up, speckless, spotless kild is a parental crime against nature, a crime for which the child must pay in after life.

There are three great, booming events in a boy's life. The first, perhaps, is the mument when the despised dresses are discarded for the first pair of trousers; the second is the thrilling hour of the first circus, but none of these events can compare in atter happiness with the first time a kid, escaping from the mother's too watchful care, in complete abandon and sweet dellance of domestin tyranny, gets his fill of the ecstatic delights of clean dirt and inscious mud.

A True Bill.

Philadelphia Record.

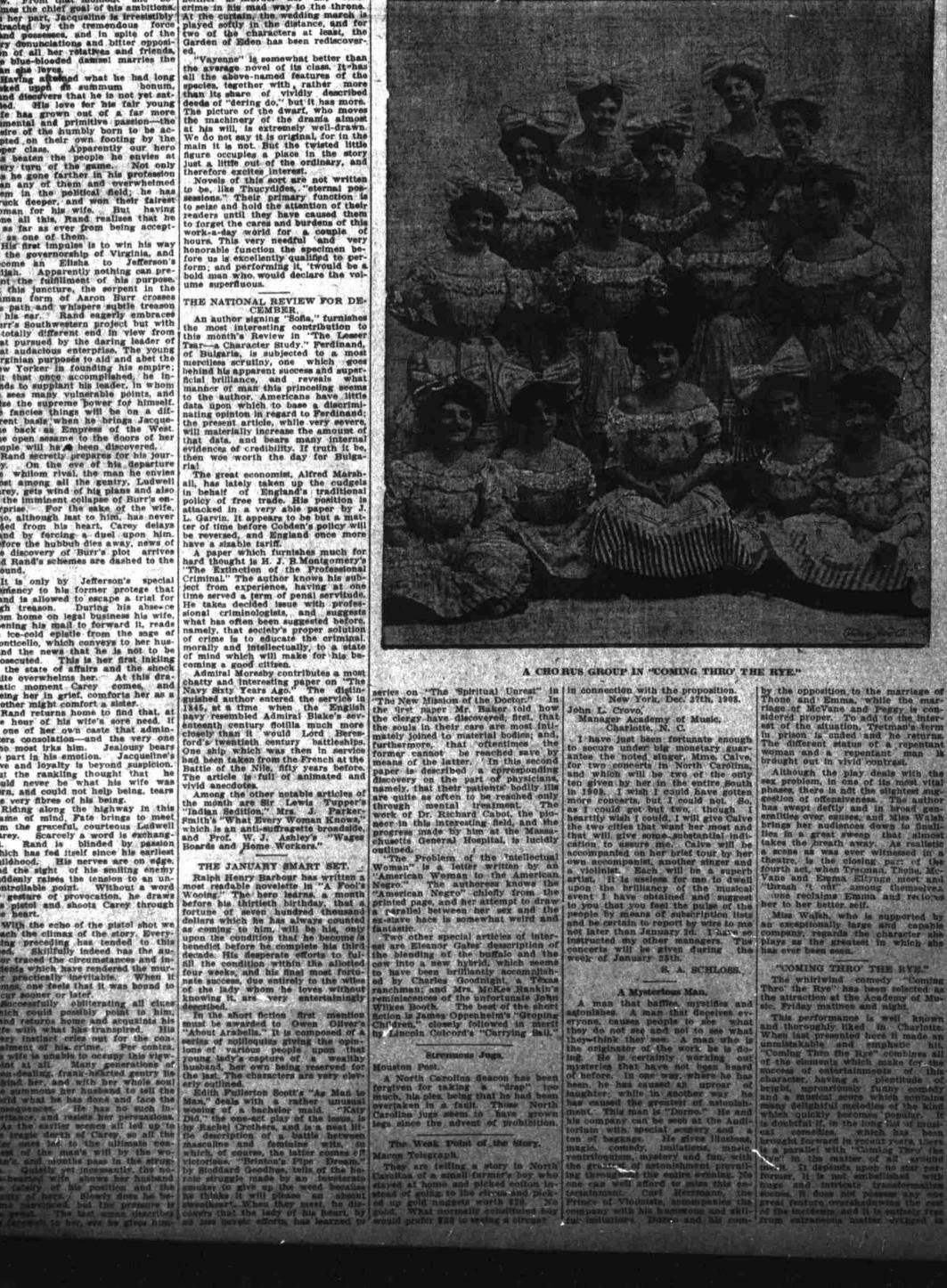
Philadelphia Record.

The Charlotte Observer, says:

"Pennsylvania is living up to i record as the State of graft. The is nothing particularly surprising about the recent development at Pitt burg. People have getten pretty we accustomed to looking for such thing there, in Philadelphia and Harriburg."

BLANCHE WALSH In Her New Pla THE TEST

By Jules Eckert Goodman The New York Herald says: play that should be seen by nan, woman and child in avery



A CHORUS GROUP IN "COMING THRO' THE RYE."

by the opposition to the marriage of Thone and Emma, while the marriage of McVane and Peggy is considered proper. To add to the interest of the situation, Tretman's term in prison is ended and he returns. The different status of a repentant woman and a repentant man is brought out in vivid contrast.

Although the play deals with the sex problem, in one of its most vital phases, there is not the slightest singgestion of offensiveness. The author has awept deftly and in broad generalities over causes, and Miss Walsh brings her audiences down is finalities in a great sweep that simest takes the breath away. As realistic a scene as was ever witnessed in a theatre, is the closing part of the fourth act, when Trauman Thone, McVans and Emma Ellynge meet and threath 't out' among themselves one reclaims Emma and rectores her to her better self.

Miss Walsh, who is supported by an exceptionally large and capable company, regards the character she plays as the greatest in which she has ever been seen.

"COMING THRO' THE RYE."