

EXTINGUISHING FIRES.

Oncoming winter suggests a subject, which is at all times important, but more so at the approaching season than at others—the subject of how to put out conflagrations.

Recently there assembled in New York a convention of chief engineers of fire departments. That body suggested a system of direct water supply which will be the subject of our explanation, both because of the general importance of the question and because it seems to bring out a novelty in the mode of fire extinguishment.

This subject warrants the greatest care in experiments and no hasty abandonment of old and moderately effective agencies should leave the lives and property of our cities at the mercy of the devouring element.

The fire convention also discussed the means of extinguishing conflagrations other than by water. It was seen that the petroleum fire will not yield to water unless thrown on in immense quantities, but will subside to carbonic acid gas, nitrogen, sand or clay, the use of which articles the convention approved.

In his excellent criticism of Miss Fisher's new novel Col. Hayne answers tartly certain ridiculous assumptions of Northern critics. It will pay even the casual reader to peruse this criticism, which appears in THE MORNING STAR to-day.

THE MORNING STAR TO-DAY. The man who supposes that the Ohio election was lost on the anti-repugnance question is greatly in error. Hayes' majority in the State is less than his majority in Cuyahoga county. So that that county controlled the State. Perhaps our idea of the fact of the case—and as is evidenced by the extracts we published last week from Ohio papers—may be more clearly stated in the general proposition that if the Republicans had had the Democratic platform on the currency question, and the Democrats the Republican platform on that question, Hayes' majority would have been five thousand.

OUR LITERARY LETTER.

"A Question of Honor." By "Christian Reid." D. Appleton & Co. Publishers. New York City.

"A Question of Honor." By "Christian Reid." D. Appleton & Co. Publishers. New York City. This is a novel which in excellence of plot, in rich poetical description of nature, in subtle characterization, and dramatic force, may be justly pronounced quite equal to the best of her former works.

The plot, without being complex, is ingeniously constructed, although touching the main plot upon which the story must say, that the "question of honor" affecting the conduct of the two chief personages, hardly rises to the dignity of a moral problem.

Madeira Severn is charmingly portrayed. A deep-thoughted, earnest-souled woman, of the purest ideals, and the strongest possible practical force, she combines her nature with the imaginative, bright and sound common sense to a degree unusual, it is true, but every now and then (thank Heaven) to be found in those women destined to become the mothers of men not puppets.

How different she is from the other "blind girls" of modern fiction. Take, for example, Wilkes Collins' "Poor Miss Finch" or the heroine of "The Two Admirals." As one eminent and attractive, at the next moment as decidedly repulsive. There is in Miss Finch a certain hardness, accompanied by traces of personal vanity; a sense, not always concealed of her own superiority, and a certain consciousness, and frequent angry reticence, which greatly mars the novel.

The little episode of her unfortunate love is also beautifully treated. Of the male personages in "A Question of Honor" one is especially interesting, and that is the strongest character, artistically and morally. This young man stands before us in the boldest relief. "All over his flesh and blood" as real as reality itself.

There is a good deal about her spirituality and refinement which satisfy the fancy while deeply touching the heart. The little episode of her unfortunate love is also beautifully treated. Of the male personages in "A Question of Honor" one is especially interesting, and that is the strongest character, artistically and morally.

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REAL ESTATE SALES.

DEPARTMENT OF ACCORDANCE WITH THE provisions of a certain deed of mortgage executed by Oliver K. Riley and his wife Anna E. Riley, in and to the City of Wilmington, N. C., dated the 15th day of August, A. D. 1875, and duly registered in the office of the Register of Deeds on the 19th day of March, A. D. 1876, and duly registered in the office of the Register of Deeds on the 19th day of March, A. D. 1876, and duly registered in the office of the Register of Deeds on the 19th day of March, A. D. 1876.

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