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and abroad. The American novelist most frequently represented in the last hundred volumes—of which he supplies seven—is Col. R. H. Savage, author of 'My Official Wife.' Only ten other volumes of the hundred are by American writers, chiefly Mark Twain, Bret Harte, and Marion Crawford.

With the November number the *Sevane Review* enters on its second year, and now Prof. W. P. Trent's name appears as editor. The number contains a very sensible discussion of the evils of "Sectionalism in Finance," and a singularly open-minded article on "Uncle Tom's Cabin Forty Years After," by the Rev. Prof. Shoup, in which attention is drawn to the accuracy and impartiality of the book. That such a criticism should appear in a Southern review is of good augury for the future of the South.

The New York Shakspeare Society will begin at New Year's the publication of a magazine, the *Bankside Quarterly*, devoted to Shaksperiana and the contemporary drama. It will be edited by members of the society, and published by the newly incorporated Shakspeare Press.

—Beckford's heart would have leaped to embrace the delicious 'Vathek' of which Macmillan & Co. publish 150 numbered copies in America, with its dress of green silk reminding us of the annuals of his time, and its Arabian design stamped in gilt upon its side, such as Beckford's England could only dream of. Its etchings, by Herbert Nye, are steeped in the spirit of the story. The type, imitated, with supposed improvements, from a quarto Elzevir (a type not compressed like that of the pocket Elzevirs), is too modern in its business-like roundness and with its typewritten short tails to the *bs* and *ds*, *ps* and *qs*. It is printed moist upon a hand-made laid and creamy paper. A book-lover might wish it were in duodecimo instead of a nine-inch octavo. For the "library editions" of books of entertainment—say, a stately Alfred de Musset printed in a way fit for a *recueil* of treatises—are not for those that read their books. This volume, however, is by no means a flagrant offender. The old duodecimo was calculated, when bound, to weigh half a pound; a post octavo, a pound. A pretty tome that weighs no more than a pound and a half, instead of two, like most of its octavo brethren, may still pass for light reading. This can be said for 'Vathek': though written for young people just beginning to disregard the advice of their elders as to what they had best read (*virginibus puerisque*, said Beckford), and though it was read by most of us at that susceptible epoch, yet, no matter how old we have grown, so long as memory holds her seat, we never can cease to remember the termination of this tale. The present editor, Dr. Garnett, says, indeed, that everybody must like 'Vathek' who likes its *genre*. That depends upon what its *genre* is taken to be. If it is to be defined as a romance which seeks to make amends for the sensuality of its earlier parts by a heart-rending and terrible ending—if, in short, 'Vathek' is to be tossed upon the heap where rot 'Les liaisons dangereuses' and such—then the remark is, beyond doubt, true. But if by its *genre* is meant that of the 'Arabian Nights,' we must protest that the greatest charm of those stories, their child-like irreffectiveness, is signally lacking in 'Vathek.'

—Nevertheless, it is an immortal book, and it was written in one sitting—one sitting, of three days and two nights! So said Beckford himself, fifty years later; and why doubt it?

Dr. Garnett thinks he disproves this by showing that the author was engaged upon the composition for at least a year altogether. But that proves nothing. Of course, Beckford had been turning it over in his head for months; and, of course, he made corrections and even alterations, later. Moreover, when he had written it, he did not perceive that he had written it. He thought he had only made an amazing good beginning. "My Arabian tales go on prodigiously," says he, April 25, 1781, and a few days later, "The tale of the Caliph Vathek goes on surprisingly." But all the labor of the many months following, down to the end of 1784, went to the production of additions, which his own incomparable good taste rejected *in toto* at last. Recipe for making an immortal book: Write it at one sitting in 3 days and 2 nights; devote 3½ years to improving it, and then publish it as near as possible as it originally was. It was written, by the way, in French, and our English text is nothing but Henley's translation, which was published in advance of the original, in spite of Beckford's prohibition. The French reads far the better.

—About a year ago we called attention to the new 'Dante-Handbuch' of the indefatigable bilingual Swiss scholar, Dr. G. A. Scartazzini, who preferred making a new book in German to translating and revising his Italian 'Prolegomeni' of the year before, or to expanding his earlier 'Manuale Dantesco.' The 'Dante-Handbuch' Mr. A. J. Butler, the English editor and translator of Dante, has now put into English under the title of 'A Companion to Dante' (Macmillan). The version is satisfactory, and will no doubt be of value to students in England and America. We wish, however, that Mr. Butler had allowed himself more liberty in the treatment of his original. The 'Handbuch' is diffuse in style and over-weighted with irrelevant material; it could with profit be greatly abbreviated. The translator might, too, have added much that would be of value. He has omitted Scartazzini's frequent bibliographical list on the ground that the books he mentions are in foreign tongues, or inaccessible to the English reader; but he should surely have inserted compensating references to English and American publications, such, for example, as the various translations of Dante's minor works. After all, it is not so much a translation that the 'Handbuch' needs for our purposes as a complete remodeling. Scartazzini is learned and industrious, but he is also narrow, pedantic, and whimsical. We still lack a companion to the study of Dante that shall give us all the necessary facts, a candid statement of the main theories in regard to disputed points, a discriminating bibliography, and material (such as has never been published in English) which will enable the student to see Dante, not through the mists of polemics and text-criticism, but in his proper relation to the decay of mediæval and the birth of Renaissance thought.

—The last report (for the year ending June 20, 1899) of the "Women's University Settlement for work among the poorer districts of London" is of special and timely interest from the fact that it gives full details of the latest feature of the Association—professional philanthropic training. This English society is the first to institute courses, lectures, and two scholarships tenable at the Settlement, for the training of workers. This step, we are told, has been taken in the "hope of raising the standard of social work among the poor,

... of meeting an increased demand for trained workers, ... and to attract those who wish to prepare themselves either for paid or honorary posts ... in Southwark, in other parts of London, or in the country." The training (begun in January, 1893) is formulated as follows: "The ordinary course," which extends over one year, divided into three terms of thirteen weeks each, is intended to give an outline of general principles and sound methods, and consists of weekly lectures, the preparation of papers, and reading, and of practical work under other workers. For the first six months three days a week are spent with charity organization committees, the other three in some special Settlement work in connection with already existing local agencies; the wise policy of the Settlement being to supplement rather than originate philanthropic centres of energy. During the second six months, "practice" is divided between visits to societies and institutions in London for the purpose of observing and comparing their methods and results, in the keeping of accounts, and in some special branch of outdoor work selected with a view to the student's preparation for her future employment. The fees (inclusive of board, lodging, and teaching) are £50 a year for resident students, and £10 for non-residents; these latter must attend lectures, and give not less than four days a week to the active work. Moreover, students are offered at their option a second year, "so as to gain a more thorough knowledge of some special branch of the work." Curiously enough, in this first year the two scholarships are held by non-collegiate women. Outsiders may attend the lectures by payment of from 5s. to 10s. per term, or of 2s. for a single lecture.

—As the character and efficiency of work among "the submerged tenth" depends largely upon women, it is a matter of public interest whenever any body of women philanthropists thus publicly recognize how closely the everyday difficulties of social work are connected with economics, with local government, with poor-law administration—in a word, with those fundamental business principles which underlie the decent and successful ordering of a modern municipality. Among the lecturers during the two terms which ended in July, we find Miss Octavia Hill instructing in the "Principles and Methods of Keeping Accounts," Mr. Bernard Bosanquet on the "Duties of a Citizen," and Mr. J. Lowles on "How London is Governed," while the lectures for the term beginning in October were to be on "The Poor Law" and the "Relation of Economics to some Social Questions." The risks and difficulties of definitely attaching to a primarily philanthropic movement the diverse responsibilities and claims of an educational "experiment" were frankly confessed in the prospectus of the scheme, but Mrs. Henry Sidgwick (principal of Newnham College), at the recent annual meeting of the Settlement Association, asserted that any objections that might be made to training of that sort on the ground of its sometimes checking spontaneity, were quite outweighed by its advantages, "as it was a method of obtaining in a short time what unaided experience would take years to teach." This new departure of our English cousins in formally recognizing a need which has hitherto been rather disjointedly met by University Settlements in both England and America, marks an important step in the evolution of Settlement life. The report discloses a percentage of permanency at the Southwark Settlement higher than has been obtained among our

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