

GOSSIP ABOUT SOME CURRENT BOOKS

It is said "this Christmas is to be a year of small expenditures." One would certainly not believe that such was the case, to go into the book stores, or the book departments of our large establishments. Crowded and piled up seems to be the condition of the shelves, which overflow onto the counters and even onto the floors, where the choicest volumes stand in great stacks, while the buyers jolt, push and fume to get the rushing, hurrying, out of breath clerks to wait on them, as though they were afraid of the stock being exhausted before they bought their fill and emptied their purses into the coffers of the book-dealer. All these people, however, we are told, do not come to buy and carry away their treasures, as many come only to leave a subscription to a magazine, with the name of a friend whom they wish to remember in this way. This mode of giving can almost be dignified by the name of "faddist," no popular has it become, and be it said to the credit of the "faddist" that no more sensible, acceptable or economical one was ever perpetrated. Sensible because a good magazine contains no element of perniciousness that so many Christmas gifts embody. Acceptable, because there is always some part of it that will suit the taste or desires of everyone, old or young, student, business man or lady of leisure. Economical because it can be indulged in just to the extent our purses and wishes permit, for the standard dollar magazine embraces just the same qualifications to commend them that the three and four-dollar ones do.

But even with these three essentials there are other elements that enter into a year's subscription to a magazine, as Christmas gift, which do not obtain in anything else and which perhaps may have more to do with its popularity than all the other reasons, for upon the whole the suitability of a present enters very little into the calculations of the "professional gift-giver." Christmas with its festivities, its over-abundance of offering, its excitement and pleasures is not the best time to feel appreciation, but as the magazine quietly finds its way to us each month, giving us hours of restful pleasure and instruction, after the glare and noise, and handsome gifts as well, are forgotten, then will come to us the voice, the tender word, the kind thought of the one who has provided this pleasure, and callous indeed are we if a better love, a holier feeling, is not engendered within us, and after all is this not the true spirit of giving? The all pervading odor of frankincense and myrrh which has not ceased at the natal day, but reaches into infinity—the Christ love which remaineth throughout our little year.

"Lee's History of North America"—Messrs. George Barrie & Sons of Philadelphia having taken heed of the complaint of many professors and noted scholars, that there was no comprehensive history of this country from its discovery to the present time, with the result that they now announce the first definite, authoritative, inclusive narrative history of North America. The scope of the work in geography includes the country from Panama to the farthest explored north; in time, from the prehistoric period to the present date. In plan they have followed the suggestion outlined by the American Historical association, the greatest collective body of historians in America, and have in preparation a series of 20 volumes incorporating the "three principles laid down by that society: (1) that it be

co-operative; (2) that it be under the direction of an editor-in-chief; (3) that each volume be complete in itself. They have secured the services of Prof. Guy Carleton Lee, Ph. D., of Johns Hopkins and Columbia universities, who accepted the responsibility of directing the work on the condition that he should have untrammelled choice in the selection of the persons he wished as advisers, editors and authors and have absolute freedom in literary and historical matter. It requires but a glance at the array of brilliant students and scholars whose names appear, having given their best to this work to show the wisdom of the publishers in granting this carte blanche to Professor Lee.

A particular, and probably unique, feature is that, in order that all defects might be avoided, a complete syllabus of many pages was printed of the author's outline of each volume and these syllabi submitted to all concerned in the production of the work. As an example of the thoroughness with which the work of the various boards is done, Messrs. Barrie have sent us facsimiles of some returned pages, showing that in this case at least the work of the board has not been nominal.

Its result is that we are promised a history on modern lines. The spirit of the times is to insist that a statement of hearsay will not answer in history today. In this realistic age the reader wants the whole story and to hear both sides of it. In this history it is claimed this point has never been lost sight of. The publishing house of George Barrie & Sons has the enviable reputation of never having turned out poor work. That their illustrations and publications are not excelled in excellence is evinced by the fact that they have secured medals at every exposition from the Centennial, and that in Paris in 1889 they received an award, showing that in any other publisher in this country. With this reputation back of them we can confidently look forward to the coming work as the finest illustrated history of any country that has been issued at any time, and it will be with great interest and pleasure we will give our readers, at an early date, a detailed review of the volumes of this series.

"Guest Book"—By Ella Leass Stewart is a rare book offered at this season. Not that it is an especially Christmas book, but it is pre-eminently a gift book, a book which at any and all times would be acceptable. A unique book, too, for its charm is that our nearest and dearest, the guest in our home, will fill in and make the text of the book. Except for an apropos quotation at the head of each page the book is blank, but divided off into spaces designated: Name, address, date, remarks. The book is beautifully bound in tones of gray and black, and of an unusually heavy cream paper, just such as would be necessary to a book that, in the hospitable home, would be almost in daily demand. Guest books have been offered before, but they have usually been of such fragile nature they proved but a passing fancy, while Mrs. Stewart has given us one that will remain a pleasure through life. We can hardly think of a greater delight than to be able to draw from a safe retreat a guest book filled with the names and dates of those who in years gone by, honored our home with their presence, and then to find some word, some remark that would awake a chain of memories, that, however sad, must be dear, because it

was "our guest" who wrote it. This is just the purpose of Mrs. Stewart's book and no home where true hospitality abideth, and a guest is a delight can afford to be without it. Mrs. Ella S. Stewart, 1518 Manhattan building, Chicago. Price, \$1.50.

"The Story of Little David"—What constitutes good reading for children? An ever recurring question and one that the poor weary shop girl answers over and over every holiday season for the parent who is anxious to give the best, but willing to let somebody without the tenth part of her own education do the thinking for her. We wonder if it ever occurs to her that the advice she seeks in the store is often given by instruction of the manager, who finds on his hands an installment of literature, with nothing to recommend it but its gaudy binding, with matter so pernicious and demoralizing he knows it has lived its little life, when after the holidays the fond mother settles down in the long winter evenings to read the Christmas books to her children.

If parents, in buying children's books, would keep this one infallible rule in mind, no "mistakes" would be made: "What is good for the adult is good for the child." A fairy tale that does not hold enough of worth to teach a lesson to the mother is not fit nourishment for the child. A book that is not clear and pure enough for the child should find no favor with the mother. Children of course cannot grasp the full meaning of words that are enjoyed by parents on account of the vocabulary, but the topic, the theme remains the same. This is beginning to be appreciated by many of the books that are offered this year have caught the inspiration of Charles and Mary Lamb when they compiled their "Shakespeare Tales for Children." Many a child has imbibed its first love of good literature from this work. Indeed it is our opinion that no child has ever given this book early in life or had it read to it that did not grow up a familiar lover of the great dramatist, as well as of the gentle brother and sister who made it possible for children to enjoy classical literature. In line with this we are now having the "Famous Children in Literature" series, the two latest of which are, "The Story of Little David," and "The Story of Tom and Maggie." The fortune is the childhood of David Copperfield, introducing naturally Betsey Trotwood, Little Emily, Peggoty, Traddles, Ham and Mr. Dick. The latter is from "The Mill on the Floss" and even for the reader, who has attained the older growth has the advantage of telling the story without having to read through depths of unintelligible matter. The language of the authors in both books is very closely adhered to. The beautiful illustrations by Frank T. Merrill and Ethelred B. Barry add much to the interest and value of the books.

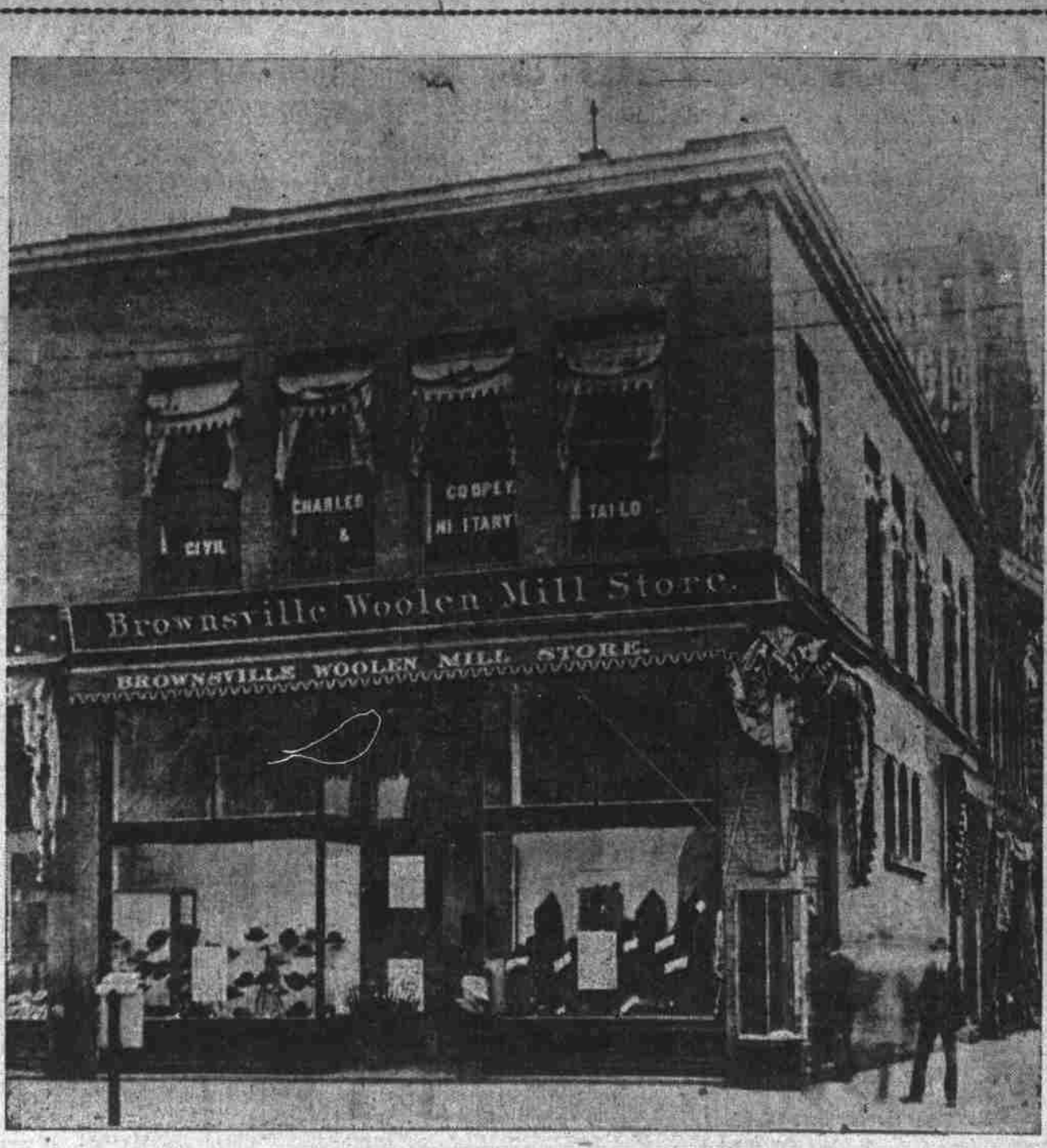
Dana, Estes & Co., Boston, publishers. Price 75c.

"Cherry"—By Booth, Tarkington, while not strictly speaking one of the newest books, is one of the best sellers at the local book dealers. The great piles which are daily seen disappearing tells the tale of its popularity. Its bright attractive binding first catches the eye and a glance through proves it full enough of sparkle, beauty and humor to appeal to the gift-seeker who does not want to indulge in the high priced gift books which as never before have gone to the extremes of elegance, and price as well. "Cherry" is a New York up to date story, with many good and familiar characters. Harper Brothers, publishers. J. K. Gill Co. Price, \$1.50.

"The Compromises of Life"—By Col. Henry Watterston, is not only holding its

own, but far exceeding all expectations in the sales. The lecture from which the book takes its title might be good reading for New Year's eve, when resolutions are in order. Fox, Duffield and Co., 28 East Twenty-first street, New York, are the publishers. Price, \$1.50.

Teachers of small children should not fail to procure "Bright Little Poems for Bright Little People," by Catharine Wheeler, as they cannot fail to find many little things of value and interest in their work. Whittaker & Ray, San Francisco, Price, \$1.25.



NEW STORE OF THE OLD BROWNVILLE WOOLEN MILLS.

The above cut shows a fine likeness of the new location of the popular Brownsville Woolen Mills Store at corner of Third and Stark. This building was recently remodeled and fitted strictly up to the hour for this live, progressive firm. Every modern convenience for displaying and showing the large stock carried by this firm has been equipped in this station.

The proprietor, Mr. J. L. Bowman, who is a prince of good fellows, is highly elated over his being so fortunate as to secure this location, which is considered one of the best in the city.

Go where you will in the city of Portland and you will find no larger stock and assortment of high-grade clothing than is displayed here.

Just now the Brownsville Woolen Mills Store is celebrating the advent of their moving into the new store by a great \$12.50 suit sale, which includes every suit in the house without regard to price.

OREGON BAR COMMITTEES.

President George H. Burnett has announced the following committees for the Oregon Bar association for the ensuing year: Executive committee, J. B. Cleland, W. M. Calk, B. L. Eddy, R. T. Platt, F. D. Chamberlain and William Smith; grievance committee, H. H. Northrup, Wm. Minor, C. A. Johns, Oscar Hayer and M. G. Munly; committee on legal education and admission to the bar, Stephen A. Lowell, C. M. Gantenbein, M. L. Pipes, L. A. McNary and S. C. Spencer; committee on legislation,

M. C. George, George C. Bingham, Sanderson Reed, J. W. Hamilton and Thomas O'Day; committee on uniform legislation, Otto J. Kramer, Earl C. Brombaugh and S. H. Gruber.

CLOSED BY CONSTABLE.

A. D. Keenan, constable of the east side justice court, yesterday placed an attachment on the saloon of Gus Hogg-bloom in Albina, on account of three suits filed by Frank & Lewis for \$125. Henry Fleckenstein for \$55 and Henry Hansen for \$79.50.

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Gasoline Gas Lamp

Gives universal satisfaction wherever introduced, and burns the lowest tests of gasoline, perfectly. To prove this, I will ship to any merchant, commercially rated or giving good Portland reference, located in any town in Oregon or Washington in which I have no agent, one or more of my Perfected Lamps on 30 Days' Trial, billing same at regular wholesale price.

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Each Capsule bears the name SANTAL MIDY

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RESIDENCE BUILT BY CATE & POWELL ON INSTALLMENT PLAN.

Be Your Own Renter

We build you a house and allow you to pay for it in monthly payments. Beats paying rent, don't it? Well, I think so.



YOU CAN OWN A HOME LIKE THIS AND PAY FOR IT MONTHLY.

EAST SIDE Ladd's Addition.

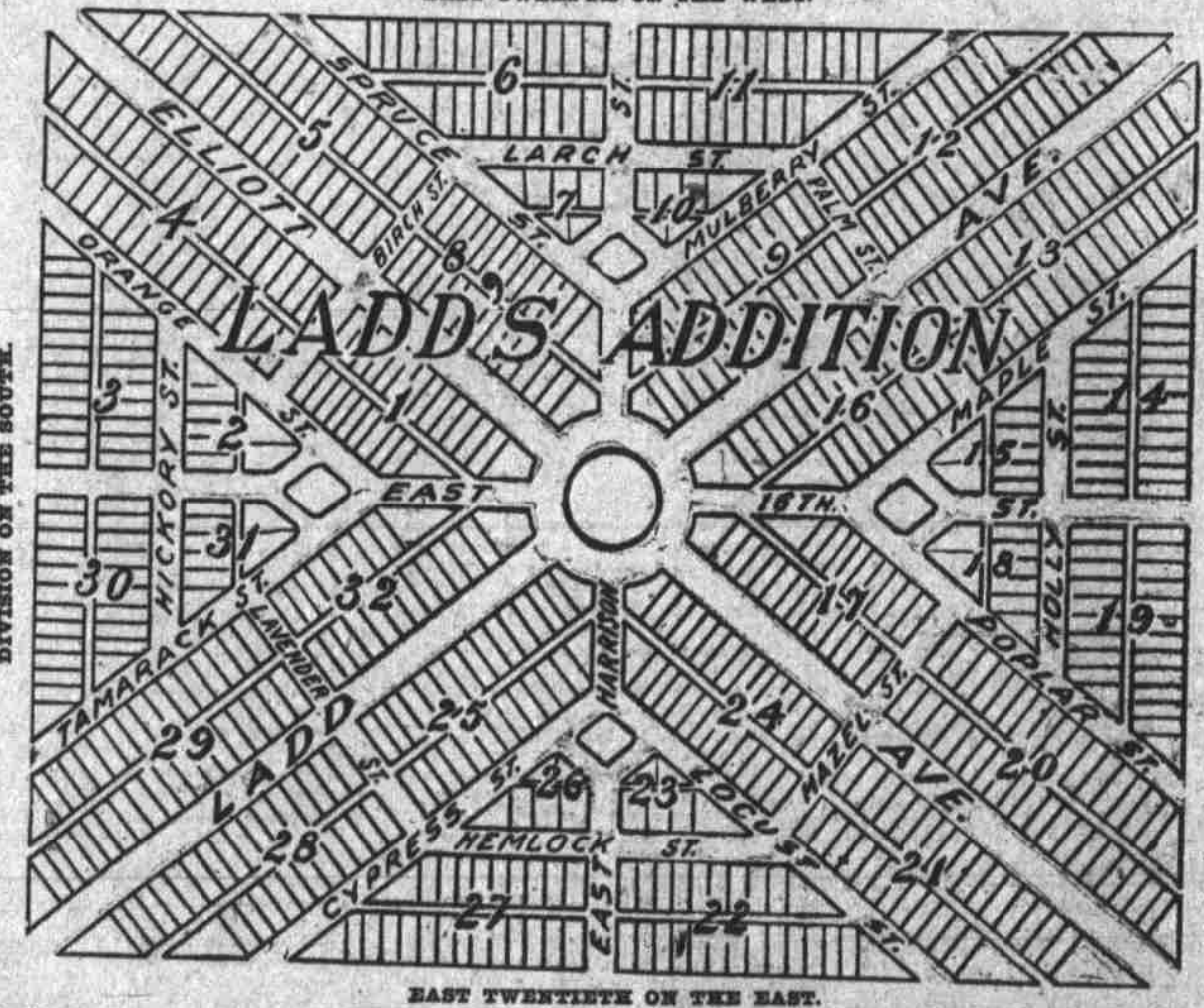
Nowhere in this city or the state of Oregon can there be found a prettier residence district than is offered in these two additions. Natural rolling ground, adapted to this rainy climate, rolling sufficient for self drainage, offering every convenience that heart could desire for a pleasant and desirable home; water, gas, sewers, electric light, telephone, stone sidewalks, graded and improved streets; parks, churches and the best school in the city. No cheap house allowed to be erected; no two houses on a lot; the best street car service in the city; three electric lines, giving practically a five minute service, which will land you in the city from any part of this addition in from 7 to 10 minutes, while the walk is less than 20. What more could heart desire, for the merchant, the doctor, the newspaper man or any man who wants a home. Property here is increasing in value faster than any resident portion of the city. The many homes now occupied are self-speaking evidence of what we can do and have done for those who want homes in the most beautiful and healthful residence district in Portland.

A Generous Offer.

You want a home—you are a renter paying from \$20 to \$50 a month—the house doesn't suit you, but why continue? If you do it's your own fault. We are extending to you our helpful hand. Others have grasped it with joy, and are now happily and comfortably housed in a beautiful home—all their own—and paying rent to themselves—the home is theirs.

The plan is simple. Let us explain. You select any lot, and then select your plans—suit yourself—make your own contract for building.

When the house is completed you move in and only pay us a rental each month agreed upon, until the house is paid for. Thus you become your own renter and pay rent to yourself, for when you have paid off the cost of the lot and house it's yours. Make your wife happy by buying a lot and starting the construction of the house at once. A joyous Christmas for your family.



EAST TWENTY-THIRD ON THE EAST.

Addition EAST SIDE

We Take Pleasure

In talking over this proposition and explain every detail—to go farther to show you about and let you see the improvements that are being made on the street and parks. See the elegant homes that we are building and the hearts we are gladdening. No better neighborhood can be found in the city of Portland for it is here some of the best people of the city reside, people who pride themselves upon their homes and surroundings.

A Safe Investment

Buying and building on either of these additions is an investment capitalists would jump at. But Ladd's addition is to be one of homes—homes to be owned and lived in. The estate is able to say this, hence capitalists are not encouraged—in fact not sold property in either of these beautiful additions. If we were to do this not a lot would be in the market 24 hours. No house can be erected that costs less than \$2,000. Buy your lot now and build later.

To Make it Plain

Let us go further into details. Let us take you and show you the lots—how beautifully they lie; how convenient to the city; the many advantages they contain. We are sure you'll be pleased. It will cost you nothing but a little of your time, even if you don't buy.

Our efforts are legitimate and honest—helpful to those who want to stop the rent bill and you will never stop it until you own your own home.

Think this over, if there is anything about it you fall to understand we will be pleased to go into every detail and particular, for if you understand it you appreciate it all the more—it means a chance to stop paying rent to landlords and put it into your own pockets.

Just a Few More Choice Lots Left in Hawthorne.