fellow's lips, while I was nursing him. The night he died, he confessed it in his delirium—poor, poor Archie. And the shock of hearing the truth knocked me off my head, and laid me down with the fever. I thought, when you ran away, that you had made up your mind that it would not be wise to marry a poor digger after all; so I tried to reconcile myself to my fate.”

Ariadne looked up at him with tearful eyes full of reproach.

“But it is all right now,” he hastened to say, cheerily. “As soon as I was strong enough, I left the Rand for the Cape, to seek you; and arrived just in time to secure a berth when I found that you and Kathleen had booked for the *Garth*. I've managed to scrape a few hundred pounds together before I left the Transvaal; and if you—if—if you still——”

Here Hector broke down; but Ariadne finished the sentence for him in a whisper, as she put her soft lips to his ear.

“And you are sure you don't regret losing that wedding tour in a bullock-waggon to Matabeleland?” he whispered back, with a spice of his old teasing manner.

“Oh, I'm getting too old for any more rambling!” cried Ariadne, gaily.
"What a very old lady you look, to be sure!" answered Hector, laughing.
"But, you know, a widow always feels old, even if she doesn't look it."
To which arch retort Hector replied with a look of mock gravity—
"Pray don't be alarmed! You won't have cause to feel old very much longer!"
Just then Kathleen joined them, and the midnight bell rang out across the sea.
"Oh, that's the midnight bell!" exclaimed Ariadne.
"Wedding bell, more likely," said Kathleen.
Then they laughed together happily.
"How fast the ship sails to-night!" said Ariadne, as she paused near the gangway, to take a last look at the beauty of the night before going below.
"Not too fast," whispered Hector, as he lifted her down the steep steps; "for we are sailing homeward together, little one, for all time and eternity!"

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INDEX

A

Adam, Herbert—
A Virtue of Necessity 7

Alexander, Geo.—
Introduction to "Art of Elocution" 4

America, Lord (T. W. Cundall) 21

Anna Marsden’s Experiment (Ellen Williams) 15

Asmodeus (edited by Justin Hannaford) 6

Ashes Tell no Tales (Mrs A. S. Bradshaw) 7

Ascher, Isidore G.—
A Social Upheaval 8

B

Bachelor Ballads (H. A. Spurr) 91

Beckford, Geo.—
Vathek 6

Bible Stories Retold 4

Bradshaw, Mrs Albert S.—
Ashes Tell no Tales 7

Gates of Temptation 24

Bye-ways of Crime (R. J. Power-Berrey) 4

C

Carlyle, T. West—
In quaint East Anglia 5

Comedy of Temptation (T. Coutts) 9

Coutts, Tristram—
Pottle Papers 30

Comedy of Temptation 9

Pottle’s Progress 21

Cundall, J. W.—
London 91

America Abroad 92

Cry in the Night (A. Golsworthy) 7

D

Daniels, Heber—
Dona Rufina 13

Darby’s Wine-Cup (B. Kennedy) 90

Dan Leno, Hya Books (Dan Leno) 90

Death and the Woman (A. Golsworthy) 18

Devil in a Domino (C. L’Epine) 17

Devil on Two Sticks (Le Sage) 6

De Brémond, Comtesse—
A Son of Africa 7

De Souisson—
The Path of the Soul 5

Dolomite Cavern (W. P. Kelly) 21

Dona Rufina (Heber Daniels) 13

E

East Anglia, In Quaint (T. W. Carne) 21

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Series—
Rudyard Kipling (G. F. Monks-hood) 1

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Elocution, The Art of (Ross Ferguson) 7

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F

Fame, the Fiddler (S. J. A. Fitz-Gerald) 16

Famous Hamlets (C. Scott) 4

Ferguson, Ross—
The Art of Elocution 4

Petters of Fire (Compton Reade) 7

Fellow-Passengers (K. Pyke) 9

Fitz-Gerald, S. J. Adair—
Fame, the Fiddler 16

That Fascinating Widow 17

The Grand Panjandrum 19

G

Galt, John—
Ring Gilhaires 6

Gates of Temptation, The (Mrs A. S. Bradshaw) 24

Gentleman Digger, The (Comtesse de Brémond) 9

Girl of the North (H. McLicite) 7

Golsworthy, Arnold—
A Cry in the Night 7

Death and the Woman 28

Gray, Druid—
Nonsense Numbers, etc. 19

Pilypangle Pastoral 20

Grand Panjandrum, The (S. J. A. Fitz-Gerald) 19

Green, Percy B.—
A History of Nursery Rhymes 5

Green Passion (A. P. Vert) 20

Guides, etc. 31

H

Hall, Sydney—
Temptation of Edith Watson 9

Hamlets, Some Famous (C. Scott) 4

Herman, Henry—
The Sword of Fate 9

Hypocrite, The (Anonymous) 73

I

In Monte Carlo (H. Sienkiewicz) 1

In Quaint East Anglia (T. W. Carne) 95

J

Jocular Jingles (Druid Grayl) 19

Johnson, Dr—
Rasselas 6

K

Kelly, W. Patrick—
The Dolomite Cavern 11

Kennedy, Bart—
A Man Adrift 5

Darby’s Wine-Cup 10

The Wandering Romanoff 13
| L | Lady of the Leopard, The (C. L'Epinhe) | 12 |
|   | Lady of Criswall, The (L. Outram) | 14 |
|   | Lasages—Asmodenas; or, The Devil on Two Sticks | 6 |
|   | L'Epinhe, Charles—The Devil in a Domino | 17 |
|   | The Lady of the Leopard | 18 |
|   | Leno, Dan—Dan Leno, His Books | 20 |
|   | Longstaff, W. Luther—Weeds and Flowers | 6 |
|   | The Tragedy of the Lady Palmist | 22 |
|   | Lord Jimmy (G. Martyn) | 24 |
|   | London (J. W. Cundall) | 81 |
| M | Man Adrift, A (R. Kennedy) | 5 |
|   | Madonna Mia (C. Scott) | 12 |
|   | Martyn, Geo.—Lord Jimmy | 14 |
|   | Martin, Ernest—Shadows | 18 |
|   | M'Millan, Mrs Also—The Weird Well | 9 |
|   | Miss Malevolent (Author of "The Hypocrite") | 9 |
|   | Miller, Helen—A Girl of the North | 7 |
|   | Monkshood, G. F.—Woman and the Wits | 5 |
|   | Rudyard Kipling—My Lady Ruby | 12 |
|   | Moore, Thomas—The Epicurean | 6 |
|   | More (T. W. Speight)—My Lady Ruby (G. F. Monkshhood) | 12 |
| N | New Tale of the Terror, A (Author of "The Hypocrite") | 8 |
|   | Nonsense Numbers (D. Gray) | 19 |
|   | Nursery Rhymes, A History of (P. E. Green) | 5 |
| O | Obscure Apostle (Oreszko) | 7 |
|   | Outrageous Fortune (Anonymous) | 10 |
|   | Outram, Leonard—The Lady of Criswald | 14 |
|   | Owen, J. L.—Seven Nights with Satan | 10 |
| P | Path of the Soul (C. S. de Soisson) | 5 |
|   | People, Plays, and Places (C. Scott) | 3 |
|   | Pelican Tales (F. M. Boyd, etc.) | 17 |
|   | Pillypingle Pastoral (D. Gray) | 20 |
|   | Pottle Papers (T. Conts) | 20 |
|   | Potter's Progress, The (C. Conts) | 22 |
|   | Power-Berry, R. J.—Bye-Ways of Crime | 4 |
|   | Pyke, Rivington—The Fellow-Passengers | 18 |
| R | Rab-Brown, Campbell—The Shadow on the Manse | 12 |
|   | The Resurrection of His Grace | 15 |
|   | Rasselas (Edited by Justin Hannaford) | 6 |
|   | READ, Compton—Fetters of Fire | 7 |
|   | Resurrection of His Grace (C. Rae-Brown) | 15 |
|   | Ringan Gilhams (Edited by Sir G. Douglas) | 6 |
| S | Sadler, Mrs Maria M—Such is the Law | 7 |
|   | Scott, Clement—The Wheel of Life | 9 |
|   | Madonna Mia | 11 |
|   | People, Plays, and Places | 3 |
|   | Sisters by the Sea | 3 |
|   | Famous Hauntings | 4 |
|   | Seven Nights with Satan (J. L. Owen) | 10 |
|   | Shadows (E. Martin) | 18 |
|   | Shams (Anonymous) | 8 |
|   | Shadow on The Manse (C. Rae-Brown) | 12 |
|   | SHEIKHJWEZIC, Henry—In Monte Carlo | 12 |
|   | Sisters by the Sea (C. Scott) | 3 |
|   | Son of Africa, A (Comtesse de Bremond) | 7 |
|   | Social Upheaval, A (L. G. Ascher) | 7 |
|   | Speight, T. W.—Mora; One Woman's History | 7 |
|   | Surr, Harry A—Bachelor Ballads | 21 |
|   | Stage, Year Book of (Greening and Hannaford) | 5 |
|   | Such is the Law (M. M. Sadleir) | 7 |
|   | Sword of Fate, The (H. Herman) | 9 |
| T | Temptation of Edith Watson (S. Hall) | 9 |
|   | That Fascinating Widow (S. J. A. Fitz-Gerald) | 27 |
|   | Thompson, Creswick J.—Zoroastro | 9 |
|   | Tragedy of the Lady Palmist, The (W. L. Longstaff) | 12 |
|   | Trip to Paradoxia, A (T. H. S. Escott) | 3 |
|   | Vathek (Edited by Justin Hannaford) | 6 |
|   | Vezet, Anthony F.—The Green Passion | 20 |
|   | Virtue of Necessity, A (H. Adams) | 7 |
| W | Wandering Romanoff, The (B. Kennedy) | 13 |
|   | Weeds and Flowers (W. L. Longstaff) | 6 |
|   | Weird Well, The (A. M'Millan) | 9 |
|   | Wheel of Life, The (C. Scott) | 2 |
|   | Williams, Ellen—Anna Marshan's Experiment | 15 |
|   | Woman and the Wits (G. F. Monkshhood) | 5 |
| Y | Year Book of the Stage (Greening and Hannaford) | 5 |
| Z | Zoroastro (C. J. S. Thompson) | 9 |

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