



A STORY which deals with a routine of life, strangely unlike the common every-day existence of civilization, is the novel, entitled "A Mexican Girl," by Frederick Thickstun (Boston: Ticknor & Co. 1888). The most *blasé* novel reader will find his attention riveted by the novelty and wildness of the scenes depicted. The word-painting and dialect are good throughout, and, as a rule, the characters are very strongly drawn; but there is a striking improbability in the supposition that any man could, like the New England schoolmaster, have reached the age of thirty, or thereabouts, and remained so ignorant of the ways of the world. The climax of the story is, moreover, somewhat unsatisfactory. The principal character is dismissed rather summarily. In spite of such disadvantages, the volume is full of strong situations, and the interest is well sustained, while the scene, laid in the Southwest, in a community composed of Americans, Anglo-Americans, and Mexicans, serves as a weird and picturesque background.

AN amusing and interesting account of a yachting expedition is to be found in "The Devil of a Trip; or, The Log of the Yacht Champlain," by J. Army Knox, the well-known editor of *Texas Siftings* (New York: National Literary Bureau). The volume forms a number of "The Unique Series," and is entitled to its position. It consists, in fact, of a photo-engraved reproduction of the letters from Colonel Knox, as they originally appeared in the columns of sundry well-known daily papers, with the addition of clever marginal sketches by Thomas Worth. The voyage was an inland one, and apart from the entertainment to be derived from the book, it may serve to furnish many hints to intending voyagers of desirable routes of travel.

MESSRS. A. G. SPALDING & BROS., have issued a little hand-book entitled "Baseball," by Harry Palmer, in view of their Australian tour. It contains short and interesting biographies of the players who compose the Australian teams, and careful directions and explanations as to the science of the game. Every lover of the national game should own a copy of this manual, if only for reference in settling knotty points in the intricacies of play.

WHEN MR. W. W. Greener adds another to his list of works on the subject of guns, the sportsman may feel sure of gaining valuable information by the perusal of the volume. "*Ne sutor ultra crepidam*," is a motto which should especially apply to writers of books on such subjects, and a volume of this description, unless from the pen of an expert, is worse than useless. In "Modern Shotguns" (Messrs. Cassell & Co.) the author, without reiterating what he has already published, has given sportsmen a valuable guide to the selection of the right weapon in the right place. The mass of useful and interesting facts and information incorporated will please every one in-

terested in such matters, while the cuts and diagrams are a markedly useful feature.

AN account of a winter sojourn in the kindly climate of a tropic land may, to readers enduring the rigors of a northern latitude, serve either of two purposes. It may inspire with envy and malice, or serve to transport one for a while far from the interminable snow and slush. Such as can read, without evoking the darker passions, a prettily told narrative of a winter spent in the pleasant warmth of a land blessed with

"A snow of blossoms, and a wild of Rowers,"

should promptly peruse "A Winter Picnic," by J. and C. E. Dickinson and S. E. Dowd (New York: H. Holt & Co. 1888). The ladies who have contributed to the book seem to have basked the winter through in the glorious sunshine, but also have not neglected to chronicle, in an amusing way, many a small inconvenience and drawback. The primitive civilization of Nassau, the queer traits of the negroes, and, in short, all the curious features of a country utterly unlike the great marts of commerce, are duly set forth in an entertaining fashion.

THE literature of amateur photography—that most fascinating pastime—grows apace. "The International Annual of Anthony's Photographic Bulletin, for 1888" (New York: Messrs. E. & H. T. Anthony; London: Messrs. H. Greenwood & Co.), is a charming contribution. It embodies a vast collection of papers on the various aspects of the art from the pens of the best authorities on the subject. Information on any and every point can be found in the pages, and no amateur photographer should omit to study it. Messrs. Anthony's manual for amateurs, "How to Make Photographs," contains a variety of practical instructions and formulæ which are of substantial service,

WE have received some charming children's story-books of an exceptionally interesting character. Messrs. Lee & Shepard, Boston, and Charles T. Dillingham, New York, are the publishers, and the excellent appearance of these seasonable little volumes reflects much credit on them. The mere fact that the text of "The King of the Golden River, or the Black Brothers," a legend of Stiria, is from the pen of John Ruskin, and the illustrations by Richard Doyle, speaks for itself. "The Last of the Huggermuggers, a Giant Story," and its sequel, "Kobboltozo," by Christopher Pearse Cranch, are thrilling tales for the delectation of the little ones. Other two books for juvenile readers, but for those out of the nursery, from the same publishers, are "A Start in Life," by J. T. Trowbridge, and "Little Miss Wheezy's Brother," by Penn Shirley. Both are admirably calculated to effect the purpose for which they were written, and will prove admirable gift-books for this holiday season.