

George Augustus Sala, ("Preface of Temple Bar")

81

TEMPLE BAR.

Prospectus.

We cannot plead as an excuse for ~~the~~ calling our new Monthly Miscellany *Temple Bar* that it will be either written or printed in the ~~time when~~ ^{time when} edifice which divides ~~the~~ ^{the} London from Westminster. The books of an ~~extreme~~ eminent bank-vizier ^{and} firm are, we believe, kept in Temple Bar; while according to some city legends it is there the unhorsed man-in-trap has his hermaphrodite and eschewing the vanities of Lord Mayor's shows ^{periodical} perpetually polishes his brazen panoply. Yet we have, as we think as clear a right to it ^{as} when our ~~magazine~~ after Sir Christopher Wren's architectural whim as *Sylvanus Urbanus* had to saw a woodcut of St. John's gate on the title-page of *The Gentleman's Magazine*. For while Temple Bar is ^{as} essentially metropolitan and ^{as} a link connecting the glories of the Strand and Fleet Street—our editor will abide in the first and our publishing office will be in the last named thoroughfare—Temple Bar belongs not only to London, but to England. Indeed men born within the sound of Bow-Bells have grown so habituated to the sight of the gay old structure ^{as} scarcely to regard it, whereas native countrymen come to town without gazing at Temple Bar with mingled curiosity and affection; and when that long-promised New Zealand, with the metropolis ^{it will not be, notwithstanding} ~~it~~ a ruined arch of London Bridge that he will fix his camp-stool, but rather in the room above Temple Bar—by permission of Myles' child—that he ^{will} sit up his easel, and whence he will be enabled to sketch Somerset House towards the west and the Temple Gates towards the east. This Magazine, then, shall be called *Temple Bar*.

Because the great tide of cosmopolitan humanity is forever flowing through its arches; because the country and the town, the strand and the continent, on foot, on horseback and in carriages, give each other undeground by Temple Bar; because we consider a woodcut of the *Bar* by way of frontispiece to be far more significant of our purpose in establishing a Magazine for Town and Country Readers than an engraving of the Royal arms, or of the Rose Thistle and shield, ^{or of} ~~or of~~ the Middle arch, ^{as} we might have fixed on the "field-Bell of St. Paul's" or on "Gog and Magog" or on "London Stone" as a title but we are content to fix upon Temple Bar, we could give five hundred reasons for our choice. The Bar is not only ~~only~~ associated with much that is famous in English history but with nearly all that is memorable in English literature; and from our pictured window in Temple Bar we shall see brave old Doctor Johnson strolling up Fleet Street with James Boswell, and haughty Bishop Warburton coming to visit old Goldsmith and the Spectator gliding towards the Temple Gardens with Sir Roger de Coverley and young Mr. de Volant, ^{in his just visit to England taking heed notes of the eccentric people who cut off the tails of horses and the heads of hawks,}

We shall remember that in Temple Bar we are close to the renowned haunts of Raleigh and Jonson and Marlowe and Shakspeare—of Wycheley of congaue and of Pope; that the immortal wits who were ~~haunted~~ used to haunt the "Mermaid"; the "Devil" and the "Apollo" Tavern all passed beneath Temple Bar; that it was at the "Cock" that Alfred Tennyson sheld the plump-fed waiter, tasseled old port, and felt that perpetual lack of fence ~~and~~ which vexed public men; that the "Rainbow" and the "Nile" yet flourish; that the old thoroughfare to Ludgate is yet the centre and headquarters of English thought and English art and turns with printing houses, booksellers' stores, newspaper offices, engravers' studios and bookbinders' workshops, and that to our immemorial right, looking eastward, ^{is} ~~the~~ grand old monastery of Long and Leving and Chicheley where the Knights of the Temple yet ride on one horse, where Mr. Arthur Pendennis ^{is} yet ~~dwelling~~ ^{at} the George Worthington ^{that} at chamber in Lamb and Flag Court and where we trust many a young gentleman of the time of court "will bring ~~the~~ supply learning and brilliance not too highly appreciated in the special pleader ~~types~~ and see what we can make of them at Temple Bar.

The price of our Magazine will be one shilling. We believe that the days of half-crown serials are desirably ^{(if not) definitely} fled. Ours we wish to place within the means of every section of the reading community; and our patrons ^{will} be in a position to admit that what we shall give them once a month for a shilling could not—quantity and quality considered—be sold.

George Augustus Sala ("Preface of Temple Bar continued.")

to them one a week for one penny. For a shilling we trust that many thousand friends yet unknown to us will long enjoy a miscellany of satisfactory books, well and clearly printed, on good paper, occasionally illustrated by the very best artists on whom our Editor can lay hands, and full of ~~solid, instructive, & interesting~~ ^{solid, instructive, & interesting} matter that shall be interesting to Englishmen and Englishwomen of every degree and that ~~will~~ ^{will} be familiar ~~read~~ ^{read} with as much gratification as ~~later~~ ^{former} families. We may dispense with the stereotyped assurance that ours will be a "family magazine"; and that in its pages no word will be found that shall "raise a blush on the cheek of ~~the most~~ ^{the} ~~most~~ ^{best} females": youth and innocence! Who that wishes to find favour in these days in the eyes of the reading public would be mad or vicious enough to use language or to discuss topics unsuited to the period of the young and innocent? When we are guilty of such a terrible blunder we hope that our readers, with all become commissioners of works and forthwith proceed to pull down Temple Bar.

A word as to the contents ~~so far as contemplated~~ ^{of our magazine}. Our Editor will contribute a series of sketches of scenes which he has undertaken in sundry remote regions not hitherto unknown in English county maps, ~~etc~~ which will be continuous from month to month, and, from time to time illustrated by his own pencil. This task will not preclude him from telling Stories, drawing little pictures, sketching little characters and writing little essays in the manner which has secured him for a considerable period the kindly ~~and~~ ^{and} encouragement of the public: we shall have a domestic romance of English life and manners — and of Love; for what a life without Love? by "an eminent hand" — in other words by the very best novelist that can be procured by perseverance and pounds shillings and pence. An experienced reviewer will take the most popular book of the season and give us a fair and brief criticism of its contents and its merits. A poet will sound his lyre — but with this proviso: that when we cannot find a really good poetical effort in our show we shall confine ourselves, for that month, to prose. Scientific writers will tell us of the wonders of the air, the earth or the sea; descriptive writers, essayists, travellers will have their say; a ripe scholar may take us back to the clasper ~~the~~ past, and tell us that "light literature" need not be without learning and without thought, and by way of an omlette soufflé after our ~~last~~ ^{last} dinner, succulent banquet we may have some pages of gossip about the newest play, the best opera and the prettiest picture of the day. As for politics there will not be any: only indeed ~~ought~~ ^{ought} there should be ~~right~~ ^{right} political in the dominant tone of our journal which from head long to imprint sole voice toнически thoroughly English feelings: respect for authority, attachment to the church and loyalty to the queen. The neither the editor nor our proprietor happens to be Lord-Mayor nor intends to shut the gates of Temple Bar.

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in the face of Royalty.

Such then, is our programme. It is not in the nature of things that we should please everybody; but we hope to be able to please so many that the discontented shall be in an inconsiderable minority. The Editor and conductor of Temple Bar will be

George Augustus Sala.

He has been before the public as a writer for some years and who for ~~so~~ many more has been working in the dark, or in worse, ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} which is not light but only darkness visible. Our Editor is fully aware of the responsibility which attaches to him in thus, laying his head at the summit of Temple Bar. In the older time the skulls of traitors were used to appear on that fatal eminence; but in the present instance it is in perfect good faith that our Editor ~~wishes~~ ^{wishes} to public view. He will be endeavour to gather round him a band of young men equally devoid of traitorous intent. He will give each and every one of his fellow labourers a fair chance and an honourable place, and he will rejoice when any one of them parks the ~~the~~ ^{the} judges chair — at Temple Bar — even if it leaves him to make a "bad shire" or to come in with the "rake".

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