Mr. William Morris is about to issue an edition of Mr. Swinburne’s “Atlanta” from the Kelmscott press. It will be a quarto volume in black and red, and will be a fine specimen of the art of printing.

Two Original Periodicals.

The Yellow Book, the second volume of which is just out, is thoroughly enjoyable. (London: Elkin Mathews & John Lane. Boston: Copeland & Day.) The ridicule heaped on this novelty in periodical literature seems to have been earned by its originality. The illustrations will first attract the attention, and then interest and perhaps fascinate the reader. Aubrey Beardsley’s portrait of Mme. Réjane in the present number is said to be a remarkable likeness, besides having the striking individuality of almost every drawing by this artist. There are several pictures which have evidently been spoiled in the process of reproduction. The best thing about the Yellow Book, apart from its brave spirit of contemporaneousness, is that the pictures are not intended to illustrate the text and the text is not a letter-press for the pictures. There is no reason why one art should be made the bond slave of another. Today in this country beauty of typography and the charm of style are sacrificed to the mania for illustrations. It is good to find a few men of taste who make a stand against the retreat of right principles in this matter. There is a wide variety in the literary contents of the Yellow Book; and there seems to be no disposition on the part of the editors to fall back on stereotyped forms of verse and fiction, the bane of periodical literature in England and America. Thought—creative thought—will evidently be prized above cold and soulless forms however polished.

A native publication which deserves recognition is the Chap Book, a fortnightly leaflet issued by Messrs. Stone and Kimball of Cambridge and Chicago. This is not one of those advertising sheets designed to advertise a particular publishing house and incidentally print a few perfunctory notices about new books in general.

In the numbers of the Chap Book thus far published by Messrs. Stone and Kimball there is shown an artistic spirit as opposed to the commercial spirit which has seemed to be oppressive. The new house, it is said, will shortly make its headquarters at Chicago and may be assured of a welcome from all lovers of artistic books.

Oscar Wilde’s Problem.

Mr. Oscar Wilde’s forthcoming book proclaims his belief that he has solved the mystery of Shakespeare’s sonnets, and presents his solution. It is entitled “The Incomparable and Ingenious History of Mr. W. H.; Being the True Secret of Shakespeare’s Sonnets, Now for the First Time Here Truly Set Forth.” Mr. Wilde’s book will be awaited with interest. But it is to be hoped that the

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