

THE WEEK
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Writer Reviewed.

Extracts and Criticism.

The January number of the "English Review" comprises a collection of characteristically clever and interesting matter. The editor of this review is bent on encouraging twentieth century poets, and even those who can claim to be little beyond poetasters. The poetical contribution in this issue is entitled "The City of God," which the author, Aleister Crowley identifies as Moscow. The poem is exuberant with pompous phrasing "As if the bloodhound of eternity tracked the thief of Time." That is a sample of the style. And another:

Towered above the abyss, the red wall ran,
Mightily forth, its crenellated crest
A square tooth saw.

Clearly Aleister Crowley has read Milton, but not to him has been handed down the power of description which the blind genius

Facilis Decensus Averno
Sed redder hoc opus
Ille labor est.

wielded with the majestic ease of a magician waving a wand.