WHAT TO DO WITH OLD MAGAZINES.

What becomes of all the magazines
that frequently obtrudes itself, when one looks into the windows of the retail booksellers, or passes those great cradles of struggling literature, over which the agents of Messrs. Smith, Wills, or Willing preside as monthly nurses; and indeed it is one that has its serious, if not almost monumental, aspect to any mind so old-fashioned as to retain some veneration for print. Books—real books, that is to say—exist on those who have lived much among them, an influence the reverse of that of the proverbial familiarity; and as the enemy of Messrs. Smith, Wills, or Willing never is to learn to recognise some indications of good-
ness and helpfulness, where the careless see only degradation, or perhaps repulsiveness; so of books has an instinctive feeling towards every bundle of printed paper fastened up in a cover, that at least it may contain something for which it should be honoured, a case separate the grats existence prolonged. Of course we must not try to drive the parallel too far; for while almost everyone, whether young, or even in deprava-
tion, some trace of the image of God, only too much that is printed nowadays is made in the irreclaimable image and likeness of the press.

Most of our magazines that take the lead in popularity and "up-to-dateness" are free from matter of this latter sort, but the demand of editors for "copy" has grown so urgent, and the supply of what is really good is necessarily so limited, that there is too often a most pitiable superabundance of rubbish—not defective stories, payings in, the privacy of public persons, with interesting illus-
totions of Mr. Anthony Kingard's dinner-table and Mrs. Marie Eleanor's new hair-clothes, and mehlike. This is it that hurries our chroniclers into a premature decrepitude. An "old" magazine, now, may mean anything with a date previous to that of the covering issue. Its numbers are rarely kept beyond the arrival of their successors; and, when so kept, are perhaps stacked away in piles of dust and shavings, or bound into rows, that furnish a filling for vacant shelves, but are never taken down and read by anyone.

If one were to stack up, or to bind all the magazines of the Nineteenth Century, the accumulation would soon become unwieldy; but when there is much worth keeping, it is well to know the best way to dispose of its first leaf, even before one reader of a magazine there, you will soon have enough material for a respectable volume. Well, let us be practical.

When you read your magazine through, mark with a pencil, or make a memorandum, of every article you think worth preserving; and then, as soon as the number becomes "old," take it to the paper-chaff. This is easy enough to do, if the sheets have been properly sewn together; but, unfortunately, they have been sewn together with the abomination of metal "stitching"—that last insult to the self-respect of anything calling itself a book. In such case, after you have taken off the wrapper, and laid the metal bare, you must straighten the ends of the wires, where they are turned in, with a pair of pliers; and then, after passing the blade of a scalpel or knife, both blades of a pair of scissors, under the middle of the stitches, to raise them, take the pliers again, and pull them out, and so end; and ending, in like manner, at the bottom of the first or second page of its last leaf. Then take a leaf at the top of the first page of the first leaf, and end at the bottom of the second page of the last leaf, and need no special treatment. But often they are not so well-sewn; and if you were to take your excerpts, and have them bound together just as they came, your volume would be sadly disfigured by fragments of beginnings and ends. It is to avoid this with each such articles is to take one that ends at the bottom of the first page of its last leaf, and paste that leaf back-to-back with one on whose reverse begins, and then put it aside, as it else take a picture, and with it cover, in the same way, the page that is not wanted.

This pasting together of your excerpts must be done very neatly. I will tell you how I manage with mine. First I cut a rectangular gauge, from a piece of strong cardboard, making it the size of an average magazine page. (See Fig. 1.) The Nineteenth Century, and almost all the American monthlies, in dey 8vo; those sizes cannot well be bound together in one and all of the gauges, and it is these sizes. Then I take my article and fit the gauge to its upper and inner edges, drawing a pen-line along the other sides of the cardboard, as at A to B, B to C, and C to Fig. 1. These lines are to serve as guides in cutting the various sheets to a nearly uniform size, and facilitate the operation of binding the pages together by the use of a brass-edged "stationer's ruler," and a sharp knife, the paper being laid on a sheet of "linen"—really warmed iron, such as "tinware" is made of. Soft as paper is, it has a wonderful power of turning and dicing it; the edge, therefore, it is well to have a slip of Kansas, or other good

leaf of one of your excerpts, and that the article begins with the paragraph C, on the first page of that leaf, you may cover the matter, A, that you do not want, with a picture; or else you may search through your other excerpts, until you find a leaf such as Y, on which B is the ending of an article you do want to keep, falling on its first leaf, D being impertinently cut out, and then cut out B neatly, as at a, b, c, d, to cover A with. Many other cases of the fitting together of beginnings and endings will be sure to occur, whereby a little ingenuity, thought, and patience will be needed to secure a finished appearance for your work. Articles in double columns, such as those in Chamber's Journal, often give one a good deal of trouble to arrange neatly. But the desired result may always be achieved by the careful fittting together of those that supply each others deficiencies of shape, as well as by the judicious introduction of small pictures, cuttings from newspapers, and even (if nothing else can be found) slips of blank paper.

Having arranged articles enough, to make a volume, choose a good picture for your frontispiece, and place a title-page, written or illuminated on good paper, facing it. This will give ample opportunity for the exercise of your artistic powers. Try to invent a good motto to illustrate the article. Other "decoration" articles, such as "Patchwork," others "Unconsidered Trifles," others "Literary Salad." And finally, number every article in its proper order; and prepare a table of contents, in which you should give the title and author of each, with the name and date of the magazine or review from which it has been taken. Your book will then be ready for the binder. Tell him not to cut the front or lower edges, as the cropping (if any) you have already given them will be sufficient.

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