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Books and Authors

A Conservation Novel.
Octave Thanet's New
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Without Money -- Hallie
Erminie Rives' Early Work



HAMLIN GARLAND.

EVERY great movement has its novel, and two clever authors, Miss Octave Thanet and Hamlin Garland, have devoted their latest work in fiction to two problems that are now very much in the public eye. "Cavanagh, Forest Ranger," Hamlin Garland's new story, bids fair to take rank as the great conservation novel. As the title indicates, Cavanagh, the hero of the story, is one of Gifford Pinchot's forest rangers, and the main theme of the tale is the great battle that has raged and is still being waged between those who would make free use of the government's forests, grazing lands, water power sites and mineral rights and those who would have Uncle Sam keep them for his own use and those of coming generations. The story is strictly up to date, for it carries the conservation fight past the date when President Taft dispensed with the services of Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot.

Miss Octave Thanet, who in real life is Miss Alice French, has taken the negro problem as her theme in "By Inheritance." Like Harriet Beecher Stowe, Octave Thanet has accomplished her task not by preaching and precept, but through an absorbing story in which unforgettable characters live and move. Lily Pearl, the heroine and a "woman of color," is easily the strongest and the most original of this author's creations. Her skill, her beauty, her love for Sydney Danton, the negro graduate of Harvard, her heroism, endear her to the reader as no negro character has been endeared since Uncle Tom himself. A delightful Boston spinster, a punctilious southern gentleman of the old regime and a pair of interesting young lovers are the chief white characters. Picturesquely set on an Arkansas plantation, the story moves to its climax amid scenes and incidents of rarely graceful and engaging charm.

In Harry A. Franck's book "A Vagabond Journey Around the World" is set forth just how he started from Detroit with a cash capital of \$104 and made the circuit of the globe. This money was practically all spent for a kodak and photographic supplies, so that in reality he worked or beat his way around the world.

Franck made his trip not merely to prove that it could be done, but because he wanted to perfect his knowledge of foreign languages (he is now a professor of modern languages) and because he wanted to make at first hand a sociological study of the poor in the various countries of the world. Josiah Flynt and Wyckoff had experimented along the same lines, and what they had accomplished spurred Franck on to his undertaking.

He was twenty-two years old when the trip began, twenty-four when it ended. And now that he has achieved what he set out to do—prove that "a man can girdle the globe without money, weapons or baggage"—he has written an account of his adventurous trip.

Hallie Erminie Rives is the maiden name and pen name of Mrs. Post Wheeler, whose husband is a diplomat and a writer who has just been advanced from secretary of the American embassy at Tokyo to the same office at St. Petersburg. Mrs. Wheeler's latest novel, "The Kingdom of Sander Swords," is the fruit of her residence in Japan. In speaking of her early work recently she said:

"When I carried my first book to New York to find a publisher I was as ignorant of the practical side of literature as a south sea islander. That first venture, dubbed 'Smoking Flax,' was a defense of lynching of a certain kind as enacted in the southern states. It was severely criticised in the north, but defended with equal ardor by my southern editorial friends. In preparing for my more pretentious work, 'Hearts Courageous,' I read voraciously for four years before I felt that I had sufficient historical information."



HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES.

Plays and Players

The Boy Who Is Not a Boy.
Ways of the Author-Managers -- A Famous Irish Tenor's Start -- America's Youngest Leading Actress



"MARK" SHORT.

IN "A Man's World," one of the season's theatrical successes, not the least conspicuous success achieved by the players supporting Mary Manning in this play is that scored by "Mark" Short, who appears as Kiddle, the little nameless boy about whom much of the sentiment and action of the drama are centered. Never was there a more thoroughly boyish "boy" on the stage, and yet "Mark" isn't a boy at all, but a little eight-year-old girl, and her real name is Gertrude.

The story of how Gertrude Short came to be signed for the part of Kiddle is unique. The first time she went to the Shubert office to apply for the position she wore girl's clothes and was informed that she would not do, as the part must be played by a real boy. The very next day she went back again, with her hair cut short and wearing one of her brother's suits. It was not until after she had read the lines of Kiddle and had been accepted for the role that she admitted the deception. It is almost needless to say that the stage director felt that if she could fool him at such close range she could surely be trusted to create the illusion across the footlights.

Recently Annie Russell at a meeting in New York gave some of her experiences with George Bernard Shaw and told what she thought of him.

"I had had experiences with author-managers before," said Miss Russell. "I remember one instance when I was afraid that there would not be room enough on the stage for a horse and carriage that was to be introduced. Well, there seems to be room enough on the stage for a lot of jackasses," replied the author-manager. With this and other experiences I feared that Mr. Shaw would annihilate us with his tongue, but instead I found a courteous gentleman with a kindly, humorous eye. Never once did he fall us in kindness."

Miss Russell told of a certain actor in the cast whom they nicknamed the "Giant's Baby" and whose methods of work were sometimes disturbing. To reassure Miss Russell, Mr. Shaw said to her of him:

"Jones is a very different man when he has the public in front of him to keep his liver active."

John McCormack, the young Irish tenor who is gaining much fame in New York this season, told recently as follows how he began his operatic career:

"One day I was singing some Irish songs for some of my friends in Dublin when one of them asked me why I didn't compete in the Dublin music festival, in which medals were given to those considered the most proficient in various branches of musical art. 'I replied that I didn't have the money to pay my entrance fee, and my friend said he would attend to that if I would sing, and so I did—an air of Handel's with a run of twenty bars in it, which I sang without taking my breath, something which I could not possibly do now. I have tried it since in vain. But I staggered the judges and won the medal.'"

Probably the youngest leading actress in America is "Baby" Davis, who takes the part of Martha Calvert Beach in "The Bachelor's Baby," the new play in which Francis Wilson is starring. The manager of the company reports that "Baby" Davis takes a keen interest in the posters which picture her and Mr. Wilson posed together, especially that one which shows them in the attitudes of Raphael's cherubs. Little Miss Davis is only just old enough to be permitted to appear on the stage, but she is no mere puppet coached to speak her lines and perform her stage business by rote. She is a real actress of ability quite sufficient to warrant her title of leading lady. She is able to make stage baby talk and baby ways real and winning without being mawkish, and she invests the character of Baby Martha with the charm and sweetness necessary to make the lesson of the play convincing.



"BABY" DAVIS.

Writes of William Penn Watson
Editor News—William Penn Watson, who died recently at Long Beach, Cal., deserves more than a passing notice from Hood River citizens. Mr. Watson was intimately connected with the early development of Hood River, socially as well as agriculturally, and was called one of the foremost pomologists of the state. He was born in Morgan County, Ill., Dec. 28th 1828 and crossed the plains in 1849 to Oregon. City and later to Portland, soon afterward moving to Beaverton.

In February 1871 he purchased the Jenkins donation claim of the late M. C. Nye and moved his family up from Portland. He took a prominent part in the organization of the M. E. church and Sunday school. The meetings were held in the old school house near the Lyman Smith home. He was twice elected president of the state fair association, serving with credit to himself and profit to the fair.

About 1880 he sold his farm to W. L. Adams and moved to The Dalles and later to Portland. His later years were spent at Long Beach, in southern California, where he acquired considerable property and built himself a comfortable home. While Mr. Watson planted no large orchard, he improved the fruit he had on the farm, making a specialty of the peach and prune and was the first real booster of the superior quality of our fruits, carrying the war into the very heart of the fruit belt of California, showing specimens of our apples, peaches and prunes that completely dumfounded those southern fruit growers.

Mr. Watson was a generous, kind hearted christian man and a good neighbor, not without faults, but less of them perhaps than the majority of us, and a man of more than ordinary ability. He is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters.
H. C. COE.

River Road Improved

The river road to Winans and Dee has been put in better condition this spring than in several years. A bridge has been built across Bunch Grass canyon making it possible for automobiles to reach the Punch Bowl. The work is in charge of supervisor S. W. Tomlinson.

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