THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE: DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

LITERARY TALKS AND REMINISCENCES

East a century has elapsed since Edgar Allan Poe passed out from the "fever called living" and "drank of the river that quenches all thirst." Over his dead body friend and foe have fought fleroely and unceasingly, but even today the story of his life remains to be told. Accuracy and sympathy, the two indispensable prerequisites of the biographer, have never yet been united in a biography of this most unfortunate of American poets. Shortly after the deliberate malignity of a clerical hack sought to evenge an old quarrel by a base betrayal of the trust committed to him traval of the trust committed to him and this treachery proved only too suc-centul, for "Griswold's Memoia," for most part false as to fact and always rancorous as to spirit, has served as the basis for the common conception of Pos. It was in vain that the dead poet's friends protested at the against the savage caricature. The world is always ready to believe the worst of a man of genius and there was un-fortunately much in Poe's life to lend credibility to the assertions of his ma-linger. Since then other writers, foreigners for the most part-to our shame be it said-have attempted to present the character of Poe in a more favorable light and today there is no country but our own where his fate is not pitled and his achievement in prose and verse ac-knowledged. But with us the latest biographies, even when correcting earlier misstatements, have been characterized by such a spirit of foolish patronage or pharisaical readiness to fling the stone as to prove that the poet, like the prophet of old, is still without honor in his

A brief sketch of Poe's life, based upon material much of which has been made public only within the last few years, may serve to correct some wideerrors as to fact and furnish a basis for a more sympathetic appreciation of his character.

Edgar Poe was born in Boston January 29, 1609, the second son of David Poe, a



Baltimore gentieman who had abendoned the bar for the stage and married a roung English actress. David Poe died, apparently in 1810, and his wife passed away a year later in utter distitution,

leaving three young children.

Edgar, then nearly three years of age,
was adopted by a Mr. Allan, a wealthy chant of Richmond, whose young and childless wife seems to have been an ad-mirer of the unfortunate actress. The boy was given the name of his adopted parents, treated as an only child and apparently spoiled in the good old Southern fashion. When six years old be was taken to England by the Allans and spent five years in a London school, a vivid picture of which he has preserved for us in "William Wilson." On his return he continued his studies at Richmond and in 1826 entered the University of Virginia. Here he spent ! The general testimony of his school-mates is that he was a lonely and moody lad, plunging at times into the dissipations of the college boys, but by no means neglecting his studies—he took the highest honors in French and Latin and devoting much time to literature. At the end of the term Mr. Allan visited Charlottesville and paid the large bills which the boy had run up, but refused to acknowledge his "debts of honor" and angely withdrew him from the University. Griswold's statement that Poe was expelled is an absolute falsehood; he was never even censured by the faculty, and though drinking and gambling are not exactly commendable habits in a boy of 16 they were at least the vices of a

Southern gentleman.
Mr. Allan placed Poe in his counting house, but he did not stay there long. In the Spring of the following year, IEEE, we find him in Boston arranging for the publication of a volume of verse. the product of his school and college days. This was "Tamerlane and Other Poems by a Bostonian," now one of the rarest of American books. Even before it appeared Poe, probably at his wits' end for money, enlisted in the United States Army as a private under the name of Edgar A. Perry. He served for two years, was promoted for merit, and at years, was promoted for merit, and at his discharge received high testimonials from his commanding officers. seems to have been ashamed of this episode, and in the account he was acustomed to give of his life filled up these years with a fictitious expedition to aid the cause of Greek freedom. Shortly before his discharge Mrs. Allan died, and her widower's one thought seems now to have been to rid himself as decently as possible of the lad whom he had adopted and reared as his only child and helr. In a letter to the Secretary of War asking for a cadet's post at West Point for Poe, he expressly disclaims all relationship and ranks the boy among the numerous objects of his



The Poe Monument, Baltimore

published a second volume of poetry, "Al Asrauf, Tameriane and Miner Poems," this time under his own name. In July, 1800, he entered West Point, and in October of the same year Mr. Allan married a second time. Poe probably looked upon this step as practically disinheriting him, and, feeling that he was eft to make his own way in the world, he determined to leave the military acadmy and devote himself to literature. Mr. Allan refused to sanction his resig-nation from West Point, and he was in uence compelled to procure his discharge by means of a court-martial. He neglected all military duties, and was in quence dismissed in the Spring of Griswold knew that it was written before had them,

1831, leaving the post, it is said, with only 12 cents in his pocket.

Poe's stay at West Point was by no means the round of dissipation that it has been represented. Some work he must have done, for he stood third in French and 17th in mathematics out of a class of 85. His needed of parade and roll of 87. His neglect of parade and rol call—the charge on which he was dis-missed—was the result of his determina-



The Poe Memorial in the Metropoli-

tion to escape from the Army in the only way that was open to him. Even at this time it is hard to imagine Poe, with his wild fancies, quick, artistic instincts and thirst for poetic fame, bound down in the shackles of military routine. His mis-take, one would think, was not in leaving, but in ever entering West Point.

The next two years of Poe's life are almost a blank. Supported by the subscription of his cadet friends, he brought

out a third volume of verse, in which for the first time we catch the note of that haunting lyric that was so peculiarly his own. "To Helen," "The City in the Sea" and "Israfel," which appeared for the first time in this volume, were and are unique contributions to American litare unique contributions to American iterature. Poe seems to have spent the greater part of these years in abject poverty in Baltimore. He received, it appears, a scanty annuity from Mr. Allan, but when he emerges from this period of obscurity he is on the point of starvation and unable to accept an invitation to tion and unable to accept an invitation to dinner for lack of a decent coat. But his poverty is not to be attributed, as is so frequently done, to intemperance. Wilmer, who knew him intimately at the close of this period, saw no sign of bad habits in Poe except that on one occasion the aunt with whom he lived upbraided him, but as though it were a rare occurrence, for having taken too much at a tavern dinner. Cast off by Mr. Allan, who was rapidly begetting a family of his own, and without aid or sympathy from his father's relatives. Poe set himself steadily to perfect a new form of art which might perhaps bring him in the pittance needed for his dally bread. This was the short story, and it was by this that he first came into prom-

In the Autumn of 1833 the Baltimore Saturday Visitor offered a prize of \$100 for the best prose story and another of \$50 for the best short poem. Poe seized the opportunity, and presented one of his beautifully written manuscripts contain ing six stories and a poem. Griswold has given currency to the silly tale that a careless committee awarded the prize to "the first of geniuses who had written legibly." One had but to compare the simple, lucid style, the amazing realism



Mrs. Elisabeth Arnold Hopkins Por Poe's Mother.

and the wild imagination of "The MS. sipidity of the average magazine story to concur in the unanimous decision of the committee. His poem also would have received the prize had it not for some reason been thought injudicious to give both awards to one competitor.

Poe's life as a man of letters really be-

gins with the winning of this prize. All lan's estate was cut short on the death of that gentieman, who, shortly before his decease, had driven Poe from his house with threats of personal violence. The young writer was taken up, however, by John Kennedy, one of the judges who had awarded him the prize and himself a man of letters. Through his good offices Poe obtained some employment on the Satur day Visitor, and later a position on the editorial staff of the Southern Literary Messenger, a monthly magazine just started at Richmond. Here Poe remained for something over a year, filling his pos-with such success that he raised the circulation of the magazine from 700 to over 5000 subscribers. He contributed both prose and poetry, and attracted partic ular attention by the brilliancy, independence and severity of his literary criti-cism. Such a dissection of a popular novel as Poe inflicted on Fay's "Nor-man Leslie," the best "puffed" book of the day, had never been seen in Ameri-

ca before During his stay in Richmond Poe married secretly, though with her mother's consent, his little consin. Virginia Clemm, child of 13. It was some months she and her mother came to live with him at Richmond, and during this time he seems to have given way repeatedly to the craving for drink-a family failing, if we may judge from a letter of his cousin, William Poe. Years afterward Poe, while denying the habit of intoxication, said

of this period: 'I certainly did give way at long intervals to the temptation held out on all sides by the spirit of Southern conviviality. My sensitive temperament could not stand an excitement which was an every-day matter to my companions. In short, it sometimes happened that I was complete ly intoxicated. For some days after each excess I was invariably confined to bed." But Griswold's statement that Poe was dismissed for drunkenness is quite untrue. A letter from the proprietor of the Messenger remonstrating with Poe for his lack of self-control was written, and

Poe assumed his editorial functions. The probable truth is that Poe was at once desirous to enter the broader fields of journalism in New York, and to quit a city where his numerous acquaintances and the "spirit of Southern conviviality" so multiplied temptation. At any rate, he quitted Richmond in the Spring of

Note.—This study, by Dr. T. M. Parrott, of Princeton University, will be con-cluded on Saturday next.

AT THE HOTELS.

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C L Schroeder. Chgo
Geo W Gray, Chicago
W E Fitch, Louisville
Wm Wolff, San Fran
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Mo Gones, Fayette,
Mo Gones, Fayette,
Mo Gones, Fayette,
Mo Spofford, Kan Cry
Mrs T M Spofford, do
J Eppinger, San Fran
W E Avery, Redditch,
Eng
G H Gorman, Washington, D C
W N Sayre, city
B Hyman
Dr P I Kinne
J B Kinne & wf, Paterson, N J
J R Day & wf, Syracus, N Y
Miss E Day, do
R C Pell, San Fran
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Chas S Miller, Pairmount, Neb
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Mister Miller, do
Mister Miller, do
Mister Waller, do
Mister Waller, do
J S Waggener, do
Miss L Cartwright, Aurora, Ill
Miss L Warren, do
Miss L Cartwright, do

D P Hail, Hood River
C A Ebright, Topeka
Mrs Mary A Warren,
Beattle
Miss Warren, Scattle
Miss L Warren, do
Richard D Jones, S F
F A Schaefer, Omaha
Mary McCadney, do
Anna Nickel, Nowton,
Kan
I Sarton, San Rafael
J A Padden, Vancer
J W Wentworth, do
Henry Van Atta, do
V V Rand, do
Henry Van Atta, do
V V Rand, do
Henry Van Atta, do
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Henry Van Atta, do
V Rand, Gorge Rep Leopold Hirsch, San Fr
R P Caufield, San Fr
L C Kinney, Astoria
WA T Bushong, city
R W Gilbert & ch, do
M T Hensel, San Fr
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G More, May, Astoria
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G More, San Fr
L C Kinney, Astoria
W A T Bushong, city
R W Gilbert & ch, do
M T Hensel, Gorge
G More, Stall
G Beartice Jordan, San
J E Talmage, Sait Lk
I S Geer, Burns, Or
I edo, Or
I edo,

M S Parker, Welser
Mrs Parker, Welser
Mrs Parker, Welser
Geo Weber, Lancaster
C E Trimbach, DuBois
A P Nye, city
THE ST. CHARLES. C E Trimbach, DuBois A P Nye, city

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European plan. Rates, 50c and up. Washington Industries. The Cedar Canyon Mining & Milling Company has obtained a temporary in-junction against the owners of the Legal Tender, to prevent them from working on the disputed ore body till its ownership

is decided General Manager Dickinson, of the Seattle Electric Company, says that now that the validity of the blanket franchise of the consolidated street railway system has been established by the late decision of the Supreme Court the company can proceed unhampered with all the proposed He further says that the com plans. plete transfer system and 4-cent fares will go into effect Saturday. J. A. Wright, of Chehalis, has secured

contract to furnish Portland parties 5000 telegraph poles. The poles are to be gotten out at once and delivered at various points along the line of the Northern Pacific. The Metcalf & Wads mills at Kelso and Castle Rock received last month 4000 cords

of shingle bolts from the Tilden River. The next drive will consist of \$000 cords and will come from the Big Bottom coun-Prescott, Veness & Co., of Winlock, are so crowded with orders that they have been compelled to run their mills 12 hours a day and the planers 16 hours. They have every available man they can

find at work and could use more if they

OVER \$1500 RECEIVED FOR MONU-MENT SOUVENIRS.

There Are Yet 5000 on Hand, and These Must Be Disposed

Over \$1500 is now in the hands of the committee of volunteers, who have been managing the sale of souvenir buttons for the monument fund. This sum will be turned over to the treasurer of the Monument Association today. At a meet-ing of the committee held last evening an accounting was made. As there are numerous buttons still out and not either reported unsold or returns made for them, it is now impossible to say how much the aggregate given above will be raised. The committee hope the total will be \$2000 when final reports are made. General Summers, Lieutenant-Comman-

der R. E. Davis and Chris A. Bell, the members of the committee in the city. were present at the meeting. Captain Harry L. Wells, was one of the original members, but has located in San Jose, Cal., since work began. The following statement was submitted and approved: Buttons manufactured-

It will be seen that there are several on hand yet. Over 17,000 were manufactured, while cash has been received for 9467. Of the difference it is known that a large number have been sold but are yet unaccounted for. Some of those taking buttons live at a distance and are now on vacation or absent from their usual ad-dress because of other reasons. A few are still endeavoring to sell the buttons. Occasionally an order is received for a few, but the demand seems largely to have stopped. It is estimated that there are now on hands about 5000 unsold. These have been paid for, or will be. What should be done with them was a question discussed at the meeting last evening. Until other matters now engrossing public attention has passed, it was thought in-expedient to press the souvenir buttons on the public. The members of the Red Cross Society, who are going to give a lunch for the benefit of the fund and to raise a sum to be used for aiding dis-tressed ex-soldiers, will probably dispose of a few of the buttons during the car-nival. General Summers desired to have a corps of girls make a special business of this work. This proved impracticable, as it was difficult to secure the room wanted. The committee concluded the public was losing interest, anyway, as the demand has dropped to comparatively nothing. The only sales being made are in the country, where the buttons have not circulated much yet. There it is probable that a considerable portion of those on hand and unsold will be disposed of later.

When the manufacture of the buttons

commenced it was not thought nearly so many would be taken by the public as were actually taken later. The amount of bronze at first provided was used up and a requisition had to be made on the cannon again. So vigorously did people seek this method of aiding the monument fund that the facilities for manufacture were overtaxed for three weeks. Then it was that the committee ordered a large number, hoping to get shead of the de-mand. The result is that a portion are left over. These will not be a loss by any means, as some are being purchased all the time, and within a year or two they will be very valuable. Should not the current demand take all, the buttons will be placed in safe-keeping and brought out again, when their price will be greatly enhanced. Perhaps their price will then

be double what they now bring.

The committee was anxious to express that it has patronized such a noble cause, and especially to those who have been so kind as to aid in selling them. The names of these are legion. Many businames of these are legion. ness firms placed them on sale in their offices and stores and displayed them in the windows. Time was spent in getting them before the public. Such efforts call forth highest praise from the com-

mittee. The members of the committee have done hard work. General Summers has sold more buttons, individually, and through the influence he exercised, than any three or four persons in the state. He took them out in numbers and dis-tributed them on the streets. Lieuten-ant-Commander Davis, who has acted as secretary of the committee and custodian of the buttons and funds received, has worked incessantly. Besides the correspondence, he has spent days going from place to place, distributing and collecting. To one who has not undertaken such work, its scope is incomprehensible. Captain Wells and Mr. Bell also did difficult and tedlus work. All were ani-mated by a desire to see the state's soldead suitably honored.

If there are any other persons desiring to sell buttons, they will be furnished by Lieutenant-Commander Davis upon application. Those who have not et accounted are urged to do so, that final reports may be made soon.

#### CABIN BOY'S LONG JOURNEY.

Escaped From Hoboken Fire and Now Going to New Mexico.

Dunlap MacAdams, a 16-year-old cabin boy of the Main, a North German Lloyd steamer destroyed in the Hoboken fire. arrived last evening in the care of Sheriff Blakesley, of Pendleton. When the fire broke out on the ship young MacAdams jumped overboard and was saved by a tug, the Standard, but his father, the chief engineer of the steamer, was lost. The wages due his father were sent home to his mother, who lives in Eddy, N. M.. and the boy was turned adrift in New York with the \$5 due him. When he jumped over the side of the vessel into the water his head struck a log, and he has since suffered from eplieptic fits He was picked up on the streets at 11 o'clock last evening in a helpless condi-tion by Patrolman Church, having wan-dered from Sheriff Blakeley's care dur-

ing the evening.
Young MacAdams is a typical New York cabin boy, and talks with a quaint Scotch accent. From New York he was assisted to Buffalo, thence to Detroit, thence to Chicago and St. Paul, and by easy stages west to Spokane, Walla Walla and Pendleton. Either the Mayor, the County Judge or Chief of Police has managed to assist him in reaching his destination, New Mexico. The lad has traveled all over the world in his three years' career as a cabin boy, and is now anxious to get to the little ranch on which his mother and family live. The members of the police department have been struck with his quaint manner, and

been struck with his quaint manner, and will do their best to send him to San Francisco or Los Angeles.

"Will I be glad to get home? Well, you may rest sure as to that. When I do get home," said he, "I'll make a regular Presidency job of it—four years on the ranch—for me. And they do say the research in the sand they do say there's good money in ranching, too."

Drunken Man Falls to His Death. TACOMA, Aug. 31.-Albert Burke, a miner, of Newcastle, Wash., while intoxicated, feil out of the second-story window of a hotel this morning and was in-

# Life Saved Dr.Williams **PinkPills** for Pale People

way, of Sixteenth Street, Holland, Mich., says : 0 "I am twenty-one years old. At sixteen I was pale and weak. By the time I was nineteen years old I was so weak I could not walk across the floor. I was terribly emaciated and my skin had lost all color. The doctor pronounced the disease Anæmia. Being advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, I bought a box, and before I had taken all of the pills found that they were doing me good. Appetite increased and the healthy color began to show in my cheeks and lips. I continued to use the pills until I found myself permanently cured. Since then I have had no return of my old trouble. I know that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People saved my life, and I believe that no other medicine could have done it." -From Ottawa Times, Holland, Mich.

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### ONLY BID WAS TOO HIGH No More Dread

ONE FIRM PRESENTED TENDER FOR KELLY STREET.

But It Was \$10,000 More Than the Engineer's Estimate-Other Street Matters.

At the meeting of the Board of Public Works yesterday the most important thing done was the opening of bids for the improvement of Kelly street from Grover street south, and for the construction of an extension of the Holla-

day-avenue sewer.
For the improvement of Kelly street only one bid was received. Smyth & Howard bid \$24,060 35. Engineer Chase estimated this improvement should \$14,440, and as the bid of Smyth & Howard was excessive, the bid was laid on the table until the regular meeting, September 4. The board considered that such an assessment would confiscate the

property, and it is probable the bid will be rejected. For the construction of an extension of the Holladay-avenue sewer Smyth & Howard bid \$21,575 08, Jacobsen & Bade Co. \$19,954 63, and Slemmons & Sweener \$19,060 76. The latter being considered reasonable and near the estimate of City

engineer Chase, the contract was awarded to Slemmons & Sweeney.

Bids were also received for a small sewer in Water street. James Frainey bid \$133 90, J. B. Slemmons \$130 60 and Jacobsen & Bade Co. \$141 32. These bids were also laid on the table until the next

meeting.
The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Elks was The committee was anxious to express granted the use of the oldest and most its cordial appreciation to the public dilapidated horse in possession of the city for some use during th Some of the members suggested that they had such horses which they would be glad to loan for the occasion, providing the ladies would promise never to bring

them back. Complaint was made of the manner in which the street-car compan-structs Madison street, between and First street by having freight cars remain on its track for hours at a time. The matter was referred to the committee on street railways.

A request was made to have the fountain recently removed from the intersection of East Burnside street and Union avenue replaced, and the matter was referred to the committee on parks for investigation. This fountain was re-moved at the solicitation of many interested people who considered its location undesirable, and its condition such as to make it in a measure a nulsance. A communication from the Port of Portland Commission, explaining the cause of sand deposit near the mouth of the Johnson Creek sewer, were pre-sented and placed on file.

LA CROSSE, Wis., Aug. 31.-A scheme will materialize in a few days to comoine all but the largest of the local breweries into one big company, with \$1,200,000 capital, and erect a new modern brewery, closing all others owned by the companies involved. The combine will incompanies involved. The combine wit in-clude the G. Hellman Brewing Company, the C. & J. Michael Brewing Company, the F. Barti Brewing Company, and Zeister & Son. The John Gund Brewing Company, which recently built a line

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