"Imagination is not thought. Neither is fancy reflection. Thought paceth like a hoary sage, but imagination hath wings as an eagle."—*Tupper.*

ILLUSTRATION FROM ROY NORTON'S NEW NOVEL "THE VANISHING FLEETS"

The Vanishing Fleets. By Roy Norton. Illustrated. $1.50. D. Appleton & Co., New York City.

What would you think of a flying machine, defying the laws of gravitation, able to seize a mighty, 20,000-ton battleship in its grip, and bear it up towards the sky, as if it were a balloon? This is the supposition Mr. Norton calls into being in this, his new novel, which is the most sensational and exciting of all the season's romances. The plot is fashioned with a daring and a sweep that bears everything before it, and while one scientific surprise after another is unfolded, its American patriotism is rampant. When the story recently appeared in serial form, syndicated as it was to different newspapers, the instalments were received with breathless interest.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Norton was recently a newspaper man in this city and Seattle, and that his wife is Mrs. Anna Selkirk Norton, the well-known contralto singer.

In composition and general literary treatment, the novel bears the stamp of a master and will hold its own as a brilliant tale showing how, in fair fight, the United States whipped Japan. And all because Dr. William Roberts, American, was skillful enough to invent a flying machine which revolutionized the world's history—because it made war impossible and reduced battleships to helpless toys. The idea is so boldly expressed as to have a touch of Verne in it.

The period of the story is undoubtedly the present, and Japan is pictured as insolently provoking this country to fight, so that the mastery of the Pacific Ocean may be determined once and for all. America is in her usual unprepared state, with a small standing army, but conscious of the bravery of her hastily raised citizen volunteers. Japan strikes quickly by attacking the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands, but to everyone's astonishment, except those "in the game," these islands are surrendered by the Americans without the firing of a shot. The world stands aghast at what is supposed to be the cowardice displayed by the great Republic.

Meantime, important world history is making. At Maimi, Fla., Dr. Roberts has been secretly working to perfect a new plate, which, when applied to cruisers, will make 53 knots an easy gait for them, the plate practically overcoming friction. By the merest accident, however, Dr. Roberts is able to make an alloy of metal and metalloids by which he creates a new substance, so that when an electrical current of certain potentiality is passed through it, becomes intensely radioactive — infinitely more so than radium.

Roberts was able to produce electrical manifestations hitherto unsuspected and unknown. The metal itself, while radioactive to a certain degree, did not become intensely so without the application of the excitant current. For years he had experimented on an insulation which passed no current of electricity, and which no known heat can destroy. By accident, he learns that it is also an impervious screen to radioactive emanations. In subsequent experiments he so charges the alloy in a lower plate that it merely offsets gravitation, and he places his sheet of insular substance between. The result is levitation.

These two plates are therefore working against each other with nearly equal force, the balance being disturbed only in ratio to gravitation. Understand it? Further, the machine furnishes its own propulsion, because by the use of the apparatus behind it, its radioactivity can be excited to any degree that might be safe. The moment a current excites and therefore increases the power of the lower plate, a lifting energy can be exerted which destroys the equilibrium of levitation, and drives the plates into the air with a force corresponding to the strength or character of the current. On the other hand, when the upper plate is similarly excited, thus liberating its corpuscles, the plate is driven toward the earth.

It would not be fair to expose any more of the secrets of the Roberts flying machine, in case Mr. Norton might object. Anyhow, Dr. Roberts and his assistants construct a number of radioplanes or flying machines capable of traveling at the rate of 650 miles an hour, but just at a critical moment the venerable inventor becomes ill. His daughter, Norma, who has been his principal laboratory assistant, takes his place in the principal radioplane, and the aerial host speeds forward to meet the Japanese fleet, which by this time is sailing to bombard the Pacific Coast.

The huge flagship Ito heads the Japanese advance, followed by battleships, cruisers and destroyers, while bringing up the far rear are colliers in whose hulls are carried fuel for the great armada. The Japs send a storm of shells at the advancing airships, and one of the latter is hit, but only slightly injured. The Norma airship dashes at the Ito, crumples the latter's stacks and masts as if they were paper, attaches itself to the turrets, and, with phenomenal power, lifts the flagship as if she were a bird: "The great wingless terror picked her up into the air, before her engines could be stopped and with her screw beating the atmosphere like the fluttering fins of a fish captured by a marauding eagle, sailed off with her into the blue above."

The captured Japs, with their ships, are deposited on the waters of Lake Washington, at Seattle, where they are screened from molestation by an American Army corps. America cuts all telegraphs and submarine cable lines with the outside world, and a British fleet sent on a tour of possibly hostile observation is carried off by Roberts' eagles. Emperor William, of Germany, and King Edward, of Great Britain, with several of their Ministers, are conveyed in radioplanes across the Atlantic, where a peace parley takes place. Japan sues for mercy, and world peace is established. The United States, to guarantee this, keeps secret the methods employed in constructing Roberts' radioplanes.

"The Vanishing Fleet" is not all science, however—a pretty love story is unfolded, the chief actors in it being Miss Norma Roberts and Guy Hillier, an English diplomat. The American Admiral is "Fighting Bob" Bevins, and the Christian name of the American President is given as "Paul."

Do you entertain doubt as to the possibility of the radioplane as sketched by Mr. Norton? Go slowly. He says that the scientific plan he has presented is indorsed by Hudson Maxim, the most eminent authority living on high explosives, and the most daring investigator of kindred sciences.

Little Pilgrimages Among Old New England Inns. By Mary Caroline Crawford. Illustrated. L. C. Page & Co., Boston.

This part of the country is too new to possess romantic old inns—rickety, swaying with the wind, and, it must be confessed, without modern plumbing—that hark back to the history of revolutionary days, and latterly to the stirring days of our grandfathers. But in such a land as New England, these inns are many, and even those that are no more are remembered by elaborate drawings in the archives of the nearest historical society.

Naturally, considerable space is devoted to Boston inns, where the land is rich in revolutionary houses. Concord history is also drawn from, and speaking of the Wright tavern of that city, it is related that these prices ruled in that house about the year 1779: One mug of West India flip, 20 pence; one mug of New England flip, 12 pence; one good dinner, 12 pence; breakfast and supper, each, 15 pence, and lodging 4 pence.

Of the Wayside Inn at Sudbury it is related that when one of its landlords died in 1796, the appraisal of his estate amounted to $9531.48. The value of his coat-of-arms was given at $4; firearms at $8; library at $10; clock at $30; silver tankard at $25; the "other plate" at $30; and the homestead of 240 acres of land at $6500.

Among old inns and taverns in New England towns are those of Hartford, Providence, Duxbury, Bradford, Shrewesbury, Pelham, Fitchburg, Amherst, Deerfield, Boston, Arlington, Shirley, Woonsocket, Smithfield, Springfield, West Brookfield, Newburyport, Ipswich, Groton, etc.

The pasing of the stage coach is treated with rare sentiment:

When the long rains of Autumn set in from the west,
The mirth of the landlord was broadest and best,
And the stranger who paused over night never knew
If the clock on the mantel struck ten, or struck two.

Oh, the songs they would sing and the tales they would spin
As they lounged in the light of the old-fashioned inn;
But the day came at last when the stage brought no load
To the gate, so it rolled up the long, dusty road.

Adele Hamilton. by Delia Buford Elliott. The Neale Publishing Company, Washington, D. C.

A wholesome story of a family who left the Southland and made a new home in California. The first chapter shows Mrs. Hamilton sitting in her library and dressed in deep mourning for her husband who had recently died and left his widow and five daughters almost nothing in the way of financial support. Mr. Hamilton had engaged too extensively in cotton planting. Mammy Harriet is the widow's comforter, and says "Aw, now, honey, doan' take on so. Yo' 's still got yo' ole niggah. Yo' has to leab me now but I's boun' to fin' yo' some day. Nothin' ain' gwine sep'rate us. De war couldn' do it, an' nothin' else gwine to." At that period, Adele Hamilton is a girl of 16.

Mrs. Hamilton and daughters leave their Southern mansion of 21 rooms, and reach a little California town which was "in a beautiful green valley, almost surrounded by lofty mountains, many of them capped with snow. On the side of one mountain was a distinct and gigantic arrowhead, so perfect that it could be seen for miles." An amusing picture is drawn of the Hamilton family's first brush with California life, how they first meet Chinese, Mexicans, etc., and where they make their first attempts at cooking. Adele is her mother's help, and makes tatting, one piece of which she sells for $2, although the purchaser offers her $10 which she refuses. "I thank you very much," says Adele, coloring, "but I ask $2 for it. If I accepted more it would be charity." From which remark it may be inferred that the Hamiltons were proud. They befriend a poor wanderer who afterward turns out to be Peter Work, a Ventura citizen who makes millions by a lucky "strike" in oil, and just to show that he is grateful to the Hamiltons for past kindness received, he sends them a check for $50,000 as a Christmas gift. Adele becomes a school teacher, and as a nurse she takes care of sufferers at the period of the San Francisco earthquake. And she also wins the heart of Deputy Sheriff Elwood.

So it would seem that the Hamiltons bettered their condition by settling in California. May all settlers around the Pacific Coast have their luck! The story has a pleasant, home atmosphere and will appeal to girls and women. Its best charm is its naturalness. The authoress, Mrs. Delia Buford Elliott, resides at Los Angeles, Cal.

Wild Animal Celebrities. By Ellen Velvin F. Z. S. Illustrated. Price, $1. Moffat, Yard & Co., New York City.

All who love animals, and may their number be as the sands of the seashore, will enjoy the authoritative life stories of many celebrated animals now living and on exhibition in various zoological gardens and menageries throughout the world.

The authoress says that the facts related in her book of 266 pages have been given her at first hand from the naturalists and trainers in charge and that most of the animals described are old personal "friends" of her own. She takes the view that she does not believe in the taming of any wild animal, no matter how real it may seem to be. She argues that a wild animal is always a wild animal and that no taming, care or kindness can ever actually eradicate the inherent savagery and fierceness of his nature.

One of the best stories told is that about the lion, Wallace, famous as the star attraction in the Bostock animal show. Bears, elephants, chimpanzees, big cats, bisons, snakes, seals, seallions, dogs, etc., all get their innings. The illustrations are unusually interesting.

Janet of the Dunes. By Harriet T. Comstock. Illustrated. Price, $1.50. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, and the J. K. Gill Company, Portland.

A girl's story with a fine, healthy tone, and with four effective illustrations by Carle Michel Boog. Mrs. Comstock has laid the scenes of her story on the dunes of Long Island, in and around the Summer homes of a colony of artists. The heroine, Janet, is the adopted daughter of Captain "Billy" of the life-saving service, and fisher folk, life-saving service men and stalwart lighthouse-keepers are pictured with rare fidelity. A simple, religious atmosphere runs throughout the tale.

The Political Opinions of Thomas Jefferson. by Dr John Walter Wayland. $1.25. The Neale Publishing Company, Washington, D. C.

Not long ago, somebody remarked that the last word has by no means spoken about Thomas Jefferson, and the chief difficulty in knowing more about him so far as the present generation is concerned, has been the voluminous books, presented on the subject-books which busy readers of today haven't time to examine. Dr. Wayland, who is assistant and fellow in history in the University of Virginia, remedies the defect referred to by giving in brief, readible style the quintessence of Jefferson's political views and statecraft. Dr. Richard Heath Babney, of the same university, writes an admirable introduction. The discussion in the book falls under five heads: Concerning government; the American states; the United States Government; the United States in relation to foreign powers, and various questions of importance. Under the fifth head the author takes up Jefferson's postion on African slavery, the American Indians, the liquor traffic, money and banks and expansion of territory.

The Pianolist. By Gustav Kobbe. Price, $1. Moffat, Yard & Co., New York City.

Have you ever listened to a great artist like Paderewski at a piano recital and had your ears charmed by the wondrous music be produced, and have you ever said to yourself: "How I wish I could play like that?" A quiet hint—you can possibly do so, at least according to your own understanding, by following the advice given in this admirable little book.

Now, I am not interested in the sale of any pianola or piano-player, but it is now a recognized part of our serious musical life and should be treated accordingly. This book is a boon to the musically unlearned, because it tells them what they ought to know in commonsense language, with dry technical detail wisely omitted. In Mr. Kobbe's own words, his purpose is "to bring home to people an appreciation of what this pianolist is, whether it is regarded as a toy with which the business man amuses himself with two-steps and ragtime after business hours, or as a serious musical instrument."

At the Foot of the Rainbow. By Gene Stratton-Porter. Illustrated. Price, $1.50. The Outing Publishing Company, New York City.

Most of the action of this idyllic love story of Central Indiana is laid out of doors, with rural setting, and the characters illustrate the virtues of devoted friendship, and one or more self-sacrificing love. Some parts of the book are almost a nature study, the heading of the first chapter being, "The ratcatchers of the Wabash." The story is told with marked ability, and there are four paintings in color by Oliver Kemp, with designs and decorations by Ralph Fletcher Seymour.

Mexico and Her People of Today. By Nevin O. Winter. Illustrated. L. C. Page & Co., Boston.

After two years' hard work and considerable travel through the greater part of Mexico, Mr. Winter gives this appreciative and instructive account of the customs, characteristics, amusements, history and advancement of the Mexicans and the development and resources of their country. The illustrations are made from original photographs by the author, and C. R. Birt, his traveling companion.

Complaint is often made that many books sold on this subject were first published ten years ago. Naturally, things have changed since then, and Mr. Winter has taken careful note of the industrial, social and political developments. He discusses such subjects as: Aztec land; across the plateaus; valley of Anahuac; the tropics; footsteps of the ancients; the Peon; mines and mining; railways and their influence; religious forces; passing of the lawless; story of the republic, etc.

The Short Story, edited by Dr. Brander Matthews, professor of dramatic literature in Columbia University. $1. The American Book Company, New York City.

Twenty-four specimen stories are here given to show the development of the short story and its possibilities, and the evolution shown through various stages of education is most interesting. The stories are taken from American, English, French, Russian and other authors, and valuable notes are appended to each specimen calling the student's attention to the merits or defects of the particular author under discussion. The book will be most helpful to students of literature in English, and also professional and amateur elocutionists.

Government for the People. By John G. Ten Eyck. Price, 60 cents. Moffat, Yard & Co., New York City.

Sound advice, directed at voters in cities who are numerically able to reform present abuses, if they will take the trouble to do so. The tone used is optimistic. Obviously, the little book of 50 pages is written for Eastern readers, not for a pure democracy like Oregon, where direct primaries take the place of party conventions. Mr. Ten Eyck, who is a New York lawyer, gives a clarion call to the average citizen to interest himself in city or town government.

The Great Secret. By E. Phillips Oppenheim. Illustrated. Price, $1.50. Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

A regular will-o'-the-wisp novel of international politics, the denouement of which is the barely averted invasion of Great Britain by a German fleet and the sacking of London by 300,000 former German soldiers disguised as tradesmen.

Mr. Oppenheim seemingly reached an enviable pinnacle of success when he wrote that pulsing bit of fiction entitled "A Maker of History," but in "The Great Secret" he has given the most absorbing story of death, or glory, adventure he has yet thought out. His recent novels would seem to indicate that European politics resemble a seething cauldron of molten metal, and that the principal conspirators against the world's peace are among France, Great Britain or Germany, especially the latter. If we are to believe Mr. Oppenheim, the secret police of these countries are decidedly overworked and need a vacation, but they furnish Mr. Oppenheim with a theme which he proceeds to unfold for entertainment, and he rarely, if ever, fails.

What is the mystery of "The Great Secret"? It can't be guessed outright—it is too stupendous. Love, crime, adventure, death and diplomacy have each their place in this romance, and the plot is so skillfully woven that the reader can't imagine how it all will end until he reaches the last page. The chief characters are two spies of international renown, Lord Leslie Wendover, alias Leslie Guest, and Miss Adele Van Hoyt; J. Hardross Courage, an English aristocrat, and the Comte de Valentin, Prince of Normandy, Royalist pretender to the throne of France. The action of the story takes the reader to this country and Great Britain, particularly London, where German intrigue is killed by the recall of the Channel fleet and the shooting down of disguised German soldiers who try to sack the city.

J. M. QUENTIN.

IN LIBRARY AND WORKSHOP.

The title of the new novel of Massachusetts politics by Gamaliel Bradford, Jr., recently announced as "God Save the Commonwealth," has been changed to "Matthew Porter," the hero's name, with a subtitle, "No Wit, No Help Like a Woman's."

* * *

These books were received through the kindness of the J. K. Gill Company, of this city: "The Great Secret," "Wild Animal Celebrities," "Government for the People," "Little Pilgrimages Among Old New England Inns," "Mexico and Her People of Today," and "At the Foot of the Rainbow."

* * *

"Somehow Good" is the title chosen by William De Morgan for the novel that he will issue next month. Its plot centers around a death by electricity, which untoward event happens in the far-famed Tuppenny Tube, London's first underground railway to be operated otherwise than by steam.

* * *

New books received through the courtesy of the J. K. Gill Company: "The Young Acadian," by Charles G. D. Roberts, and "The Country Christmas," by F. M. Fox (L. C. Page & Co.), and "Christmas, Its Origin, Celebration and Significance as Related in Prose and Verse," edited by Robert Haven Schauffler, $1 (Moffat, Yard & Co.).

* * *

For early Spring publication Houghton, Mifflin & Co. announce "Priest and Pagan," a new novel by Herbert M. Hopkins, author of "The Mayor of Warwick," "The Torch" and "The Fighting Bishop." Its scene is laid in The Bronx principally. The same house will publish next month a new book by Rev. Washington Gladden, entitled "The Church and Modern Life."

* * *

Shortly before Dr. George F. Shrady's death he put into permanent form for publication in the Century his memories of General Grant's last days, the first full and authoritative record of these months of suffering, marked by unfailing patience, heroism and kindliness. Dr. Shrady was much with Grant in these months, and it was his skill that did much to make easier the hard days.

* * *

A new work of vital interest to the legal profession is announced, "Great American Lawyers," edited by William Draper Lewis, dean of the law department of the University of Pennsylvania, and published by Winston, of Philadelphia. Only one member of the Oregon bar is sketched—Matthew P. Deady (1824-1893), the writer of the paper being Attorney Harrison Gray Platt, of this city. The work will consist of eight volumes, the first of which is now ready.

* * *

A conscientious paragrapher preparing a list of popular writers likely, he thought, to last for some time in literature, after inscribing among their books "The Weavers," the little Scotch "Bud," "The Younger Set" and "The Scarlet Car," and accurately attaching the names of respective authors, pronounced this judgment: "Kate Douglas Wiggin ought to be included on the strength of 'The Shuttle!' Mrs. Burnett may eventually come into her own as the inalienable author of 'The Shuttle.'" It was only recently that her book was reviewed in an Eastern newspaper as though it were Sir Gilbert Parker's novel, "The Weavers."

* * *

It is seldom that two sisters are represented simultaneously on the list of a single publisher. It is therefore a curious occurrence that here should be, not one, but two, such cases on the present list of the McClure Company, once in the case of George Madden Martin, whose new "Letitia" keeps company with her sister, Eva Madden's "Two Royal Foes," and again in the case of Kate Douglas Wiggin, whose sister, Nora Archibald Smith, not only is her collaborator in the new volumes of McClure's Library of Children's Classics, but is the independent author of one of the most delightful of the season's juveniles, "The Adventure of a Doll."

* * *

A new book that will appeal to a large circle of readers is Helen Maude Wheeler's "An Up-to-Date Pauper." It is the story of a young girl, reared in luxury, suddenly losing her wealth, and fighting for success against all the desperate odds that poverty places in her way. The professedly religious, the selfish rich, the coldly indifferent heads of organized charities will vainly attempt to answer its arguments. It bears the undeniable impress of unvarnished truth, and in fact some of its vividly-drawn characters seem to fit certain Boston people remarkably well. With all its underlying vein of sadness, the indomitable pluck and splendid spirit of Prudence Warren, the heroine, win for her in the end triumphs that are sweet, and love that is tender and true.

* * *

Before Charles G. D. Roberts found himself a literary lion in London he began a romance of English life, but long before it was finished he felt the call of the Canadian wild so strongly that he recklessly abandoned his purpose and allowed his inclination to lead him into "The Heart of the Ancient Wood." The years have flown, and his English romance still remains unwritten, but each succeeding season has brought forth another and another volume, dealing with nature and animal life, including "The Kindred of the Wild," "The Watchers of the Trails," "Red Fox," "The Haunters of the Silences" and finally "The House in the Water," to be published March 1.

* * *

The Macmillan list of fiction to be published during the coming Spring season contains the names of Gertrude Atherton, Bjornson, the Castles, Winston Churchill, Marion Crawford, Frank Danby, Robert Herrick, Albert Kinross, Jack London and John Luther Long. Mr. Churchill's novel is still unnamed, but Mr. Crawford's is the long awaited "Prima Donna," a sequel to "Fair Margaret." Jack London's "The Iron Heel," which is to appear next month, is a story of the social revolution. The title of Robert Herrick's book, "Together," is said to signify that it is the story of a married couple. In "The Gulf," John Luther Long turns from Japan to America, and from the tragedy of "The Way of the Gods" to comedy, while "Tales of the Months," by the author of "The Garden of a Commuter's Wife," is a connected series of 13 short stories. Frank Danby's story will be called "The Heart of a Child." "Joan of Garioch" is the title of the new novel by Albert Kinross. Agnes and Egerton Castle are represented by a new novel in their well-known style, and Mrs. Atherton by new editions of "Patience Sparhawk," "The Californians" and "The Splendid Idle Forties."

* * *

"Comrade John," by Messrs Merwin & Webster, is a story of religious quackery which is particularly significant in these days of Dowieism and other kindred isms. Unquestionably there are religious quacks in every age and country, but the particular brand of emotional chicanery exploited in this book seems to be indigenous to our own country and to have sprung up within less than a generation. The story conjures up a semi-religious, semi-industrial community, which resembles now Dowie's City of Zion, and now some of the semi-communal homes of the arts and crafts. The music doctrine of Herman Stein, the head of this community, is expressed in his cant phrase, "Triumph Through Toil." He teaches the beauty of manual labor and naturally enlists under his banner a host of followers, not one of whom has ever done an honest day's work in his life. Stein himself is too shrewd not to see the hollow results of his own absurd teachings, and when he decides to erect a spectacular home for his community to serve as an object lesson to the world, he realizes that he must go outside of his followers for help. He engages a young architect, John Chance, to build Beechcroft for him, with the condition that it shall appear to be the work of the community and that Stein himself shall have all the credit for designing and carrying out the work. Chance enters into the contract thoughtlessly, but finds good reason for repudiating it when he learns all of Stein's plans. The story involves a girl who has drifted into the community and is loved by both Stein and Chance, and eventually the plot revolves about the struggle between the two men for her.

* * *

In view of present-day discussions of corporate combinations of capital, it is of interest to note the distinctly modern development of the "Trust," as pointed out by Professor E. E. Sparks in his volume on "National Development," a late volume in Harpers' "History of the American Nation." Professor Sparks shows that as late as 1880 the railway mileage of the United States was operated by 1514 different companies; also that of the 185 manufacturing combinations listed in the report of the Industrial Commission of 1901, only three were in existence before 1885.

* * *

"Counterpoint Simplified," by Francis L. York, and published at $1.25 by Oliver Ditson Company, Boston, has been received. Mr. York defines Counterpoint as "the art of so writing two or more melodies that they may be satisfactorily performed at the same time." The style used is simple and can be readily understood by musical students who are workers and are striving after better and more advanced paths in music than the dilletante. Helpful exercises are given, many of them arranged by the author. The C clef is omitted, only the treble and bass clefs being used. In every way, a scholarly presentation.

* * *

A story is being told of a woman who met Gertrude Atherton at the recent reception in her honor of the San Francisco Spinners, and tried hard to say something "fit." As the line was passing along, this woman whispered to her companion, "Oh, do tell me the name of the book she wrote—something or other about family descent," but the other said she couldn't recall it, either. Just as they reached the author of "Ancestors," the woman apparently remembered, and her face beamed. "Oh, Mrs Atherton!" she said, as they shook hands, "I can't tell you how I loved your 'Forefathers!'"

* * *

Charles E. Russell, author of "The Uprising of the Many," just published, is a born newspaper man. His father had been a newspaper man before him, and he grew up in the atmosphere of ink and types. Young Russell's boyhood was spent on his father's paper, the Davenport (Iowa) Gazette. At 22 he went to the St. Paul Pioneer Press, thence to the Minneapolis Tribune, Minneapolis Journal, Detroit Tribune, the New York Commercial Advertiser, World, Herald, Journal; then to the Chicago American. That closed Mr. Russell's newspaper work, and since then he has devoted himself to magazine work and writing books.

* * *

Hilaire Belloc, the author of "Hills and the Sea," has written a book called "Paris" an account of the history and growth of that city from the very beginning. In the preface he says: "There comes, I suppose, to every one who has felt keenly the modern impression of a place he loves, a desire to know its changing past, the nature and experience that it draws from the centuries, and the platform upon which there can be constructed some little of that future which we will never see. The more vivid be the contemporary effect of a city, the more urgently does the question of its origins and development press upon one. The sight of one's own time—even if it be stretched to a full lifetime—is but a glance taken rapidly upon a voyage and leaves an enduring expectation and demand for further knowledge. In the effort to satisfy this a man will read this book and that, look up old prints, and catch the chance phrases of memoirs; he will, for his own sake, clear out a rough sketch of the whole past of what he loves, and he will end by making a record that is as incomplete and fragmentary, as incongruous a mixture of the general theory of life and of particular trifles, as are the notes and letters we keep to remind us of absent friends."

* * *

OLD POETS AMENDED.

A. W. Macy in Putnam's.

Goldsmith.

"Man wants but little here below."
But this was written long ago.
The saying now has little worth,
For in these days man wants the earth.

Tennyson.

"Howe'er it be, it seems to me
'Tis only noble to be good."
If this is true, how very few
Care to be noble if they could.

Shakespeare.

"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;
And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind."
Great pity 'tis; if he could only see.
The world would hold far less of misery.

Dryden.

"Happy the man, and happy he alone,
He who can call today his own."
But by the time he gets his title to it,
'Tis out of date; next day he must renew it.

Congreve.

"Thus Grief still treads upon the heels of Pleasure:
Married in haste, we may repent at leisure."
A better plan, and one that saves much sorrow;
Repent today; leave marriage till tomorrow.

* * *

In the preface to the "Northwestern Fights and Fighters," the fifth volume of his well-known "Indian Fights and Fighters Series," Dr. Cyrus Townsend Brady says: "This book differs from the others in that I am not the author of all, or most of it—Major-Generals and scouts, Captains and sergeants, frontiersmen and troopers, soldiers and civilians, to say nothing of an Indian chief and a bishop, have all said their say in their own way." There is a long narrative by Chief Joseph himself, with an interesting comment on the same by Major-General Oliver Otis Howard. Major W. R. Parnell and Brigadier-General David Perry have both contributed accounts of the battle of White Bird Canon and the other Nez Perces engagements in which they participated, while, to take but a few names at random, such men as Major J. G. Trimble, Captain E. S. Farrow, Colonel J. W. Redington, Colonel James Jackson and Van H. Applegate, have all supplied detailed stories of their own personal experiences in the two great Northwestern campaigns. The illustrations of the book have also a peculiar importance as coming from private sources, notably the collections of Colonel J. W. Redington and General C. F. Egan, while perhaps most interesting of all is a reproduction of a picture of Fort Lapwai, painted on the spot by Lieutenant Robert H. Fletcher, and by his permission reproduced here for the first time.

* * *

The Youth's Companion has never made a more brilliant announcement than that for the coming year. The contributors will include: Former President Grover Cleveland; Arthur T. Hadley, president of Yale University; Ira Remsen, president of Johns Hopkins University; Sir William Ramsay, Nobel prizeman and professor of chemistry in the University of London; G. M. Sternberg, Surgeon-General United States Army; Elmer Ellsworth Brown, United States Commissioner of Education; Professor W. T. Sedgwick, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Elihu Thomson, famous electrician and inventor; L. H. Bailey, director of the Cornell College of Agriculture; Professor B. T. Galloway, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry; Professor S. H. Scudder, eminent entomologist; Governor Joseph W. Folk, of Missouri; Sir William P. Treloar, Lord Mayor of London; Dr. W. J. Rolfe; W. T. Stead; Rider Haggard; Frank T. Bullen, author of "The Cruise of the Cachelot"; Horace Annesley Vachell, author of "The Hill" and other popular stories of school life; Maarten Maartens; Eden Phillpotts, famous for his stories of Devon and Cornish life; the Baroness Orczy, author of "The Scarlet Pimpernel," etc.; Lady Henry Somerset; the Duke of Argyll; Admiral G. W. Melville; Admiral Charles D. Sigsbee; General Charles King; the late Sir Edwin Arnold; Professor T. C. Mendenhall, former president of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute; R. H. Edmonds, specialist on the industries of the Southern States; Professor Rodolfo Lanciani, the great archeologist; Sir H. H. Johnston, African administrator, naturalist, traveler, and Dr. Carroll D. Wright, economist, president of Clark College, Worcester.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Colonial Recipes From Old Virginia and Maryland Manors," by Maude A. Bomberger, $1.25; "Betty Pembroke," by Elizabeth Hazelwood Hancock, $1.50; and "Swaying Treetops," by Elmer Willis Serl, $1. (Neal Publishing Company, Washington, D. C.)

"Spanish Prose Composition," by G. W. Umphrey, 75 cents; "Textbook in General Physiology and Anatomy," by Walter Hollis Eddy, $1.20 (American Book Company).

"The Blue Ocean's Daughter," by Cyrus Townsend Brady, $1.50. (Moffat, Yard & Co.).

"Studies in the Gospel of St. John," by George P. Eckman, D.D., $1. (Jennings-Graham).

All About the Beeswax of Nehalem Beach

CONTINUED FROM SECOND PAGE

wax is "a crude paraffin mixed with organic and various mineral substances." This report would apply to beeswax, as that substance normally contains as high as 15 per cent of paraffin, the rest being organic substances of other kinds. The mineral substances here mentioned are in all probability beach, sand particles such as are frequently found in the outer crusts of Nehalem wax. The Scientific American reported to Dr. Kinney that his sample was ozokerite, but the present writer has been unable to get from that paper any statement of the characters upon which their opinion was based. A sample of Nehalem wax submitted to Mr. John F. Carll, one time State Geologist of Pennsylvania, was passed on to the chemist of a large oil refinery, Mr. E. B. Gray, of the Tide Water Pipe Line Company, Bayonne, New Jersey, who made a written report to Mr. Carll stating that the substance was ozokerite, but apparently basing his opinion upon nothing more than the hardness and melting point of the sample. Mr. Gray, however, when written directly for further information, replied that he had no record of any wax received from Mr. Carll. H. A. Mears, a mining operator in Southern Oregon, and a pioneer in the gilsonite fields of Utah, has mentioned several competent authorities to whom he had submitted samples of the wax with the general verdict of ozokerite. In all of these cases the attempt has been made to get statements of the exact properties of this wax which led to the decisions, but without success, changes of address and other causes preventing communication. Mr. Mears' own convictions are based upon physical examinations of the substance, and it is highly probable that all of his authorities made the same mistake. Attention is again directed to the uncertain character of all of this evidence as compared with that offered by Merrill, Stokes, and Diller and two independent analyses given below, which, by the way, completely confirm the earlier work by these men.

It sometimes happens to the chemist in Oregon that he is consulted with regard to a waxy substance in which the finder has an interest, it may be, because of the hope that it is an indication of oil in the ground from which it was taken. The material almost in-

Professor O. F. Stafford.

variably turns out to be a mass of pitch resulting from the slow destructive distillation process which may accompany the burning of an old fir stump or root. Such masses may be preserved in the ground for years, and have more than once been confounded with Nehalem wax. A specimen of this sort was taken in 1906 to Professor C. E. Bradley, then professor of chemistry at Pacific University, Forest Grove, Or., after having been widely proclaimed in the newspapers as Nehalem wax. Professor Bradley analyzed this material in parallel with true samples from Nehalem, showed the difference between the two, and incidentally proved the identity of the latter as beeswax.

Finally, there are the results of a very thorough analytical investigation of the Nehalem product as carried out in the laboratories of the University of Oregon under the direction of the writer by W. T. Carroll, who made this work the subject of his graduation thesis in 1903. The results are tabulated in parallel with the well-established numerical values accepted for other commercial waxes in the case of each character determined, so that comparisons can easily be made. It should be noted that the values given for beeswax are from a study of many samples of German, English and American waxes, all of which are in essential argreement.

Table Showing Comparative Values for Certain Characteristics of the More Important Commercial Waxes and the Wax from Nehalem Beach.

The pairs of figures separated by hyphens indicate the usual limits within which the value of the given characteristic lies. Single numbers represent the average value, and hence the ideal standard.

COMMERCIAL WAXES.	Specific Gravity.	Melting Point.	Iodine Value.	Acid Value.	Ether Value.
Beeswax (yellow)	.958-.975	61.5-64.0	7.9-11	17-22	72-76
Ideal standard	.964	62.5	8.5	20	74
Beeswax (bleached)	.956-.970	63.0-65.0	6.0-7.0	20-28	76-80
Ideal standard	.964	64.0	6.5	24	78
Nehalem wax	.969-.972	62.0-64.0	4.5-6.4	7.7-12.5	98-100
Ideal standard	.970	63.2	5.4	8.4	98.6
Annamese beeswax	.964	61	6.0	7.8	86.6
Southeastern Asian waxes	......	......	6.0-12.2	6.3-9.0	85.5-99.5
Carnauba wax	.990-.999	83-86	13.5	3.4-4.8	75-76
Ideal standard	.995	84	......	4	75
Japan wax	.970-.980	50-56	3-6	2-6	......
Ideal standard	.975	54	4	4.5	200
Chinese insect wax	.926-.970	80-81	......	......	......
Ideal standard	.960	81	1.4	......	63
Tallow (beef)	.943-.952	42-48	36-44	4-14	......
Ideal standard	.950	45	40	8	190
Spermaceti	.905-.960	44-40	......	......	130
Ideal standard	.950	46	......	......	......
Myrtle wax	......	40-44	......	3-4.4	......
Ideal standard	.995	43	10.7	4	205
Ozokerite	.910-.970	50-100	......	......	......
Ideal standard	.950	70	......	......	......
Paraffin	.867-.908	44-54	......	......	......
Ideal standard	.900	50	......	......	......

One Puzzling Discrepancy.

While the identity of Nehalem wax with beeswax is established in this way beyond question there exists a puzzling discrepancy in the case of two of the characters investigated, the "acid" and "ether" values. These average for true beeswax 20 and 74 respectively, while for Nehalem wax they are 8.4 and 98.6. It was at first thought that the great age of the Nehalem material, together with its exposure for so long a period to the agencies which at the sea coast are so actively destructive to animal and vegetable matter, would account for the anomaly. There was an objection to such an assumption, however, in the fact that old or bleached waxes usually give higher acid values than fresh waxes. It was a matter of great satisfaction, therefore, to learn that a recent investigation into the analytical characters shown by waxes coming from the south and east of Asia indicates that these are distinguished from all others by a low acid number, ranging from 6.3 to 9, and a high ether number, 85.5 to 99.5. (R. Berg in Chemische Zeitung, Vol. 31, p. 337.) The actual analysis of a wax from Annam illustrates the point and is included in the table above.

The significance of the above fact in its bearing upon the origin of the Nehalem deposit is very evident. It is not only beeswax with which we are concerned, but beeswax from the Orient. The suggestion that the wrecked vessel was engaged in the carrying trade between the Philippines and Mexico is by no means a new one. Professor Davidson, who for half a century has been actively engaged in material to prove or disprove the existence of the Davidson inshore eddy current along the Northwestern Coast, is our highest present authority upon the matter of what the sea casts up on these shores. In a recent letter he says: "My present belief is that the wax from a wrecked galleon which, by stress of weather on her voyage from the Philippines, had been driven farther north than the usual route. They frequently got as high as 43 degrees, and I know of one wreck as high as the latitude of the Quiniault River, Washington." Judge Wickersham is also at the present time of the opinion that the wax came from the wreck of a Spanish vessel bound from the Philippines to Vera Cruz by way of the North Pacific current (Kuro Shiwo), which, by the way, seems to have been the route universally taken by eastwardly-bound vessels.

Beeswax From the Philippines.

Dr. Joseph Schafer, professor of history at the University of Oregon, calls attention to two particularly interesting references in connection with the trade relationships existing between the Philippines and Mexico during early times. The first is from Blair and Robertson, "Philippine Islands," vol. xv, p. 302: "A Dutch writer of about 1600 in describing the Philippines says, 'They yield considerable quantities of money and wax.'" The second reference is to Morga, long a Governor of the Philippines, sailing from there to Mexico in 1603. His writings are considered the most authoritative extant as regards the Philippines of the early period. In describing the trade from the Islands to Mexico he says,

In these classes of merchandise (brought from Siam and other parts of the Orient) and in the production of the Islands—namely gold, cotton cloth, mendrinaque, and cakes of white and yellow wax—do the Spaniards effect their purchases, investments and exports for Nueva Espana (Mexico).

If anything more were needed to establish the hypothesis of a wrecked Spanish vessel it would have to be an authentic account of the wreck itself. Since the only account known is the one preserved in Indian tradition, which, it may be said, as Indian traditions go, is very definite, we are denied such a crowning bit of evidence. We do have, however, the knowledge that exactly such wrecks did occur. In a reference kindly supplied by Professor Davidson, Vinegas' History of California, vol. ii, p. 388, there is an account of the wreck of the San Augusta in Drake's Bay, 1735, where was left "great quantities of wax and chests of silk."

How the Stuff Looks.

A most interesting feature of the question is presented by the appearance of the wax as it is taken from the sand of the beach. Some mention of this has already been made in the articles by Merrill and Diller given above. The irregular pieces have occurred in a great variety of sizes and shapes, while the "candles" vary from a half inch to three inches in diameter and up to ten inches in length, in all cases being broken, apparently, from greater original lengths. The wicks are usually entirely missing, an axial cavity occupying the place. In a specimen owned by the writer there is to be seen the conical cavity formerly common in candles for supporting them upon wooden pegs.

A considerable number of the larger pieces of wax have been in the form of well-defined cakes bearing mysterious markings. One of these cakes is preserved in the Portland City Museum, together with several pieces of less regular shape and some candles. Most of them have been melted and sold, however, and the engraved characters consequently destroyed. Tracings of the characters have been preserved in a few cases, while enough others have been reproduced from memory to give a fair idea of their nature. Their meaning is problematical, although it is fairly certain that they are the brands of the makers or dealers originally handling them. In the various efforts that have been made to get light upon the origin of the wax these characters have been submitted to high authorities among the Japanese and Russians, as well as to Latin scholars in the Roman Catholic Church and the libraries of Germany, but always without obtaining the least clue regarding their significance. Through the kindness of Dr. F. G. Schmidt, of the University of Oregon, a special effort was made during the Summer of 1907 to get an interpretation of the marks from German sources. Even men highly skilled in deciphering old Latin manuscripts, in which a whole word or phrase is sometimes embodied in a single monogram-like character, failed to recognize anything intelligible in the marks. An importer and dealer in waxes, however, pronounced them marks of trade such as he had often seen upon waxes coming in from outside countries. After all, the trade-mark explanation is not unsatisfactory. The symbols can be said to have their counterparts in the characters devised for branding stock upon Western cattle ranches, and may be even less obscure in meaning than the year-mark upon a piece of Rookwood pottery is to the uninitiated.

Occasionally a piece of "sandstone" is found upon the beach impregnated with Nehalem wax. This stone consists of beach sand, in the main, cemented together with the beeswax softened enough at some time by a drift fire, it may be, to percolate into the sand. Mr. Boyakin calls attention to the resemblance that this "stone" bears to the residues left in the kettles used for melting down the wax for market, and it is altogether possible that these rare bits of material were formed in that way. At any rate it is now certain that the so-called sandstone is a consequence and not the cause of the wax deposit.