

GOSSIP ABOUT SOME CURRENT BOOKS

There is no better evidence that America is growing old than the value that is beginning to be placed upon her literature and history, particularly that of a personal nature.

Letter writing a hundred years ago was not the "best art" it is today, and there was more than generosity in one of Portland's greatest benefactors, lately leaving a bequest to a certain school "to found a chair of penmanship, that the art of writing might not be entirely lost."

There was deep satire as well, though that probably was the farthest from the kindly old gentleman's mind, but it showed a prophetic appreciation of the trend of the times.

Cheap postage and the advent of the typewriting machine are held largely responsible for the decay of literary worth in the correspondence of the world today. These of course are but factors which are a part of the "hurry up" age—but potent factors in destroying a class of literature which we are beginning to appreciate if not emulate—the letter-writing literature.

That the letters of our forefathers, if they were intelligent people and people of affairs, were many of them literary works in every sense of the word is assured. Clear, concise, well-constructed under rules that obtained at that time, every word carrying its fullest quota of meaning, facts simply stated and opinions strongly presented, and conclusions logical, what more was to be desired?

Regrettable as it is, many of these letters have been lost. Literature and history, for the same reason, the child dashes to pieces a valuable bit of china—it is too young to appreciate its value. But that America is attaining the adult age in this respect has lately been manifest by two notable gifts to the Congressional library. Some time ago the letters and correspondence of Montgomery Blair was collected and turned over by his heirs to this library.

A few days ago a still more valuable collection became the property of the United States. The relatives of Martin Van Buren presented to the Congressional library all the letters, documents, public and private, of their distinguished ancestor, comprising many hundreds, something like 400 letters, being the famous correspondence of Van Buren and Andrew Jackson, of which but two or three letters have ever been made public. The value of such collections can not be estimated, and that they should be where they will receive the proper care, be safe from fire and be accessible to the historian, or student, is but a matter of patriotism. We wish the space were given us to write a whole essay on the study that was given to the writing of a letter in those days, and why its secular value, and the opinion we entertain for those who allow such matters to fall to decay in the attic while they dawdle over the "historic novel" in the parlor or library.

Under the "Jackstaff"—By Chester Bailey Fernald, is a collection of 11 stories, the incidents of which took place under the jackstaff of numerous war vessels, the ludicrous and philosophical Lannigan happened to be attached to it. Rarely do we find such a delicate combination of Irish humor and bits of pathos blended so finely. The wit of the Irishman in finding the vulnerable places in the armor of public affairs does not desert him, but with type aim he sends many a shaft tipped with satire and feathered with humor to telling effect. Mr. Fernald takes his characters to many countries and many climes and tells his stories with the masterhand of one that has seen (and not only read about) what he writes.

Having traveled, he can see America from a perspective afforded by familiarity with the countries and institutions which have contributed to make us what we are, and in these stories have given us some glimpses for which Burns pined. "The power to see ourselves as they are," is not surprising, for the book has had a wonderfully large sale, and that it holds its own with newer books appearing, for it does not appeal to any particular class or age. Its stories are not wearisome in length, they yet show interest in themselves upon one, and while a few of them have previously appeared in book and magazine form, collected under this one most suitable title they are in form to be valued and kept for the occasional hour when the weight of affairs needs to be rolled off with a good rollicking laugh.

Century company, publishers; J. K. Gill, Portland, Price, \$1.25.

"Henry J. Wood"—By Rosa Newmarch. At an opportune moment, while the biographer is visiting New York and is giving the American public a taste of his quality, Miss Rosa Newmarch issues her story of Henry J. Wood's phenomenal career. Probably no living orchestral conductor has risen more quickly, and at the same time more surely, into prominence. Mr. Wood's position is that of the first English conductor, and indeed one may say he occupies unquestionably the central figure in English musical life. The little book, which by the way is the opening volume of a new series on "Masters of Music," comprising illustrated monographs on contemporaries of all branches of the art, published by John Lane, traces, simply and directly the career of Mr. Wood under the following heads:

Introduction—Birth and Early Life (1817-1825)—Promenade Concerts—Symphony and Sunday Concerts—The Man; His Temperament and Methods—As Orchestral Conductor—Interpretation Conductor—Russian Music—Vocal Art—List of Works.

Portraits of Mr. Wood are included as full-page illustrations.

John Lane, New York; price, \$1.

"Revels"—The facsimile reprint of "The Bay Psalm Book," with introduction by Wilberforce Eames (Dodd, Mead & Co.), will bring that curious relic of colonial days within the reach of many buyers. Of the original edition, the first volume ever printed in English, but only 10 copies are now known to exist. The present facsimile is made from the copy owned by Mr. E. Dwight Church of Brooklyn, completed by the use of the volume in the Lenox library for the few pages lacking in Mr. Church's copy. It is a curious fact that the printed matter on the page of the Lenox copy measures about one eighth of an inch longer each way than the same page of the Church copy. This difference is not typographical, but has been caused merely by the shrinkage of the paper, which has been more exposed to the air in one case than in the other.

Mr. Bertram Dobell has come into possession of a manuscript containing 43 sonnets of William Alabaster, who was born in 1665 and died in 1640 and is known to us as "the rarest poet and freeman that at any one time has produced," and hitherto little of his verses has been accessible. His sonnets are religious and embody his experience as a convert to the Roman Catholicism. Mr. Dobell in the "Athenaeum" quotes several of these sonnets with high praise.

"The Book of Garden Furniture"—By Charles Thonger, should find an eager

welcome in Oregon, where outdoor surroundings are expected to so largely contribute to the attractiveness of our cities and pleasure of our guest at the fair time, to say nothing of the crudity of many of our "handsome yards" at all times.

Among the garden structures dealt with in this book are summer houses, arbors, pergolas, bridges and fencing of various descriptions. The opening pages are devoted to a discussion of the different styles of summer houses, seats, sundial and statuary suited to the various gardens, the manufacture of these which can be made without skilled assistance and the position which each may occupy to the best advantage. Many valuable hints will be found in this volume for those who are interested in the artistic arrangement of the garden.

John Lane, publisher. Price \$1.

ADVANCE NOTICES

"Theodore Roosevelt, the Citizen," the latest work of Jacob A. Riis, is to be an unconventional biography. As everyone knows, Mr. Riis came into intimate relations with Mr. Roosevelt when the latter was a police commissioner in New York City, and the two worked together with equal intensity and vigor in fighting against graft and in behalf of decent living—parks and schools for the children, safe and healthful tenements, a clean and honest city. Since then the two have been warm personal friends and Mr. Riis' opportunities for knowing about the president's life, opinions and feelings have been peculiarly full and even unique. In this book, as in Mr. Riis' "The Making of an American," and "How the Other Half Lives," he shows the power of a born story-teller. It is to be published this spring by the Outlook company.

John H. Whitson, author of "Barbara, a Woman of the West," who for many years lived on the plains and in the mining camps of Colorado, has written another western novel entitled "The Rainbow Chaser," which Little, Brown & Co. will publish in the spring. This new book, it is said, will give a vivid account of a romance and adventures. Mr. Whitson knows the West and he has endeavored in his "Rainbow Chaser" to present the real scenery and atmosphere of the plains.

LITERARY NOTES

The books issued by Mr. Ralph Fletcher Seymour will hereafter bear the imprint of Bobbs-Merrill company. Mr. Fletcher is a designer of his own types and reckons himself among the followers of William Morris.

"The Life of Lowell" for the "American Men of Letters" series of Houghton Mifflin & Co., has been undertaken by Dr. Samuel M. Crothers. Dr. Edward Everett Hale, who has been elected chaplain of the United States, is perhaps best known as author of "The Man Without a Country." On the occasion of Dr. Hale's eightieth birthday anniversary in May, 1902, President Roosevelt said: "To have written 'The Man Without a Country,' by itself would be enough to make all the nation his debtor." Dr. Hale's latest book, published by Little, Brown & Co., is "New England's History in Ballads," which contains the intermittent work of Dr. Hale and his children during the past 20 years, with a few articles by others. This unique collection of ballads, which is illustrated by the younger generation of Hales, is made in a handsome manner. According to one critic, "This stirring composite production is a powerful presentation of the notable events of our history, worthy of its gifted authors."

MAGAZINES

The February Delineator is an unusually attractive number, and with its diversified subjects and interests is one of the best of the series. This unique collection of ballads, which is illustrated by the younger generation of Hales, is made in a handsome manner. According to one critic, "This stirring composite production is a powerful presentation of the notable events of our history, worthy of its gifted authors."

The Metropolitan Magazine of New York is offering \$2,500 for four short stories and a poem, the total amount to be distributed as follows: For the best original story of 7,000 words in length, \$1,000; for the second best, \$500. For the best original story of 5,000 words, \$800; for the second best, \$400. For the best original poem, not exceeding 38 lines, \$200 will be paid.

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MARINE NOTES

The steamer Glenora dropped down to Linton last evening to secure a cargo of fuel oil for the Oregon City wharf. The cargo has a carrying capacity of 2,000 barrels. The Indramalla will not finish discharging her cargo before tonight. The floors of the Ainworth dock, at which she is working, are literally strewn with material produced from the La Fontaine and Marechal de Turenne are about the only ships working in the lower harbor.

The Only Way It Can Be Done

From The Philadelphia Record. The fellow who wants a soft berth has to oust someone else to get it.

For Weak and Nervous People.

We have a cure for nervous and unsteady people, weak, fleshless, people, and pimply, pale or sallow people; people who are troubled with loss of appetite, falling memory, depression of spirits, lack of confidence, nervous headache and wakefulness; all these symptoms are produced by weakened nerves, brought on by the watery condition of the blood. Make strong, rich, red blood and furnish food for the nerves is the way to beat the source of all disease, and the cure then is only a question of days. The best blood and blood builder is Dr. Gunn's Blood and Nerve Tonic, in tablet form, to take at meal time. Sold at 75c a box, or 3 boxes for \$2, at all drug stores, or sent postpaid on receipt of price. People gain from 1 to 4 lbs. of solid, healthy flesh per week by the use of this medicine, that is an indication that it is doing good. Address, Dr. Boskany Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

WHENCE COMES THIS "MIRACULOUS RESCUE FROM THE GRAVE?"

Woman Threatened With Burial is Revived and Restored to Health by New York Wonderworker.

Doctors Send Him Their Worst Cases, Trying to Find One He Cannot Cure, But He Dumfounds and Mystifies Them All By Miracles of Healing Which Rival Those of the Ancient Writ.

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(From Toledo Blade.)

Benton Harbor, Mich., has been thrown into an intense fever of excitement by Dr. Wallace Hadley, of New York City. A newspaper man made a special trip to New York and called on Dr. Hadley to learn the secret of the mysterious power by which he has created such a furor. The doctor was found at his laboratory, No. 1981 Broadway, surrounded by forty or fifty assistants. "So you have come to learn how I gave life and health to Mrs. Germond," said the doctor in reply to a question. "So your people say it was a miracle that I possess divine power. Nothing of the kind; I have simply discovered a secret law of nature heretofore unknown to doctors and scientists. Do you see that large glass jar?" said the doctor, pointing to a flagon in which with a ruby red liquid that seemed to quiver and vibrate with the tremendous dynamic force it held. "That is the secret of my power. That liquid you see here in life, disintegrates it into atoms, and these atoms, when I can cure any disease—yea, I can revive some when life seems to be extinct, but they are not actually dead. Mrs. Germond was not dead, of course I know what the doctors said. Hundreds of people are buried every year who are not actually dead. It is simply a case of suspended animation. They seem to be dead, but they can be revived with that liquid."

"When you consider that my discovery will cure Bright's disease, consumption, cancer and other heretofore incurable diseases, as well as less dangerous ailments, is it any wonder that it will bring the dead back to life in a case of suspended animation? That liquid contains the vital elements of a living being. It makes the heart beat and the brain think. Doctors have heard of my discovery, and they have sought me out and brought their worst cases to me, thinking they might find one I could not cure. I have completely baffled them all. I have proved my mastery over disease. My case demonstrates to you that I can cure those at a distance just as well as those I see personally. This shows the power is not in me, but in my discovery. Here is a letter I just received from Mrs. Laura Fitzpatrick, of No. 1256 South Third street, St. Louis, Mo. She was practically dead when my treatment reached her. The doctors said her hours on earth were numbered; that she would not see the slightest chance for her to live. Many of her relatives and friends had already bidden her a long last farewell. Yet my treatment restored her to life, health and strength; and remember that I never even saw her. Read her letter for yourself. I have her permission to do this."

The following extracts, word for word, from Mrs. Fitzpatrick's letter, are copied here. "I would have been dead had it not been for you. My friends all say that they hope to be cured by your treatment. It was a miracle of healing. I had been treated by over thirty doctors, and

as a result of her four visits there. Ristoni was born at Cividale, Italy, in 1822. On her appearance in Paris in 1865, she was harshly criticized for plunging as the rival of Rachel, the height of her fame. Ristoni won popular favor, however, and her receptions in other countries especially in the United States, were enthusiastic. Among her leading Paris partners were Francesco da Rimini, Maria Stuart, Phedra, Judith and Lady Macbeth. The last character she played in America with Edwin Booth. She retired from the English stage in 1873, but has since appeared before the footlights in Italy occasionally.

MUSIC COMMITTEE TO GET TO WORK

The concerts given in the public parks of Portland during last summer were so successful that an effort is being made to make them permanent.

J. D. Myers of the music committee of the park board says that the committee will soon be at work getting ready to solicit subscriptions for the enterprise, and he thinks that they will be even more successful than during the previous year.

"The committee raised about \$4,500 last year for popular concerts among the business men," says M. Meyers, "and \$1,900 additional was subscribed by the park board. We gave three concerts a week, weather permitting. In the various parts of the city—one being given each Sunday afternoon in the City park and the other two were equally divided among the other parks, Plaza blocks, Park blocks, Holiday park and Hawthorne park."

"The concerts were given by Brown's band composed of 35 men, and the number of them were very well attended. The committee, out of the \$5,500 allowed for concert purposes last season, built a permanent band stand in the city park and small stands at the other parks. This took some money, so if we get as much money this season as we did during the last one we will have more money to spend on the music and I am in favor of giving more concerts. Out of last year's fund we still have about \$500 left and the park board has voted the usual \$1,000 which will be given annually."

"Mr. Brown handled the concerts so successfully last season that I am in favor of keeping him during the coming season. I also think that the other members of the board are of the same opinion. Last season we gave about 25 concerts, but this season we expect to increase that number."

The park board is composed of Messrs. Meyers, Hawkins, Elliot and Lewis.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR RISTONI

(Journal Special Service.) Rome, Jan. 30.—Yesterday was the 82d birthday of Adelaide Ristoni, the famous Italian tragic actress. During the day she received a flood of congratulations, personally, by telegraph and by mail, from all parts of the world. Several felicitous messages were received from the United States, in which country she has many friends and admirers

ITALIAN SHIP BEGINS LOADING

WILL TAKE LUMBER TO WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA—BRITISH SHIP CROMATYSHIRE READY TO LEAVE UP FOR PORTLAND WITH NEWCASTLE COAL.

The Italian ship Cressington moved yesterday from the Mersey dock to the Portland mill, where she will receive a cargo of lumber for the west coast of South America. There is not a very large supply of lumber on hand, and the captain says it will be fully two months before his vessel is loaded.

The Cressington is a big carrier, and will take out considerably more than a million feet. She arrived in the harbor just a month ago today from Newcastle, N. S. W., with a cargo of coal.

Another vessel with Newcastle coal is expected to leave up from Astoria today. She is the British ship Cromatyrshire, which reached the mouth of the river a day too late to save paying a duty of 57 cents a ton, on her cargo. About 1,000 tons of the cargo was discharged at Astoria, the work being completed Thursday. The balance is to be brought up to Portland. It is consigned to the Holmes Coal & Ice company. The cromatyrshire is under charter to Balfour, Guthrie & Co. to load grain for Europe.

The barkentine T. P. Emigh cleared for Honolulu Thursday with 3,179,496 feet of lumber, valued at \$12,032. She has dropped down below the bridge, where she will receive from barges 40,000 feet more of lumber. Shortly after leaving the Portland mill in tow of the Harvest Queen and the Ocklamama, she went aground. After considerable time was spent at maneuvering she was finally gotten out into deep water, and passed through the draws of the bridges without any further trouble. The vessel was drawing 21 feet. When fully loaded she will be weighted down an additional six inches.

The schooner Forester has also cleared with 852,925 feet of lumber, valued at \$9,247. The cargo goes to Taku, China, and was loaded at the Inman-Poulsen mill.

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Our special treatment for irregularities, weaknesses and diseases of women is the most potent in existence. We use the most potent in existence.

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THE DIGNITY OF OUR PROFESSION DOES not permit us to speak too freely of our accomplishments, yet it is the duty of a recognized and legitimate physician to say sufficient that the public may distinguish him from the impostor.

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