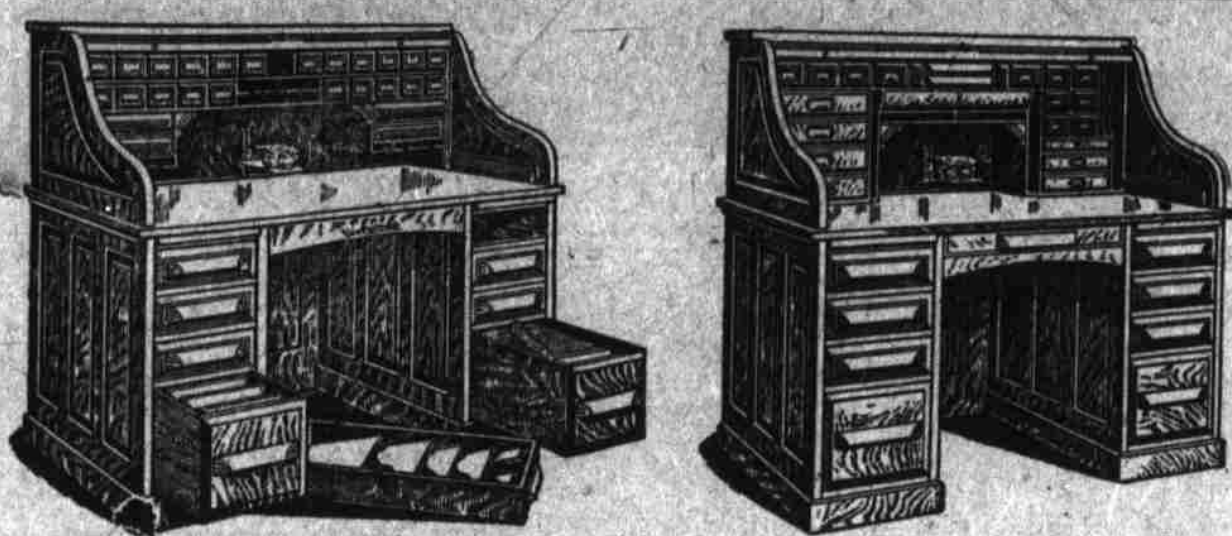


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THE COMPLETE HOME OUTFITTERS



New Books And Their Publishers

"THE IRON WAY."—By Sarah Pratt Carr. Stories of the building of the first transcontinental railroad have not been uncommon within the past 30 or 40 years, but among them all it is doubtful if any have come with such an assurance of authentic history as this. To be sure the present story is a romance and will rightfully take its place among the fiction pertaining to this event in the life of the nation, but woven into it is much of the intimate history of the times and people that contributed to it.

The father of the author of this book was one who went to California soon after the discovery of gold and was among the first to be connected with the building of the Central Pacific, and in which he took a prominent and forceful part. The author was a babe in arms at the time her parents went westward. Her father's position made it imperative to move from place to place and he was one who believed in keeping his family with him, so Mrs. Carr may be said literally to have grown up along the line of the Central Pacific. Her father's home was always a hospitable one, and from the prominent men who were frequently her father's guests, as well as from the building of the road, as well as many of the incidents she has incorporated into the story.

The tale itself is thrilling, full of adventure and sweet with a wholesome love affair, but in its detail not particularly original and no more wonderful than thousands of romances which look place in real life during the years of the great westward movement, in pioneer days. But the delightful, as well as instructive, feature of the book is its character sketches. Leland, Stanford, Collins P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins and Charles Crocker—that great and immortal four, she has introduced in natural and life-like coloring; she makes no heroes of them nor does she follow the fashion of the day by reducing their gigantic achievements to a matter of common-place personal in-

terest and ordinary railroad building. The perfectly natural and personal way in which she shows how they directed and controlled this stupendous undertaking will be a feature of the book that will give it enduring qualities and makes it rise far above the ordinary western story.

In her other characters Mrs. Carr has taken well known types and brought them out in clear and radiant coloring. Sally B. is the boarding-house mistress that every westerner of early days recognizes, and remembers with love as well as with amusement; then Uncle Billy, the half-breed, the Chinese, and that vast array of nationalities that peopled the government highway, are all in the book and readily recognized.

Aside from its compelling interest it is a book that will delight readers who are old enough to remember the events it chronicles, as it will put them in a reminiscent mood—a thing always desired by those who have crossed the meridian. For the youthful reader it will shed a little light upon the obstacles the early builders of this road had to endure and overcome, before it was possible for them to cross the continent in luxury and almost regal comfort. As a whole it cannot fail to awaken admiration and some delayed sympathy for the sturdy American blood, the hardy courage and indomitable will of the men who pushed the enterprise to a finish, and opened a continent to settlement, to commerce and to wealth. The book has several good illustrations by John W. Norton. A. C. McClurg & Co. Price \$1.50.

"Prairie Flowers."—By Margaret Belle Houston. Price \$1.25. "Seamstress and Poet."—By Felicia Ross Johnson. Price \$1.25. "The Jewels of King Art."—By James Connolly. Price \$1.25. "Ballads and Lyrics."—By G. Eldred. Price \$1.50.

Another group of poems from the press of Richard G. Badger would indicate that the poetic spirit of America is not dead as so many pessimists would have us believe. And the high class and literary merit of each one of these five volumes testifies to the fact that a great deal of excellent talent is yet to be recognized and appreciated.

"Prairie Flowers" is a collection of about 60 short poems and the name is simply a poetic fancy to bind them together as it were. The first poem, "Texas," is one of the best of the col-

lection, it being a brief resume of the past history of the state with a prophetic outlook for a more happy future. It is an exceedingly well written and forceful production and presages well for the poems that follow, many of which are of the same character and of equal merit. There are some very good bits of child and dialect verse, making the whole a very desirable collection.

"Seamstress and Poet" takes its name from the first poem of the book. It is almost a lament and is not in happy vein, though well written and containing an element of earnest thought. Most of the poems that follow have the same undertone of sadness and while some are fresh and original, many are of hackneyed subject and lacking in poetic fancy; as for instance, "The Trail of the Magdalen" and "In the Alms House." On the other hand there are several to be specially mentioned for their brightness and cleverness, such as "In Tuxedo Poet" and "Negro Moon-tain," which are written in memory of two notable spots in the Allegheny mountains.

"The Jewels of King Art" gets its name from the legendary little poem which opens the volume. It is smooth and rhythmical though not as pleasing as many of the less pretentious ones that follow. It might be styled a book of up-to-date poems as many of them find their theme in recent or current events. Several of them are songs to some of California's beauty, such as "On Coronado Beach." The heroes of the Boer war also have a good share of attention. One of the notable poems is a little tribute to Senator Hoar, which closes as follows:

"For these and more than any speech or song May utter Hoar, thou in the senate stood And fingered mankind the truths sublime that must In God's own time uproot all crime and wrong—

The law of love and human brotherhood The glory of a nation to be just."

"Poems," by Mr. Brant, haven't any special significance, but is a collection of well written and pleasant little poems. They are full of life and animation with an inspiring outlook on life, and after all these are the poems that are worth reading.

The last page, under the title of "Plotsam," is a half dozen or more verses, trite, pointed and full of bol-

down wisdom. The closing is a fair example of the ones that precede it: "Ever and anon there rises some Poor devil of a fellow, some Jean Valjean, Who for another crucifies himself And puts the world to shame."

"Ballads and Lyrics" is a delightful collection of short poems on a variety of subjects and written in various moods—happy, grave and gay. Some are of a descriptive nature and a few border on the patriotic, with here and there a bit of quiet humor. "Nostalgia" is in this latter class. It was written in Paris in 1900, and the opening lines tell the story of the homesick American:

"Confound that little passing band that is playing in the street, And that keeps a-jingling in my ear the tune that home is sweet! Don't I know how sweet my home land is? Don't I wish both night and day That my dear old fatherland wasn't quite so far away?"

"Abe Martin," by Kin Hubbard, with illustrations by the author. The introductory note informs the reader that "persons who have tried all known patent medicines will do well to try these Abe Martin dandelion and sassafras cocktails before turning their faces to the wall. Abe is now an established institution, and no super-tablet is complete without him. The clips are softer under the weary hoof and the plow handles easier to manage after a moment's communion with Abe. He is Plato on a cracker barrel; or radiant Socrates after Xantippe's departure to visit her own folks in Tecumseh township."

Much of the material of the book has been previously published in the Indianapolis News, to which acknowledgment is made. The introduction is by Meredith Nicholson, who says it is with a clear conscience he can give his endorsement to this "symphony in gingham," which refers to the binding of the book, which is of a brilliant red and white checked gingham. A dedication poem by James Whitcomb Riley pays a tribute to Mr. Hubbard's peculiar kind of wit and humor, made manifest through both pen and pencil, and to the man as well.

The entire book has a decided Indiana atmosphere which breathes that liter-

ary spirit which has grown up and is centering about Indianapolis.

The book is not a continuous story, but is the wisdom of Abe Martin shot forth in short, homely comparisons or keen observations of common facts which most people pass over without noticing their applicability, and at the same time he teaches a lesson he provokes a laugh. Bobbs Merrill & Co. Price \$1.00.

Illustrations in May McClure's—"The cover of the May McClure's is a full color reproduction of a Blonden Campbell painting, and the frontispiece a color illustration by F. E. Schoonover to accompany E. P. Connolly's "The Fight of the Copper King." This article is also well illustrated by several fine photographs and views.

"The Entrance of Ezekiel," by Lucy Pratt is illustrated by numerous pen and ink drawings by Frederic Dorr Steele. Reproductions of eight fine portraits of generals of the civil war illustrate "The Reminiscences of a Long Life," E. L. Blumenschein contributes several strong illustrations for "A Fight in One Round," Gertrude Farrington made four beautiful drawings that have striking qualities for "The Gentle Robber," "Mary Baker Eddy" is pictured with portraits of several of Mrs. Eddy's early disciples and a full page picture of her third husband, Asa Gilbert Eddy.

"Through the Eye of the Needle"—By William Dean Howells. This is the most notable novel to appear this month, and was only given to the public this week.

Done in the great master's most delightful style, this novel tells the rhinoceros story of how a certain kind of what is called socialism really works. A traveler from Altruria falls in love with and marries a charming American woman; takes her to Altruria, where she has an interesting time learning how to live in a country which has no money and where one can get things only by working three hours a day—a country where you can't tell a cook from a lord, or a farmer from a poet. It is a delightful story of love among peculiar conditions.

The significance of the title lies in the fact that the heroine finds herself confronted by a dilemma of relinquishing her great fortune, which would be of no use in Altruria, or relinquishing happiness as represented by the man she loves and the ideal land to which

he has taken her. Harper & Brothers. Price \$1.50.

"The Truce in the East and Its Aftermath"—By Putnam Weale. In his preface, Mr. Weale says: "The time has now come when a further estimate of the actual conditions obtaining in the Far East seem desirable. In a former volume, 'The Reshaping of the Far East,' an effort was made to present in a readable form a detailed account of things as they then existed in further Asia, and also to show what might be expected to occur in the immediate future. . . . Many questions are dealt with faithfully and in a manner which may occasion pain to those who have come to the conclusion that the Far Eastern problem is at last as good as settled. That such is not the case, however, is already patent to observers on the spot."

It is from this thesis Mr. Weale develops what is probably the most acute and significant analysis that has been made of the Far Eastern situation since the Russo-Japanese war.

The Macmillans are Mr. Weale's publishers.

"Beatrice of Clare"—By John Reed Scott. In Mr. Scott's new novel Richard the Third is one of the leading characters and is portrayed in a very different aspect from the general conception—neither a hunchback nor deformed, neither ugly or a devil in human form; but a man no worse and some better than the majority of princes and kings of his time and age—of boundless ambition, unswerving determination and supreme ability. It has been many years since Mr. Scott was first persuaded that Richard the Third was a really different character, and a victim of Tudor lies, and now that a prominent New York publisher promises an important and historical work on this same Richard, which will endeavor to show by documentary evidence that the popular belief is the bad character of Richard the Third is a mistaken one, it must be said in justice to Mr. Scott that his manuscript was in the hands of his publishers some months before this historical work was announced. J. B. Lippincott company. Price \$1.50.

When C. F. King, Jr., the youthful author of "A Boy's Vacation Abroad," visited Boston for his Easter holiday from St. John's school at Manhattan, N. Y., he enjoyed an experience never before

granted, it is safe to say, to so young a writer.

During his stay he called one morning at the offices of his publishers, the C. M. Clark publishing company, and was surprised and delighted when he was handed a check for \$750, being his royalty on the first 5,000 copies sold of his book of travel. When it is remembered that the book was not published until last Christmas week and that the checks were merely the first royalty payment, his pleasure and satisfaction will be appreciated.

Billard-Balls Made From Milk.

Billard-balls, boxes for handkerchiefs, ink-wells, combs, etc., are now made from skimmed milk. Milk, or "galalith," as it is called, is a combination of skimmed milk and formaline, and is made by a simple process.

The equipment of the manufactory consists of a huge tank into which the milk is pumped; and connected with this tank by means of an inclined trough is another tank with a wide, square opening. Over this opening are placed, one about two inches above another, three wire sieves, varying in fineness, the lowest one being of very close mesh.

From a huge vat into which certain chemicals have been poured the milk is pumped through short pipes into the first tank mentioned, where it is thrashed about by a glass paddle for 15 minutes. The bung-hole of the tank is then opened, and what was once milk is forced out by air-pressure in the form of a yellowish-brown powder, which is called chemically-treated "casein," and it is sent down the inclined trough through the three sieves to the second tank, where it is mixed with the formaline and poured out on a marble slab to dry. The formaline solidifies the powder casein, and forms it into a horn-like substance which has been given the name of "galalith."

Sunburst.

What a fleet miracle of change A sudden sunburst sometimes brings! See yonder Rutter of prismatic wings, And now behold Where the rainbows dwell! Their freshly kindled glances of gold After the brooding silence long, Harmonious range on range, Upcounting jubilation strong, And after the unstriding sadness Over all earth a wave of gladness.