

THE BOOKS AND THEIR PUBLISHERS

"CONCERNING Lafadio Hearn," by Dr. George M. Gould. Few stars have ever passed through literary firmament that left such a dazzling trail of uncertainty as Lafadio Hearn. As uncertain as his parentage and nationality, is the place he will occupy in the world of letters when the ages have sifted the wheat from the romance of time has rounded the angles and glossed over the deficiencies of his character.

Miss Winslow's engaging manner of setting the beauties of nature before her readers, that it can be said she has written a more charming book without having to hold it together with a strong or complicated plot. The book is beautifully illustrated from photographs by Mary C. Huntsman. L. C. Page & Co. Price, \$1.50.

"The Country Christmas," by F. M. Fox. This is one of the Cozy Corner series, and a most entertaining and valuable number. It is a story written for young people but one of the kind from which older people could draw several morals.

The Mulvaney family had moved from the city to the country and all were perfectly happy in their new home excepting in their personal relations with him than almost any others, was Dr. Gould, and yet Dr. Gould has been besought with every persuasive power, to express this book concerning his friend. Why, it would be difficult to say, unless it is in the desire of some, for untold purposes, to surround his name with a halo entirely undeserved.

In his preface Dr. Gould speaks plainly of this question, so plainly that to read no further than the preface one would be led to believe that Dr. Gould was indulging in bitter personal denunciation, but in the book proper he takes up these statements, analyzing them, turning them over and so carefully scrutinizing them, that the reader is convinced it is the real truth, and the real worth of the man, he wants to present.

In summing up the brief estimate the author gives of Hearn in his preface, he says: "Character, lastly, is the quality or reaction of personal and social circumstances. To have character is to control circumstances; Hearn was always their slave. Except in one particular, the pursuit of literary excellence, Hearn had no character whatever. His was the most unrelenting, most echo-like mind I have ever known. He was a perfect chameleon; he took for the time the color of his surroundings. He was always the mirror of the friends of the instant, or of no friend more than of the dream of that instant. The next minute he was another being, acted upon by new circumstances, reflecting the new friend, or reimagining the old and new-found dream. They who blame him too sharply for his disloyalty and ingratitude do not understand him psychologically. There was nothing behind the physical and mental machine that he had or displayed. Here we see that, even in giving him almost a contemptible character or quality, he could cause a man to assume responsibility, and yet, in another place, he excuses nothing on the grounds of heredity, for he says in his canon that he cannot be treated as more strongly protests against him being a 'product of his environment.'"

As for his writing he says: "His merit, almost his sole merit, and his unique skill lay in the strange faculty of coloring the echo with the hues of hints of heavenly rainbows and unearthly sunsets, all gleaming with a ghostly light that never was on sea or shore. So that, fused as he was with his work, he himself became that impossible thing, a chromatic voice, a multi-colored echo. And yet later in the book the author says: 'Under the conditioning factor of his taste, it is true that his choice of books was unique and fatal, and that to his late, his literary sense was perfect, when he set it in action, and this is his unique merit. There has never been a mind more infallibly sure to find the best in all literature, the best of the kind he sought, and probably his translations of the stories from the French are as perfect as can be.' Taking the book as a whole, Dr. Gould has presented in the character of Hearn, as shown to him through personal contact and lengthy correspondence, a most wonderful psychological study. It is much more of a study than a severe criticism of the man as Hearn's over-zealous admirers chose to consider it, and certainly this is much more to be desired and will be of vastly more use to the world than to gazetteering his name after with the assertions which ultimately must fall away and leave him stripped of everything."

Dr. Gould claims for this work the title of biography, for, indeed, he does not believe any biography of Hearn could be written without the use of his works he thinks differently, and in the book carefully considers the character and merit of his work and thinks it should be properly preserved.

In reading the book one can readily see why Dr. Gould brought such a storm about his head, even those who regret its publication must admit the courage and frankness of the man in writing what is so popular clamor for its suppression.

The last 70 pages of the book are occupied with a biography compiled by Laura Steadman, granddaughter of Edmund C. Steadman, George W. Jacobs company. Price \$1.50.

"Peggy at Solstar Farm," by Helen M. Winslow-Jane Fleming, spinster, with her niece, Peggy, decides to forsake the haunts of civilized man and parts of trade, and his way to the country, for the peace and contentment which he has had in his life.

Within the falls of a fashionable home. After a discouraging search the following advertisement was answered: "For Sale—Historic old estate, containing a mansion of 13 rooms with 25 acres of land, fine orchard, grand old trees. Been in one family for 150 years. Just the thing for a gentleman's place." After seeing it, they concluded it would be the place for the old man and his wife. It was taken and after a short stay every requirement, never failing to respond to every demand made upon it, inside or out.

It is a simple story of how true and joyous life may be, if one can read the book for the nature of it. It is written without a plot, simply a narrative of days and seasons of country home life, with the story of a girl and a boy, and their friends and family, and all woven in as part and parcel of things that come to those who have their eyes open to see civilized life.

Miss Winslow's descriptive powers are fine and accurate and when she takes "Landscape" and drives through the fields and woods one knows the shades of the deep green trees, the hues of the varied-colored flowers, and can almost see the water, and hear the singing of the birds as she is doing. In this description of country life, the author manages to impart to her readers a good many bits of valuable information, and no one would guess Miss Winslow as an authority on chickens, after reading "Peggy at Solstar Farm." One can hardly divine whether she has turned philosopher or in directing a little more nature's sacred toward women when she falls to see why women object to being called "Miss Winslow" and that is the reason "Really they're the wonderful creature these hens. They remind me of types of women whom I know. There is the white bird, who is not fluffy, her feathers and bristles are exactly like that little Mrs. Gray who is so sure in the city. There is the hen who acts just like a certain D. A. R. who is always bustling about on some important errand that amounts to nothing. Then there is the hen that hatches her brood in the woodshed, isn't she a perfect reproduction of the anxious mother who is herself in a frazzled, taking care of her large and increasing family? One decides, however, that Miss Winslow has made a humorous chord when she concludes her description of mother hen, "Chicken Little" who had been an invalid and had been reared in the house and then wanted the same privileges extended to her chicks, and left them when she found they were in the privileged class, by saying: "She saw no reason why she could not bring them into the house where they could be given the same advantages of civilization as she had had herself. And she, too, abandoned them at a tender age, furnishing another striking proof that education unites her sex for motherhood."

Two mild romances play themselves out through the pages of the book: one in the natural course of things and the other through a course quite natural. Neither, however, has enough life in it to hold the attention of the reader, and it only bespeaks the higher praise for

"The Trolley Car and the Lady," by William J. Lampton. A clever little tale of the chase of a fair one whom the hero had never seen, but who he had seen in Europe the day the young woman started with some friends on a holiday trip to Manhattan. He saw her and immediately went in pursuit of the party, arriving at each place just after they had left. He stayed for a while, was sufficiently long to allow him to gather for the benefit of the reader some of the atmosphere of the city, and with his history, art, and customs, which is the only matter of very great worth in the book, and his final catching up with her do not fail to interest the reader. Richard G. Badger Co.

Before leaving Washington for Oyster Bay, President Roosevelt became interested in the comprehensive history, "The Stars and Stripes and Other American Flags," written by Peleg D. Harrison of New Brighton, N. Y.

At the president's suggestion the war department has ordered the work placed in the hands of the United States service school, the coast artillery school and the United States engineering school. The navy department authorized its inclusion in all ship libraries. In his report on the subject of the procurement of the most complete history of the American flags of any work that has been published, with a minimum of text and extraneous matter common in works of this kind, it is recommended that a copy be included in all ship libraries, and that the work be printed in a pocket size, and not as complete as the one now in question.

Brown & Co., the publishers, have just issued a third revised edition of Mr. Harrison's book.

Edward C. Parker of the University of Minnesota, agricultural experiment station, writes that the "Future Wheat Supply of the United States" started in June of this year on an agricultural mission for the Chinese government, who requested the state department of the United States to furnish with two American experts in agricultural experiment work. The work contemplated is that of organizing an expedition to the province of Manchuria.

The Pup's Picnic. From the Worcester Telegram. A Boston building, owned by George H. Clapp, was so determined to capture a woodchuck which he had chased into its den that he followed after and started in the hole all Thursday night.

When the dog had got his jaws about the enemy he found that he could not get on owing to the small size of the animal's hole. Rather than lose his prey the dog retained his hold on the woodchuck over night, and was helped out by his master in the morning. The dog was nearly exhausted and revived after feeding and drinking in a curious manner.

He consumed about two quarts of ungrated wheat, and after this the dog seemed still somewhat dazed, and collapsed by falling into a bucket of lemons.

The BAKER THEATRE

Geo. L. Baker, Gen. Mgr. Phones Main 2 and A-5360

OPENING WEEK OF SEASON 1908-9 Starting Matinee Today, Sunday, August 30, 1908

Mr. C. H. Kerr Presents the New York Favorite Comedienne and Prima Donna

DAINTY GRACE CAMERON

In His Latest Musical Comedy Success

"LITTLE DOLLIE DIMPLES"

SUPPORTED BY THE GREAT COMEDIAN HARRY BEWLEY

And a cast of 50, including Daisy King, soprano; Florence Langdon Tempest, comedy; Eva Spear, the human fute; the original Gardowite sisters, Phoebe and Jessie, in the Electric Dancing Novelty, introducing the "Tale of the Flowers"; Rose Olat Faber, celebrated violinist; the Shuberts, string trio; Louis London, baritone; Frank Russell, musical specialty; William Russell, bass soloist; Emma King, Russian dancer.

10 Big Advanced Vaudeville Acts

Hear the Great Song Hits—20 Numbers—"No One Dreams About Me," "Lollia," "My Absent Minded," "Dainty Jones," "Naughty Kid Song," "The Girl That'd Call Mine," "Double Sextette," "Good-Bye Old Home," "At Night in My Brilliant Slone," "I Am So Shy," "Friends of Long Ago," "When Little Dollie Dimples Made a Hit."

Entire Production Carried by Company—The Singing, Ringing, Jingling Event of the Season.

MATINEES SUNDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY. PRICES—Evening 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1. Matinees 25c, 50c. Seats now on sale.

NEXT WEEK - - - RICHARD JOSE

DAILY MATINEE (EXCEPT SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS), 15c, 25c, 50c.

Exploitation

Phones Main 6. A 1020

Presenting at all times the best of European and American vaudeville attractions.

ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE

Commencing Monday Matinee, August 31

FOLLOWING ALL STAR FEATURE ACTS

CRESSY & DAYNE Presenting Mr. Cressy's One-Act Play of New England Life, "A VILLAGE LAWYER." First Appearance Here of

KATIE BARRY The Famous English Character Comedienne of "The Chinese Honeymoon," "Fantana," Etc.

TOM DAVIES' TRIO In Their Remarkable Cycling Novelty, "MOTORING IN MID-AIR."

A. O. DUNCAN America's Representative Ventriquist.

BASQUE GRAND OPERA QUARTETTE Famous French Vocalists. BARRY & HUGHES In Their Dramatic Novelty, "A STORY OF THE STREET."

MELVILLE & HIGGINS Eccentric Singing and Chattering Comedians, in "JUST A LITTLE FUN."

ORPHEUM MOTION PICTURES Latest in Motion Photography. PERFORMANCES EVERY EVENING, 8:15; MATINEE DAILY, 2:15. Evening Prices 15c, 25c, 50c, 75c. | Evening Prices 15c, 25c, 50c, 75c.

DAILY MATINEE (EXCEPT SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS), 15c, 25c, 50c.

A New Picture of President Roosevelt

In the American magazine for September are printed extracts from a highly interesting letter written by a man who recently visited President Roosevelt. The letter illustrates a new phase of the president's nature and gives a fresh and engaging picture of his personality. Following are the extracts:

"We didn't get to a discussion of his plans until very late, nearly midnight. For the first time in my experience of meeting him (President Roosevelt) he talked directly to me, several times. 'Well, I'm through now, I've done my work.' His chief idea seemed to be that he wanted to get away—out of the country."

"I wanted to get away so that when the new administration comes in my opinion will not be asked, my advice sought. I talk, people will say that I am interfering where I have no right to interfere. If I refuse to talk, they will say that my silence is disapproval. The best thing I can do is to go entirely away for a year or more out of reach of everything here; and that is what I am going to do."

"He said it was the last thing he wanted to do; to repeat grants adventures. He had had enough of public affairs; he wanted to be alone and quiet."

"To Get Acquainted With Kermit. He said he would like to meet William of Germany. If he could do it man to man, but he could not think of attempting the ceremonies incidental to a formal meeting. The thing that attracted him most in Kermit was the invitations of the king of Italy and the emperor of Austria to go hunting with them. He said he would like to see how they did it in the old countries of Europe, but he felt that he could not do this without attracting too much attention. He had considered, therefore, to go to the wilds of Africa, a thing he had really long wanted to do, and to hunt big game."

"He would sail as soon after March 4."

Man's Greatest Pleasures. From Bohemian Magazine. What are man's greatest pleasures? The author thinks that the greatest have been publicly trying to answer this all-important question, and as usual have only reached a more intellectual controversy, which has been working quietly and have obtained some startling results. Here is the list complete.

Hearing ourselves talk. Articulating. Listening to ourselves. Exclaiming. Conspiring. Speaking. And last, but not least, talking.

Moving Picture Theatres. Special Notice to Managers. We rent the latest feature films, including song slides and records, cheaper than any house in the United States. Newman Motion Picture Exchange 239 Burnside St. Write for Catalogue

LYRIC THEATRE

Starting Sunday Matinee, Aug. 30

THE ERVIN-BLUNKALL CO. PRESENT M. M. D. ENNERY'S MASTERPIECE

A Celebrated Case

IN THE FIRST ACT MISS WANDA HOWARD WILL WEAR THE DIRECTOIRE GOWN.

SUNDAY MATINEE SEPTEMBER 6

LENA RIVERS

Map showing streets: WASHINGTON ST, STARBUCK ST, FIFTH ST, SIXTH ST, OAK ST, COMMERCIAL CLUB, THE WILEY B. ALLEN CO., WELLS FARGO BUILDING.

Do You Want to Earn 50c a Step?

That is what you earn by walking 150 steps off Washington street and buying your piano or player-piano here. Having no rent to pay for a retail store, we can save you easily \$75 on a piano. Over 100 pianos of reliable and standard make to select from. Agency for the wonderful

ANGELUS PLAYER-PIANOS

The Wiley B. Allen Co.

MASON & HAMLIN CO'S PIANOS

304 Oak Street, Between Fifth and Sixth, Opp. Commercial Club

DAILY MATINEE (EXCEPT SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS), 15c, 25c, 50c.

THE GRAND VAUDEVILLE DE LUXE

WEEK OF MONDAY MATINEE August 31, 1908

Eminently Satisfactory—Vaudeville

HEADED BY EDWIN KEOUGH

And Company WITH HELEN NELSON

In the Season's Scenic Sensation "A Bit of 'Blarney'"

SPECIAL ADDED FEATURE "An Instantaneous Hit."

DORSCH & RUSSELL "The Musical Railroaders"

This Act is New, Original and Unimitable, and is Acknowledged by Every Audience to Be a Success in a Class by Itself.

DON and THOMPSON Singing, Dancing and Talking Act

SISTERS O'MEERS The Most Graceful and Daring Wire Artists in the World

BROTHERHOOD BARLOWE AND CO. A Trio of English Comedians in Their Farcical Farce, "The Lightning Dentist"

DOROTHY DAYNE Singing Comedienne, with the Directoire Gown

FRED BAUER Portland's Favorite, Rendering The Lass From the County May-O"

GRANDSCOPE Displaying Latest French Impersonations.

PANTAGES THEATRE

BILL CHANGES TOMORROW

ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE—STARS OF ALL NATIONS

Week ending today: Bottomley Troupe, sensational flying gymnasts; Miss Bessie Greenwood, phenomenal voiced lady; the Wanddoodle Quartet, singers, dancers and comedians; Poik and Polk, novelty acrobats; and four other big acts.

Week Beginning Monday's Matinee

UNTHAN—The Armless Wonder

Direct from Hammerstein's New York Theatre.

The Aerial Wilsons The clown, the lady and the ladder.

THE BELL TRIO Singers.

TED LENORE Comedian and Monologist

MINNIE ST. CLAIR The Girl From Missouri.

ELLIOTT BEAMER Pictured Ballad

THE BIOGRAPH New Motion Pictures.

THREE PERFORMANCES DAILY

Curtain goes up at 2:30, 7:30 and 9:00 p. m. Popular prices Lower floor and dress circle, 25 cents; balcony, 15 cents; box seats, 50 cents. Any seat weekday matinee FIFTEEN CENTS.

Thirty Modern Amusements

THE OAKS

Free Admission Monday for Ladies and Children

Mat. Today 2:30 o'clock. Tonight, 8:15

"The Teddy Girl"

A Western Musical Play, with all the whistleable Song Hits by the Curtis Company of 25 Clever People.

WRESTLING MATCH

Monday Evening at the Stadium.

AWARD OF THE PONY

Next Saturday Afternoon, September 5, 3 P. M., rain or shine.

FIDDLERS' CONTEST

September 13

@athouse, Toboggan, Slides, Plunges, Sumbath Float. The Ticker, Scenic Mill, Figure Eight, Chutea, Nickelodeon. Cars start First and Alder, 10 o'clock.