

THE BOOK PAGE NEWS OF NEW BOOKS, WRITERS AND MAGAZINES.

Ah, well! for us all some sweet hope lies, deeply buried from human eyes.—Whittier.

In the heat and wild dis-temperature of passion, the noblest souls forget themselves.—Alger.

WILLIAM D. HOWELLS WRITES INTERESTING TALE OF HIS OWN LIFE

Dean of American Novelists Tells of Early Events of Active Career.



William Dean Howells.

In "Years of My Youth" (Harper & Brothers, New York), William Dean Howells, dean of American novelists, reviews in autobiographical style of more than usual interest the active years of his young manhood.

Mr. Howells' vision of his youth through a vista of memories. Born in 1837 at Martin's Ferry, on the shores of the Ohio river, his youth spanned the critical period antedating the Civil War.

These antebellum years were at times often tense and exciting in the slow gathering of the storm, and echoes of many memorable and now historic events find their place in Mr. Howells' pages.

His Log Cabin Days.—There follows an interlude—a abandonment of town life and newspaper cares for log cabin days on the Little Miami river, where Mr. Howells' father undertook the management of a sawmill and grist mill property.

Life untrammelled snacks strongly here of adventure, and hardships of pioneer life assume too readily the guise of romance not to delight the heart of youth.

The reader follows the author to Columbus, the state capital, where as a compositor for the Ohio State Journal, the youth began the long association with a newspaper whose office he now today lies in these early associations with our most distinguished man of letters.

Already in the narrative one has been aware of an engrossing taste for literature developing in the youth, first manifest in attempts at verse, and later turning to prose.

Civil War Period.—As the years of boyhood are rounded out and manhood begins we are

brought to the verge of the Civil war, and notable names appear in the pages of Mr. Howells' record.

There is a brief glimpse of Lincoln, however, as Mr. Howells' himself briefly glimpsed him—a tall, shadowy figure, in the flare of torch lights navigating the multitudes during the political campaign.

The narrative closes with Mr. Howells' consular appointment to Italy and his leaving of America for a season. It is needless to comment upon the author's gracious and finished art. "Years of My Youth" is an important contribution to biographical literature.

Hist! A Mystery Story for Youth

The Sapphire Signet.—By Augusta Hueli Sear. The Century Company, New York. \$1.25 net.

This is a mystery story for boys and girls, the story of five up-to-date youngsters, living in what they had supposed a dull, uninteresting home in the heart of the famous Greenwich village section of New York City.

How the nations of Europe financed the railroads of the United States, the men who managed the details of the investments, and the banking houses that secured the loans are strikingly described in an interesting article in the January number of the World's Work Magazine by Albert W. Atwood.

In the Next Five Years of the "Nation," Charles F. Fisher, in an illustrated article discusses the problems that confront us in our efforts to obtain a larger navy and send out our leading fastests in obtaining skilled men as well as ships.

George Marvin, in "The Quick and the Dead on the Border," shows the reverse side of the familiar picture of our Mexican relations—the border question seen from a Mexican point of view.

Edwin Lefevre, author of "Wall Street Stories," "Samson Rock of Wall Street," and other financial romances, has just been elected a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

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Let the Women Do the Work—Or Play If They'd Rather



Joshua Slocum Now Officially Dead and Widow Gets Royalty

Joshua Slocum is officially dead. The Century Company announces that after eight years, during which the author of "Sailing Alone Around the World" has not been heard from, it has paid over the accumulated royalties on the book to his widow.

On September, 1908, that the Century Company sent its last royalty check to Mr. Slocum. The check came back undelivered, and upon investigation it was found that Slocum had set forth on another of his solitary voyages.

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Can Hear Shells Coming, He Says

"A shell can be heard coming," says John Gallipoli, in "Trenching at Gallipoli." "Exports claim to identify the caliber of a gun by the sound the shell makes. Few live long enough to become such experts. In Gallipoli the average length of life was three weeks.

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Worked 25 Years On One Novel, and Won Nobel Prize

Romain Rolland, Frenchman, who won the long-delayed Nobel prize for literature, spent more than 25 years on his masterpiece, "Jean-Christophe."

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Little Story of a Dog and a Girl

The Key to Betsy's Heart.—By Sarah Nobel. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.25 net.

It is with Betsy and her dog Van that this book is mostly concerned.

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What Is Dime Novel Influence? Fairly Safe Guide, One Finds

Improbable and Startling in Plot They May Be and Are, but Writer's Analysis Shows the Tendency of Their Teaching Is Away From the Electric Chair.

By Beatrice Barry. Copyright, 1917, by Beatrice Barry. "You sent for me, and here I come," said the celebrated detective.

The speaker was Nick Carter, and the ensuing pages described in detail the devilish ingenuity of the hand of the clever and desperate criminals whom he finally baffled and brought to justice.

A dime novel? There ain't no such animal, or so I was informed by a member of the publishing firm which has put upon the market many of the famous Nick Carter stories written by Albert Tozer, whose recent death will leave a decided gap in the ranks of those writers who produce the particular type of fiction for which he was noted.

I do not mean, of course, that one cannot buy a novel for a dime. On the contrary, the same gentleman who informed me that the dime novel had perished from the earth stated that the annual output of his firm, virtually all dime novels as regards price, but these cheap editions include such standard works as those of Dickens and Thackeray, as well as the Nick Carter novels, and even a superior type of detective story, such as the works of Conan Doyle.

What Is It? The dime novel, as most people understand the term, means a highly colored and sensational type of fiction issued in pamphlet form, and treating of Indiana, cowboys, train robbers and "bad men" who roam through the country in a series of glaringly improbable and startling adventures. The plot of one which I read years ago has faded from my mind, but I still remember that living moment when the bold bandit, having captured the detective who had traced them to their lair, were torturing him by way of revenge.

At this crucial moment along came the Boy Sleuth! He was only sixteen years old, but his detective ability was infinitely superior to that of older men who had spent their lives at the business. The bandits themselves, steeped in a lifetime of ingenious crime, were no match for his resourcefulness. He peered into the cave where the torturing process was in progress. Crack! Crack! went his trusty revolver, and the cords which the hapless victim was suspended were snapped. The next shot put out the lamp, and the captive, aided by the Boy Sleuth, promptly made his escape.

Extent of His Reading. Interest and conjecture regarding the influence of the dime novel as an incentive to juvenile crime have been revived in the pages of the Henry Ward Mottern, aged 17, now under sentence of death in Pennsylvania for complicity in murder, that one copy of Jesse James and one copy of Will Blood were found in his possession. He had never read, it says he killed Haines the elder and helped to rob him because he and young Haines wanted money to go west and be cowboys.

Unless the pardon board acts, he will die this month. "The direct result of reading dime novels," their enemies will promptly cry, "is to make a man steal because dime novels had developed in him a desire to do either. The dime novels, to be sure, were responsible for his desire to become a cowboy, but natural depravity, as the evidence shows, producing crooked mental processes of a very low order of intelligence, was the real cause of his otherwise perfectly legitimate, however romantic and impossible, ambition."

If the boy had really used his dime novels as a guide to conduct, the course he adopted could not fail to land him just where he went—to jail and the penitentiary. It is not clear what always happens to the dime novel criminal unless he dies fighting. If Mottern had never seen a dime novel, he would have been a member of the crooked path to the attainment of his object. Many boys have been fired with ambition to become cowboys. No normal boy would be so prompted to murder a man, but to that end, no matter how many dime novels he had read. This boy is not normal and would appear to be a fit subject for medical treatment, not for the electric chair.

But the hero, while he is always a dare-devil, taking great risks and exhibiting wonderful personal bravery

Among the books recently added to the Central public library are the following:

Biography. Aksakov, "Years of Childhood." 1916. Books in Foreign Languages. Dornau (pseudonym), "Hahn in kor-be." "Killmanns mit' strich." "The cuisine anglo-american." Putkammer, "Die heiligsten guter." Scher, "Die Geschichte der geschichte der literatur." 2 vols. in 1.

Description and Travel. Coxon, "And That Reminds Me," being incidents of a life spent at work in the Andaman Islands, Burma, Australia and India, 1915. Sawyer, "Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf." 1915. "Northern Countryside." 1915. Spens, "Winter in India." 1914. Thoreau, "Canoeing in the Wilderness." 1916.

Fiction. Beck, "Destiny." "The Windmill." Curwood, "Grazing King; a Romance of the Wild." Deland, "June." Dodge, "Bonnie May." Scher, "Bonnie Miles at Swash." Grimshaw, "My Lady of the Island." "The Tale of the South Sea." Holme, "Home Coming." Lagerlof, "Emperor of Portugallia." Marquis, "Cruise of the Jasper B." Onions, "In Another Girl's Shoes." Sawyer, "Ben Miles to Arden." Stinde, "Hausfrau Rampant." Wharton, "Xingu and Other Stories." 1916.

Alcock, "Organ." Bach, "Folk Dances." Carratt, "Transcriptions for the Pipe Organ." Clarke, "Threat Company, Newark, N. J." "Clark's O. N. T. Book of Needlework." 1916. Debus, "Album of Five Pieces for the Piano." "A-B-C of Gold." 1916. Hyatt (comp), "Book of Gardens." 1916. Keramic studio, "Little Things to Make." 1915. "Polinoes." Pouglin, "Short History of Russian Music." 1915. "Handel." 1916. Thomas, "Folk Songs and Other Songs for Children." 1916. Woodford-Pindlen, "Four Indian Love Lyrics From 'The Garden of Kama.'" by Laurence Binyon. 1916.

Albert, "How to Speak Spanish." 1916. Breton de los Herreros, "Quien es ella? comedia en cinco actos." 1916. Gil y Zarate, "Gusman de Buenos." 1916.

Clark, Collins and Treadway, "Rural School Sanitation." 1916. Herrick and Ingalls, "How to Finance the Farmer—Private Enterprise." 1916. Jones, "Selected Speeches on British Policy." 1916. Pickard, "Rural Education." 1915. Atkinson, "Original Painting and Bulletin Art." 1916. Hergel, "Every Woman Her Own Boss." 1916. Cabot, "Layman's Handbook of Medicine." 1916. Jennings, "Domestic and Fancy Call." 1916. Nell, "Something Different Dish." 1916. O'Connor, "Dog Stars, Three Luminaries in the Dog World." 1915. "Toy Making," a practical guide to the making of a number of popular toys. 1915.

Verrill, "Book of the Motor Boat." 1916. "Cooking of Fruits and Vegetables." 1916. Reference. Agg, "Construction of Roads and Pavement." 1916. "Subject Index to Periodicals." Volume 1, 1915-1916. California, "Laws, Statutes, and Penal Code of the State of California." 1915. Columbia university, department of English and comparative literature, "Shakespearean Studies." 1915.

La Grande Nimrods Meet at a Banquet. La Grande, Or., Jan. 12.—The Wing, Fin and Fleetwood club celebrated its annual banquet Thursday. The following resolutions were passed: To reestablish a hatchery at Minam upon the site now owned by the state. To provide for the propagation of China pheasants in eastern Oregon at the Oregon insane asylum, at the experiment station at Union and upon the Oregon State farms. Prizes were awarded to members for destruction of pests, magpies and crows, first to H. L. Becker of Cove, 250 magpies and 19 crows; second, 189 magpies and 22 crows; T. L. Fisher, third, 63 magpies and 106 crows; Nest Zweifel, fourth, 131 magpies and 16 crows; Ben Beusing; woman's prize, Mrs. Alter Zweifel, 42 magpies.

State Federation to Meet January 22. Salem, Or., Jan. 12.—The State Federation of Labor will hold its annual convention in Salem this year, commencing on January 22. Among the questions to be considered are free school books, state printing of school books, and the problem of unemployment.

Through the Window

Horace Homer, of Sweetpea Crossing, flivvered into town yesterday with Nero, his big yellow hound dog, lashed to the offside running board. Horace pulled in front of a "don't pass" sign, a regular fellow and coaxed his machine, by dint of clever maneuvering, into a parking space along with some automobiles, in front of a "don't pass" sign. Tying Nero with a length of rope to the front axle, Horace followed the crowd to a well known express office to make the catch, from the indications for the last time.

Nero, with dogged grace, seemed quite content to sit by the wheel at the side of the road, and, like a true philosopher, watch the world go by. But no city-bred canine ever lived that could snap at Nero and get away with it—which gives the story a new twist.

A pampered pup, probably having taken cognizance of the anchor at the far end of Nero's rope, sniffed contemptuously at the hound dog. Nero bristled. Pup sniffed again. Nero's tail stiffened and wig-wagged like an inverted pendulum.

The city dog snapped and backed away—and it did it again. He cleared just in time. Nero with one heave got well under way and sailed up Broadway after the retreating pup, the flivver bumping along behind like a tin can.

Considering a cold engine Nero made great time. He was only three leaps behind when the city dog rounded the corner. Then the flivver through force of habit started up the lamp post. The rope parted and Nero, freed of his handiwork, sped away to the race.

The policeman on the beat awakened by the clatter, shouted "fire" and reached for his gun. Then he realized the situation, and led the flivver back to its parking space.

When Nero, licking his chops, reappeared 10 minutes later, all excitement had subsided. The shades of night were falling fast when Horace, stepping lightly, considering the package he had acquired, wound up the flivver, kissed Nero on the nose, and wheeled home.

They're all good Indians on Buffalo Bill's new range.