

BY HOPPER BROTHERS.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6, 1907.

LITERARY NEWS.

Notes on the Some Latest Books and Magazines.

NOTES ON THE MAGAZINES.

The Christmas Chatterbox had an unusual array of foreign scenes and interests portrayed in its beautiful pages of illustrated matter.

The serial stories in Scribner's for 1897, are by Howells and Richard Harding Davis. The January number on the management of a great department store should be read by every progressive business man.

The great feature of the Ladies' Home Journal for the New Year's number is the Prince of Wales' visit to the United States 35 years ago. It is a long time but many who are the least bit tainted with a fondness for royalty want to read all about it once more and have re-enacted before their eyes the scenes that then excited the most staid and Democratic of our people.

One cannot realize what it means to be dead yet still to live, speak and charm thousands without reading the installments of the last story from the pen of Du Maurier in Harper's. The chapters are fresh and crisp with his peculiar style and vitality and his genius walks before one in the illustrations from his own pencil.

"A modern fairy tale—the wish for political power," is a most searching sarcasm on journalism and politics in the January Cosmopolitan, by Theron C. Crawford, to be continued in the next.

A critical review of Prof. William Milligan Sloan's new life of Napoleon will appear in the February Bookman. The author is a professor in Columbia college and is now in Europe to arrange for German and French editions of his work. It will be the most noted biography since Abbott's life of Napoleon was printed in 1854.

The Kindergarten Magazine of January is again a number of great historical importance and significance. There are able papers on Henry Barnard whose 86th birthday will be observed at Hartford and other educational centers on the 24th of this month. He was the founder of the school systems of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, was the first national commissioner of education. His greatest work is an 800-page volume on "Kindergarten and Child Culture."

"ENGLISH SOCIETY."

This is the title of a beautiful print album of about a hundred of Du Maurier's society drawings, including several of the most famous of the Trilby sketches. The latest picture of the artist-author is given as a frontpiece, and the plates are introduced by a criticism from the pen of Wm. D. Howells. He defines his literary attitude as a loveable confidence from beginning to end. This is the peculiar trait of Fielding and Thackeray and Sterne, but he ranks the author of Trilby as their superior.

war, from an infant to a gray-haired sage. He is a genius, and sometimes a degree removed. His greatest poems are a blending of inspiration and reverence for things orthodox in literature and religion.

Miss Nora Perry, who it is said, "knows girls as Hughes knows boys, and her books are as wholesome as his 'School Days at Rugby.'" has written "Three Little Daughters of the Revolution," which contains the stories of "Dorothy," "Patty" and "Betty Boston's Fourth of July." (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.)

Lovers of that greatest Frenchman of the century are not easily surprised by any new developments concerning Victor Hugo, but they hardly expect a new book from the dead philosopher. However, such a paradox has developed in the publication by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, of "The Letters of Victor Hugo," edited by Paul Maurice. The book of letters forms a delightful supplement to the writer's published works. They are written under varied circumstances, to all kinds of people, from his family circle to the most distant literary acquaintances, yet they all breathe out that generous spirit always uppermost in Hugo. The man of genius and conviction is seen between the lines on every page. Every letter has a suggestion hidden in it, somewhere, that points the reader to better things, such as Victor Hugo cannot suppress. Another volume of these letters is to follow. Price, \$3.

HOW BROWNELL WILL VOTE. Senator Brownell, of Clackamas, was in town long enough to predict that Senator Mitchell would succeed himself, and said he would vote for Mitchell, first, last and always, etc. It is not certain who Brownell will vote for until he has voted.

THE TWO OLD MEMBERS. The only two members from Marion in the last house who were re-elected were Berkeley of Woodburn and Craig of Macleay. They were heavily scratched by the extreme gold standard crowd. The various goldbug chairmen about the county stirred Barkley and Craig, by providing songs against the "Thirty" and intentionally leaving them out in presenting bouquets, as was done at Hubbard. They will find that those two gentlemen will be as influential in the next legislature as though they had not been singled out for such attentions.

Eastern Oregon Normal. The Weston normal school has made its financial report for the last two years to the governor. The appropriation for this school was \$12,000 maintenance and \$4000 for improvements. Secretary Worthington reports that the appropriation was expended and a deficiency of \$1975 credited. There is, however, cash on hand to the amount of \$229.15, leaving a deficiency of \$1754.85 to be reported to the legislature. Governor Lord has repeatedly expressed himself as opposed to deficiencies, and this will probably go to the legislature with the recommendation that it be not paid.

A Beer Guzzler. Douglas Glenn, of Pendleton, was Friday morning presented with a diamond scarfpin, valued at \$150, by the management of the Golden Rule beer hall, of that place, for having drunk 2785 glasses of beer there during the year, 246 more than any of his competitors. By the witnesses to the presentation, resolutions of admiration were passed regarding Heatman, familiarly known as "Missouri John." In recognition of his having eaten 1107 sandwiches and drunk 2136 glasses of beer during the year.

IN getting up a wedding trousseau, think how many women are tired out. Dress-makers, milliners, "shop-girls," milliners—all hard worked and weary over it, to say nothing of the young lady herself. Sitting or standing all day in the hardest kind of work; it gives you no healthy well-balanced exercise; part of the system grows sluggish; the appetite is poor, the stomach is out of order; the bowels are constipated, you have headaches and dizzy spells. It's impossible for you to take as much out-of-door exercise in the daylight as you need. The best help you can have in the circumstances is a simple laxative medicine like Doctor Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They will, as nearly as any medicine can, supply the want of free exercise which is lacking in all in-door work. They cure dyspepsia, biliousness and constipation in a pleasant, gradual, natural way. There is no gripping or weakening effect with the "Pleasant Pellets"; they act surely but gently; they promote liver action, and give tone and strength to the stomach and bowels to do their own work. When you become regular the "Pellets" can be stopped. You don't have to take them forever. The care is permanent.

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The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, by R. V. Pierce, M. D., Chief Consultant Physician to the World's Hotel and Surgical Institute, a book of 1000 large pages, over 300 illustrations, some of them in color, bound in strong paper covers with gold lettering, is now being sent to you in convenient stamps to cover cost of mailing only. Over 600,000 copies of this complete family doctor book already sold in cloth binding at regular price of \$1.50.

MESSAGE.

(Continued from first page.)

indebtedness? Shall we increase the tax levy? Or shall we in some way curtail our expenses, so that our income shall balance our expenses?

Under our system, this is by far the most important department you are called upon to look after. Under an ordinance passed some three years and a half ago, which I am pleased to note my predecessor, at the time, vetoed, but which was unfortunately, for the city, passed over his head, we are paying the Salem Consolidated Light & Power Co. the enormous sum of \$5,351.69 per annum, or about one-fourth of the whole revenue of the city. This great drain upon our city treasury should in some way, if possible, be diminished. Legal opinions differ as to the validity of this contract; therefore, it is doubtful if you can abrogate it, but there is one clause in the contract, which is one which should avail itself and profit by it. It provides that the city shall not at any time during the continuance of this contract pay a higher rate than is paid for like service in other cities in Oregon and Washington. We are paying \$100 per light each month, while Albany pays for like service \$8.66, two-thirds; Eugene, \$9; Portland \$8.00. These are the leading cities of Oregon and should, under the city's contract, be a guide as to what the city should pay for its lights.

THE WATER SUPPLY. The water supply of cities is always a great absorbing and perplexing question and Salem forms no exception to the rule. Many years ago, when the present Salem Water company was organized, the population of the city was 10,000, and the water supply was much less than half what it now is. Then native grasses and timber covered a large part of the Willamette's watershed, which caused the rain fall to drain off slowly and for that reason the water of the Willamette was clear and healthy. But by reason of largely increased population our prairie grass has been plowed under, our hills shorn of their timber and the land brought into cultivation, thus permitting the rainfall to run off more rapidly, carrying with it some of the water supply, causing alluvial deposits, decaying vegetable and animal matters, which render our water supply turbid and unwholesome for at least one-half of the year. This is an important matter to our people and we are confronted with the necessity of keeping the streets in which the Willamette river for a pure water supply for the people of Salem.

The city is paying the Salem Water company \$1,381 annually for supplying the city hydrants and cisterns. I submit to you whether this is not an exorbitant price for the water furnished, and whether or not so important a franchise, as the permitting of the Salem Water company to use our streets and alleys for their water mains, is not a just and equitable compensation for the filling of our city cisterns and hydrants. Albany only pays \$125 annually for like service.

THE STREETS. Our streets are in need of much improvement and, while I would not recommend lavish expenditure in that direction, still it seems plain to me that an economic expenditure of the taxes paid by our people should keep the streets in such a better condition that they now are. This subject needs careful study and practical consideration. Under our charter no street improvement can be made at the expense of the adjacent property, unless a majority of said property holders consent thereto. While this law protects property holders from jobs, it frequently prevents the city from making much needed improvements and, in my opinion, the law should be repealed or amended and something like the following enacted: When the city deems it necessary to make any street improvement she shall prepare plans and specifications of the improvement to be made, and allow the property holder, who are required to make the improvement, a reasonable time in which to do it, under the supervision of the street commissioner. Should they fail to make the required improvement, then the city should advertise and let the work to the lowest bidder. Thus the public would be protected and allow the city to complete needed improvements.

In this connection I desire to call your attention to the fact that former councils have compelled expensive improvements of some of the streets at the expense of the adjacent property holders, and that these holders are still being taxed for street purposes, the same as other people, and their taxes are being expended in other and remote parts of the city. In my judgment their taxes should be expended in keeping up the good improvements already made. For want of this attention those streets, which have cost the adjacent property holders so much, are now but little better than other streets.

I think it should be the general rule to expend all street tax upon the streets adjacent to the property taxed. If this system was adopted the people would then take more interest in improving their streets and it would not be long before Salem would have fairly good streets. On the contrary, while our street commissioner is allowed to spend half our taxes in filling up a mudhole here and there, and for every one he fills up making two, one on either side of his rock pile, will our streets be what they are now, a disgrace to the Capital City.

THE WILLAMETTE RIVER. The question of who shall repair and care for the great bridge, which spans the Willamette river within our corporate limits, is in controversy between the counties of Marion and Polk and the city of Salem. This great structure is in a deplorable condition. The iron work is rusting away for want of paint, and suffering great damage for want of tension. Its floor is worn in holes so that it is dangerous to pass over; yet nobody claims it. Truly it is an orphan without father or mother and should be adopted by some one. The counties of Polk and Marion refuse to pay one cent, unless Salem will agree to pay one-third of the expense, and this the preceding council refused to do, therefore, nothing has been done to protect

or improve the bridge. The counties base their demand upon the claim that Salem is the recipient of nearly all the benefit derived from the bridge, and she helped to build it, therefore, she should help to care for it. The city holds that the fact that she made a donation of \$30,000 to aid in constructing the bridge in no way binds her to continue to make donations, and that the fact that she was not known as a party to the contract for building the bridge relieves her of any moral or legal responsibility of caring for it.

Upon examination of the county records I find the following facts and records: In 1880 the counties of Polk and Marion entered into a contract with Hoffman & Bates to build a bridge over the Willamette river, at Salem, for the sum of \$90,000 which contract specifies that Polk county shall pay \$20,000, but it does not say who shall pay the only other portion which is the balance of \$70,000, it is fair to presume that she was to pay the balance of \$40,000, for this contract was by and between Polk and Marion counties on one side and the above named bridge company on the other, and no other party is known or mentioned in this contract or any subsequent proceeding or contract. If Salem was one of the contracting parties why is she not mentioned in at least some of the proceedings? And as she is not one of the contracting parties, certainly she is not bound for any subsequent expense.

Does the fact that one end of the bridge is within her corporate limits morally bind the city to pay one-third of the expense of repairs? If this be the rule, why not apply it to Jefferson? They have a long line bridge, one end of which is within her corporate limits; and Meham, the home of our county judge, also has a line bridge like situated, both of which bridges, I am informed, were damaged by the recent flood, and the county court was as in duty bound prompt to repair both of them, and it is not a matter of record that either toward either the building or repair of said bridges, while Salem did go down into her pocket and donate \$20,000 to secure a bridge at Salem, leaving Marion county to pay \$20,000, and this \$20,000 was paid out of the general fund of the county, of which Salem again paid \$6,000, leaving for Marion county, outside of Salem, only \$14,000. Salem has cheerfully and without complaint paid in taxes nearly one-third of the expenses of the building of seven line bridges on the Santiam river, seven on the Abiqua and Butte creek, to say nothing of the vast number over our internal county streams, such as Silver creek, Pudding river, Little Santiam, and other minor streams too numerous to mention, all of which greatly accommodate the people in the vicinity where they are situated, but which are of only general value to Salem, by reason of being a part of the county and whatever benefits the county benefits Salem. The facts seem to me effectually dispose of the question of our moral obligation in the matter.

There is, however, another aspect to this question which demands your careful consideration. The importance of this bridge to Salem and Marion county, as previously stated, whatever benefits one adds just so much to the other cannot be questioned. Then if the counties of Polk and Marion, who on the statutes of the state make responsible for this bridge do nothing to save it from ruin then, as the guardians of the business interests of Salem, what is your duty?

A little more than two years ago the whole West was startled by the news of a terrible disaster at Silver Lake, Oregon, in which forty-five people lost their lives in a fire-trap called the public hall. In Salem we have an opera house which is unprovided with adequate means of escape in case of fire or other accidents, and you owe it to the people of Salem to see that such improvements are made as will make it reasonably safe.

THE POLICE. The city is overrun with tramps and burglars are by far too frequent. The police force is not sufficient to more than protect the business part of the city, therefore, it behooves you to devise some radical means of punishment which will rid the city of this undesirable element.

OTHER MATTERS. I will call your attention to the report of the retiring committee on streets and public property especially that part which refers to sidewalks and shade trees, also to the establishment of a grade for Center, Marion and Union streets. The city hall is nearing completion and it is desirable that you occupy it as soon as possible and stop rental expenses.

Respectfully submitted, J. A. Richardson, mayor.

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