

THE SUNDAY JOURNAL
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1897.

Washington Office—1513 Pennsylvania Avenue
Telephone Calls.
Business office, 228; Editorial rooms, A 25

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
Daily only, one month, \$3.75
Daily only, three months, \$10.00
Daily only, one year, \$35.00
Daily, including postage, one year, \$40.00
SUNDAY ONLY, ONE YEAR, \$10.00
WEEKLY PUBLISHED BY THE SUNDAY JOURNAL COMPANY
Daily, per week, by carrier, 15 cents
Sundays, single copy, 5 cents
Daily and Sunday, by mail, 10 cents
WEEKLY.
Per year, \$10.00
Reduced Rates to Clubs.
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THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL
Can be found at the following places:
NEW YORK—Windsor Hotel and Astor House.
CHICAGO—Palmer House and P. O. News Co.
CINCINNATI—J. R. Hawley & Co., 14 Vine Street.
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==Sixteen Pages==

Fortunately, Chairman Gowdy has two months in which to remove the rust from his idiomatic French.
Some one has been writing the Chicago Times-Herald that there are four or five hundred prisoners in the Prison North without employment. As a matter of fact, the labor of the prison is mainly under contract.

Even Senator David E. Hill refers to the greenbacks in the treasury, purchased by the sale of bonds, as "a surplus." On the other hand, he boldly declares that the sale of the bonds was demanded to enable the government to pay its way.
There is much comment because President Roberts died of a disease called "twenty-four-hours-a-day-sickness" but it seems to attract no attention that thousands of men rust out because they have no employment one hour in the day.

And so the officials of the Citizens' Street-railroad Company are threatening the people that they will make no more improvements if they persist in annoying the company in the Legislature. Still, the managers cannot pack the cars any fuller than they do.

Senator Lexow, of New York, should have asked the head of the sugar refining trust when he had him on the stand, Friday, if it is true that dealers are required to purchase all their sugars of the trust under the penalty of being expelled if they should purchase a few barrels elsewhere.

The compensation of all the larger consulates has been greatly reduced during the present administration. The notarial fees have been put upon the basis of those of the District of Columbia. It is said that the office of consul general at London is not worth over \$2,000, and that of consul general at Paris \$5,000, and perhaps not more than \$4,000.

Now that the head of the Sugar Trust says that it makes from 15 to 20 per cent, a year for the stockholders, Congress should see to it in the revision of the tariff that an opportunity is given for a competition which will reduce those profits to a level of those of other industries. The Sugar Trust has made the name of trust specially odious.

In this era of fad legislation, the diligent inquirer has discovered that each fad has a thrifty tendency. The pure food bill provides for a chief and several subordinate inspectors. The fad for the certification of those who may legally prescribe drugs or other medicine has sundry boards who must be paid by somebody. Even the microbe legislation fad ends with an appropriation, without a flag.

The propositions which the Spanish government has made to the Cubans are very liberal, considering the source from which they come, but there is not much probability that the Cubans will accept them, because they have no faith in Spanish pledges. The previous insurrection was ended by the promising of concessions to the Cubans which were not given when the insurgents laid down their arms.

The New York State prison, with an average of 1,000 prisoners, managed to make its products the past year net the State \$30,881, without seriously interfering with any particular line of industry. This result is due to the provision that not more than one hundred men can be employed in any one industry. It is reported that this plan has reduced the competition with the outside industries to a degree that it is not perceptible.

India is so far away from us that we cannot or do not realize the mortality attending the terrible plague which still holds the city of Bombay in its grip. The last report is that of the 1,638 cases reported 2,541 have been fatal. Population is so packed into the large cities of India that hygienic measures are next to impossible. Calcutta has a population of 10,000 to the square mile, more than twice the density in any European city. Should the plague reach that city, whose soil is polluted beyond purification, the fatality will be appalling.

Mr. Havemeyer, of the Sugar Trust, thinks there is money in coffee at considerably less than the present retail rates. "Green coffee declined 6 cents in 1896," he says, "but Arbuckle has lowered the price of the finished product only 2 cents, thus taking 2 cents a pound more than his legitimate profit out of the consumer. I can put it on the market at only 1 cent advance over the price of the raw product." If that can be done consumers ought not to complain. In the scientific world one microbe contracts or destroys another. If the Sugar Trust proposes to attack the coffee Trust and bring down the price of coffee to consumers 4 or 5 cents a pound, why not let them do it? Mr. Havemeyer is a philanthropist who says he would not engage in business unless he could make 10 to 20 per cent on his investment.

Congress should provide that the alcohol used in manufactures shall not be taxed.

It is done in other countries. Commercial alcohol can be purchased by the carload to-day at fourteen cents a gallon, but before the buyer can use it in the most useful manufacture, he must pay an internal revenue tax on it of \$2.66 a gallon. A bushel of corn will make three gallons of alcohol, so that the tax on a bushel of corn is \$2.68. Senator Platt's committee for investigating the subject declares that with untaxed alcohol we should at once open a market for thirty million bushels of corn. The only objection to free alcohol for manufactures is that such a provision will make it easy to commit frauds upon the revenue. Other governments are able to prevent such frauds without much difficulty. There is no reason why it may not be done in this country and thus relieve thousands of manufacturers from the burdensome tax on what is raw material.

A PIONEER LIBRARY.
Recent discussion as to the authorship of the ordinance of 1871 may have excited some interest as to the provisions of that famous instrument. Some of them were very advanced for that period, and proved very beneficial in the way of direct or indirect results. Among these was the provision in regard to education, as follows:
Institutions for the promotion of religion, morality and knowledge being accessible to all good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever supported by this State.

There is little doubt that Dr. Manasseh Cutler, who negotiated the Ohio company's purchase of land, was the author of this provision. In a sermon delivered in the new settlement at Marietta, Aug. 24, 1788, he said:
"To promote the civil and social happiness of a new settlement too early attention must be paid to the cultivation of the principles of religion and virtue."
Early attention to the instruction of youth makes the greatest contribution to the well-regulated society. It is the only way to make subjects conform to its laws and regulations from principles of reason and custom rather than the fear of punishment.

Pursuant to these ideas Dr. Cutler interested himself successfully in procuring the establishment of the Ohio University, the first educational institution of its class established west of the Allegheny mountains. He succeeded in getting two townships of land set apart as an endowment for the institution, which still exists at Athens, O. For many years it was the leading university of the West, and exerted a very elevating influence. Its first graduate, in 1815, was Thomas Ewing, who afterwards became eminent as lawyer, United States senator and secretary of the treasury. Dr. Cutler's son, Henry, also distinguished himself. The establishment of this institution was a direct result of the ordinance of 1787, and of the subsequent efforts of Dr. Cutler and others to give practical expression to its principles.

Another expression of these principles was the establishment of the first local library in the Northwestern Territory. In these days of many libraries the history of this humble first attempt at local culture has special interest. In 1791 the inhabitants of Ames township, Athens county, Ohio, formed the Western Library Association. In later years it was called, in half derision, the "Coonskin Library," because many of its books were purchased with the proceeds of furs and skins. Among the charter members of the library association were Silvanus Ames, father of the late Bishop E. R. Ames, of the M. E. Church; Ephraim Cutler, son of the Dr. Manasseh Cutler above mentioned; George, father of Thomas Ewing, and many whose names have become known through their descendants.

There were twenty-seven charter members of the association, all men of very moderate means, plain lives, but some of the high thinkers. It took them nearly two years to get together money enough to make the first purchase of books. This was done in 1792. One of the settlers, a charter member of the association, made a trip to Boston in a wagon, carrying with him the furs and skins which had been contributed for the purpose, sold them there, and along with other funds which had been raised, invested the proceeds in books. The amount thus invested was \$23.50, and the books were hauled back to the settlement. A list of them lies before the writer. They included Harris's encyclopedia, four volumes; Robertson's North America, Morse's geography, two volumes; Goldsmith's works, four volumes; "Evelina" (a novel of the period), two volumes; "Children of the Abbey," two volumes; "Clark's Discourses"; Goldsmith's "Animated Nature," four volumes; "Camilia," three volumes, and some others. Don later purchase Shakespeare, Don Quixote, "Scottish Chiefs," "Josephus," Smith's "Wealth of Nations," "Spectator," "Plutarch's Lives," "Arabian Nights" and "Life of Washington." This was a good foundation for a useful library. The price of membership in the association was \$2.50, and the annual dues 25 cents on each share. In 1810 the association was granted a charter by the Ohio Legislature. The library ceased to exist many years ago, but some of its books are preserved as mementoes by the descendants of some of its founders. It is said that Thomas Ewing, whose parents were poor and who was brought up on a hill farm, formed his taste for reading and laid the foundation of his future education from reading the books of this library, which he did at night lying on the floor by the dim light of shag-bark hickory faggots. This is believed to have been the first library organized west of the Alleghenies.

THE PRAISE AND COMPLAINT OF A BRITISH STATESMAN.
Samuel Smith, a member of the British House of Commons, has made "America Revisited" the subject of a pamphlet which contains several points of interest. He visited this country years ago, and during the campaign of last fall he was here again. He was not in this country to criticize in a hostile spirit, but as a friend. He plainly declares that Great Britain has not much reason to be satisfied with the election of McKinley, since his party is pledged to protection, but "where the dominant issues were honor against dishonor, honesty against dishonesty," he says who would wish the result to be other than it was. Mr. Smith was struck with the marked ability with which the sound-money question was carried on the contrary, and "one could but feel," he adds, "what a splendid education self-government is to a people." The two things which the visitor regards as dangers in the great increase of foreign element during the past thirty years and the growth of trusts. For the first he finds a remedy in the public school system which challenges his admiration. "It is clear," he says, "that the future of the United States, as a prosperous and unified nation, depends very much upon maintaining a common-school system of education and of a common language taught to the mass of the people."

The Englishman devoted several pages of his pamphlet to the quite general feeling which pervades the mass of the American people toward the British nation. He alludes to the expressions of hostility which the policy of the British Ministry provoked in this country a little more than a year ago regarding Venezuela. He was gratified to find a much more friendly feeling consequent upon the final agreement of the Ministry to yield to the desire of this government to have the matter submitted to arbitration. In this regard Mr. Smith has fairly judged the sentiment of this country. We were very indignant with the policy which the British Ministry announced in regard to Venezuela, but the fact that it yielded to our proposition to arbitrate the dispute has quite revolutionized public sentiment in this country. Doubtless the ratification of the pending general arbitration treaty will have a potent influence in overcoming existing jealousies.

he has a high estimate of his own abilities, but in view of what has been accomplished it is easy to see why he has had the votes of the people notwithstanding the opposition of the politicians. He appears to have the interests of the public at heart, and is not self-seeking at the expense of the people. A good many eccentricities will be overlooked in a public officer who really seeks to serve the public, and Pingree's record is enough to account for Pingree in two offices at once.

THE CRIMINAL IN THE OPEN.
Most of those who write about criminals see them with sympathetic eyes when they are behind prison bars. When they see the criminal appear to be the victim of heredity and circumstance, his inclinations are in the right direction, but a weak will, inherited from a long line of ancestors of had impulses and low will-power causes him to commit crime. If he is not the victim of a weak will, the circumstance of an environment of poverty and vice has prepared him for the crimes which have sent him to prison; every way he is a person entitled to compassion rather than to that rigid punishment which confinement at hard labor in prison involves.

All of us have read much in this line, and most of us have come to believe all that is told us of heredity. But now comes a vigorous man, named Plynt, to the front, in the current issue of the Forum to tell the public about the criminal "in the open." Mr. Plynt hopes all at once to obtain his own freedom in order to obtain his information concerning him. Instead of being a person of weak will, he has a superabundance of that quality. But for his resolute insistence he would not attempt many crimes. He is not the victim of poverty. His environment may not be the best, but the real criminal is not made by poverty or hardship. He is usually above want, and is a criminal because he desires more. He wants all that abundant means will bring him, and he has come to the conclusion that the easiest and surest way to obtain money is to resort to the methods of the criminal. Heredity has nothing to do with his being a criminal. He is not one because he is vicious, but mainly because, with a liking for the excitement of criminal life, it is the surest way to get money. He weighs the chances sometimes with deliberation. If success probably he commits the crime. If it is not, he waits until a better opportunity presents itself. Make it positively clear to him that the commission of crime will land him in the penitentiary and he will not be a criminal.

Doubtless the clear and positive statements of Mr. Plynt will distress many good people, but the chances are that he is right, and that it may yet be necessary to change the methods of the treatment of criminals now in vogue so as to conform to the character of the real criminal in the open as presented by one who has made him a study when pursuing his vocation.

GOVERNOR-MAYOR PINGREE.
The country has heard a good deal from time to time about Hon. Hazen S. Pingree, of Michigan, and so little of what has been said has been commendatory in character that many people not residents of his State must have wondered how he happened to be elected and re-elected to the same office, and then to be given another high office, as if there were a popular anxiety to thrust honors upon him. He was, filling his third term as mayor of Detroit when he was elected Governor of the State last November, and having refused to resign the first position, he is now performing the duties of both places, much to the disgust of a certain political element which would like a share in the management of affairs itself.

This unfriendly element has apparently controlled the Detroit newspapers of every day in this article, and has called attention to the work of Mr. McGraw, Mr. John Fluke, Mr. Schouler and Mr. Winsor. All these men are contributing to American history, and never before, asserts the Outlook, "has there been such interest in American history as exists to-day, and never before has so much research been put into the home field." Another writer whom it names as having undertaken a serious task is Mr. Edward Eggleston, author of "The Hoosier Schoolmaster." For several years he has been devoting himself to historical studies and has just issued the first volume of a "History of Life in America."

An interview with the author in the same issue of the Outlook explains the scope of his work and gives his reasons for abandoning the production of fiction. As long ago as 1870 the idea of writing history was suggested to him by a friend, and in 1880 he began his studies for it. The Outlook in commenting upon the interview says:
Dr. Eggleston has naturally passed over the more remunerative forms of literary work for the severe and prolonged task of research and the slow and protracted writing of history. Of the things he has written should be reminded of them. Serious work is to be done, and the fruit of self-sacrifice may be wisely ignored.

Indians are especially interested in Mr. Eggleston's career, although many cherish the belief that he made his fellow-Hoosiers rich in his early novels, and that he had sold the copyright of his native State to that he cast discredit on the work of the Hoosier. They are ready, however, to extend hearty congratulations on the successful beginning of this more important work.

A Dresden paper published an article a few days ago on Prince Bismarck, in which he is quoted as saying recently:
"I feel tired, but I am not sick. My complaint is uneasiness of life, and nothing that I see gives me pleasure. I feel lonely. I have lost my will to attend my work. Agriculture and forestry have lost interest, and politics are despised."

The waters of Detroit have been owned by the city since 1852, but the mayor is urging the adoption of furnishing free water and having the cost, like the cost of the streets and the parks, paid for by general taxation. The time is coming, he says, when all municipal monopolies will be owned by the people. The mayor is also strongly in favor of civil service reform principles in the management of municipal affairs. He was quoted not long since as saying that he sought the office of mayor because he believed he could carry out certain reforms better than any one else. This sounds egotistical, and there are certain other indications going to show that

of damages claimed was \$15,510,000. For each claim for damages taken into account ten are settled without suit, so that the aggregate of the claim business in Chicago must be very large and a serious draft upon the resources of corporations. One thing which has encouraged suits for claims is that a large part of them are granted in part by the courts. In the first six months of 1893 three street-railway companies lost twenty-eight verdicts, aggregating \$124,012. The damage claim business has become a regular industry. Not only are there lawyers who attend to this business exclusively, but men canvass for such cases, and persons have been found who are professional victims of street-railway and railroad accidents. In Chicago the canvasses of those who bring such suits are so numerous and persistent that they make life a burden to those who are injured. They also furnish the witnesses necessary to make a good case in court. Public sympathy for the victims and a prejudice against railways have stimulated this sort of robbery.

In answer to certain unkind criticisms Rev. Lyman Abbott explains, in the Outlook, that his object in writing his sermons on evolution was "not to convince orthodox believers that evolution is true, but to convince believers in evolution that they need not give up their Christian faith because they have become evolutionists." This simple statement takes the force from his opponents' arguments at once, their assumption being that he was going about seeking what orthodox religious beliefs he might destroy with his pernicious doctrine.

The theory that thought is a force which passes from the brain is a force which is as light or sound is transmitted is not new, but until lately it was ridiculed by scientists. Now they treat the idea with respect and even lay claim to it as original with themselves. In a recent lecture before the Psychological Society for Psychological Research, William Crookes set forth this theory and said: "It is quite conceivable that intense thought concentrated by one person upon another with whom he is in sympathy should produce a telepathic chain along which the brain waves could go straight to their goal without loss of energy." The Psychological Research Society is investigating telepathy and other occult phenomena merely to prove their actual existence and not their cause. When scientists once accept them as a fact and undertake a study of their principles and laws these will probably be found to be as simple as those governing any of the commonplace workings of life and the occult will cease to be occult.

As a recent meeting of a gentlemen's club in New York comment on current topics took the form of a discussion about the proper use of wealth. One speaker went so far as to say about the modern expensive way of living. He knew a man, he said, who had lived well for the last five years on 3 cents a day. He did not give the man's name nor specify his diet, and the next speaker said he didn't know who the person was and he didn't want to know. The man who used to object to paying 10 cents for a cup of coffee, but used to go out of his way to get a cup of barley because he could buy it for 5 cents, and made the rest of his luncheon out of east wind or something of the kind. This man was dead now, from stomach trouble, he said, and his nephew was putting his hoardings into circulation all right enough. That is what a good many nephews or sons do who come into possession of wealth accumulated in that way.

In the advice given to the theological students at Yale Rev. John Watson (Jan MacLaren) said: "No minister should circulate a minister in public. Ministers might very well copy the etiquette of the medical profession, which is distinguished by the respect its members show to each other." Evidently the Rev. Watson has had his own doctors in public. They are civil enough, truly, when the others are present, but how they do "roast" each other in private!

Just as Scotch dialect is loosening its hold upon the public to some extent alarming indications appear that Irishisms are to be the next literary affliction. Here, for example, is a poem floating about in the papers whose first two lines read thus:
"Maxrone, maxrone, that I make my moon for you, I think during the time of the three years a pound weight of thoria has been freely imported into this country to the value of \$7,000,000 of thoria in the same time."

Persons who visited Parks's statue Bacchante during the last few days were pleased to learn that it will remain on exhibition here perhaps two weeks longer. It is probable that during that time a movement will take shape for the purchase and retention of the statue in this city.

Mr. Bradley-Martin was in the mercantile or the theatrical business the free advertising she is getting would put more money in her pocket than the ball will take out.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.
Chilling.—Timmins—Those confounded proofreaders spoiled one of my jokes yesterday. Left the point clear out.
Simmons—I read them all. Which one was it?

The Sanguine Inventor.
"You have made fun of me a lot," said the sanguine inventor, "but this time I have a triple-plated cinch."
"What is it?" asked his friend, with very slight interest.
"A camera lens with wrinkles in it."
"What on earth is that good for?"
"To take poster photographs, of course."

A Woman's Theory.
Mr. Wickwax—Of all the fool bills brought out this year, I think that one by the Missouri man punishing railroad employees for flirting is one of the worst.
Mrs. Wickwax—It'll be his wife put him up to that.
"Yes, some brakeman has run off with her hired girl."

Lying Out of It.
"Then," said Mr. Watts, describing the church entertainment to his wife, who had been too ill to go, "the Jones girls got up and sang a solo."
"A solo?" asked Mrs. Watts. "How could two persons sing a solo?"
"Why," said Mr. Watts, who would not acknowledge his mistake, "why—they had only half a voice apiece."

SCIENTIFIC.
A very durable hard rubber, a German experimenter claims, is made by adding powdered aluminum to the material before it is vulcanized.
Moths may be kept from furs and woollens, United States Entomologist L. O. Howard concludes by cold storage during the summer months.
The eleventh award of the Bressa prize of the Turin Academy of Sciences, having a value of nearly \$2,000, will be for the most important scientific achievement of the years 1895-96. Persons of any nationality who compete their printed work to be sent in before the close of 1898.

Two diphtheritic diseases of fowls are mentioned by M. Gallez in a report to the committee on diphtheria. One is called few glands, or morve, and is a contagious catarrh, very fatal to hens, that may give diphtheria to human beings. The

other form of so-called fowl diphtheria has no resemblance to the diphtheria of man. The prehistoric monuments of France, England and Germany have been carefully recorded. The first American archaeological map is that of Ohio, on which, in three years, the curator of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society has mapped more than five thousand village sites, mounds, fortifications and graves, while probably ten thousand remain to be put down.

An impressive feature of Fez, the capital of Morocco, is said to be the number of blind men. This is a result, according to Dr. Sauter, of the excessive use of coffee. The Moors are inveterate coffee drinkers, and the merchants may be seen in their bazars smoking coffee continually during the day. At forty or forty-five the eyesight of these coffee drinkers begins to fail, total blindness following in the same age of fifty is reached.

From a study of the infection of animals with the bubonic plague, Dr. James Cantlie estimates that the rat is most likely to be attacked; that diseased rats may infect other animals—such as snakes and jacksals—that consume them; that rats are very easily infected by the plague bacillus, and that the rat may infect man in some unknown way. The great mortality observed among the animals which were the carriers of the plague in man may not really be due to earlier infection, but possibly to a short incubation period.

The degree of danger that may exist in eating the flesh of poisoned animals has been investigated by Lewin, whose experiments have been described to the Medical Society of Berlin. The flesh of a rat that had been killed by the excessive use of coffee, was fed to a dog, which became ill on eating half a pound, and was seized with tetanic convulsions and died during the second portion. Some animals are not readily affected by certain poisons. For example, a mixture of several allays of strychnine, goats of hemlock, partridges of arsenic, rabbits of nicotine. It is concluded, however, where the animal has swallowed poison does not seem to have suffered incoherence the flesh may be unsafe food for man.

The long-guarded secret of a number of Japanese alloys, as stated by the Iron Industry Gazette, has now been revealed by workmen. "Shinko" is an alloy of copper and 1 to 10 per cent of gold, and is covered the copper or blue-black hue of silver sheaths and decorative articles by being placed in a mordant of sulphate of copper, which has the effect of coloring the well-known gray color, is a copper alloy with 30 to 50 per cent of silver. "Mokko" is a mixture of several allays. About thirty sheets of gold, "shinko," copper, silver and the last mentioned alloy are layered together, hammered and rolled in the mordant. "Shinko," the finest Japanese metal, consists of 90 per cent of copper and five of zinc. "Karakane," or bell metal, are made of ten parts of copper, four of iron, one-half of lead and one-half of zinc, the copper being melted first, and the other metals added in the above order.

An educational model railway, copying accurately the working details of the London & Northwestern Railway, has been built in London for Mr. Percy H. Leigh, of Wrosey, Manchester, who intends mounting it in a theatre in a specially built building at his home. The main line has a double track ninety feet long, with sidings of fifty feet, also double. The track is of six-inch gauge, with double-headed steel rails, cast-iron wheels, and is equipped with all the sidings are fitted with switches, points, locking-bars, signals, etc. Three signal-boxes have been provided, and are worked respectively. There are two stations, with the usual waiting rooms, ticket offices, etc., for passengers and goods. The engine, carrying a road over the line, and even a cutting and a tunnel. The rolling stock, made to scale, consists of several allays of a freight train, each with the different styles of cars known in use. Brakes, buffers, couplings, greases boxes, etc., are all models, and even bolts, springs, etc., are made to scale. The engine, which is a modern four-coupled engine with a leading bogie, has reversing gear, whistles, water gauge, etc., precisely as in the original.

Of the numerous new substances made known by chemists early in the present century, the late Dr. I. P. Davy tells us in Knowledge, by far the most unpromising of possible usefulness was the metal thorium and its oxide thoria. Berzelius, the discoverer, succeeded with difficulty in extracting a minute quantity of the metal in powder form from the Norwegian rocks. Aside from its use in the manufacture of gas mantles, the thorium, even in minute quantities, seemed to have no striking properties, and its oxide resembled common lime, but the light-giving property is just bringing this thorium to the notice of the public. It is a metal which has been found in seventy years. Of all the metallic oxides that have been tried for "hoods" or "mantles" in gas mantles, thorium burners, which are making street gas a rival of the more expensive electric light, have proved themselves to be the best. The sequence is a brisk demand for this substance so long believed to be useless, and various thorium compounds are being produced. The minerals thorite, orange and pitchblende, which contain a large amount of thorium, are being mined in the United States. A source of supply is monazite, which contains 18 per cent of thorium, and forms a large part of the sand of the coast of Brazil. The mineral thorite, orange and pitchblende, which contain a large amount of thorium, are being mined in the United States. A source of supply is monazite, which contains 18 per cent of thorium, and forms a large part of the sand of the coast of Brazil. The mineral thorite, orange and pitchblende, which contain a large amount of thorium, are being mined in the United States. A source of supply is monazite, which contains 18 per cent of thorium, and forms a large part of the sand of the coast of Brazil.

LITERARY NOTES.
Thomas Bailey Aldrich is the author of "Judith and Holofernes," which Miss Nettleton expects to produce in London next spring.
Sidney Colvin is making steady progress with the biography of Robert Louis Stevenson, though the publisher has not yet been ready for publication in under of eighteen months. Mr. Colvin has a wealth of materials and his work promises to be singularly interesting.
Jules Verne is at present busy in the execution of a plan to publish a series of stories bearing on different countries. Unlike many authors, he thinks of the plot first, letting it form his material, and then up geographical, historical and other books of scientific nature on the part of the world is going to be.

Bjornstjerne Bjornson, whose son married Ibsen's daughter, speaks thus of the dramatist's pessimism: "Ibsen is no Norwegian. His ancestors were Scotch, as might be seen from his character and his gloomy views of men and life. It is a lamentable fact for the Norwegians, and his pessimism has been brought into Norway by a foreigner."
Bliss Carman, though a Canadian by birth—his native place being Fredericton, New Brunswick—sees partially at least of American stock, his mother belonging to the Bliss family, of Concord, Mass. He studied at the University of New Brunswick, at Hartford and in Edinburgh, and held various occupations, among them school-teaching, civil engineering and literary work. He is now in New York for his poetical work principally in Browning, although he has been touched and inspired by Emerson. Mr. Carman is about thirty-five years of age.

In the preface to Barrie's "When Man's Single," which appeared serially as it was written, is a note by the author on his methods. He says he was never one of those who plan out their stories and adhere to the design, adding: "I spend a great deal of time in looking at the characters on the map, and mark it with red ink, but the first thing I do is to write the story. 'Come back, you are the story.' 'You prefer this way,' they reply. I try but I don't like it. 'You are the story,' I shout, and it is my book, and I can do what I like with you, so come back. But my seldom come, and it ends with my plotting after to Emerson.

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little Miss Broughton has worn the dignified bit cap of English middle age for several years. The daughter of a distinguished clergyman in North Wales, and she wrote "Cornith up as a Flower" without taking her family into consideration. When the book was printed a copy was sent to her by the publishers, and unhappily was confiscated by her father. She was then asked for a look at it and he repented her for frivolity, and told her that "after looking it over he had decided that it was not a proper book to put into a young girl's hands." The author's father said that she herself had written the book before she could get a sight of the printed result of her work.

Walter Besant says that "Mr. Gladstone's letter on second-hand book buyers is most charming. He tells us that he has bought 35,000 volumes in his time; that he has not made any serious collection, but that he has been a curious bookseller. That was to be expected, I myself, in my humble way, have acquired several curious volumes without being collected. I have bought what I must. This, also, it appears, has been Mr. Gladstone's rule through life. Among his books, however, are some which he has not bought—Hannah More's 'Sacred Dramas,' which the author gave him in the year 1815 and which he has since sold to the National Institution History," given him by Arthur Hallam; no fewer than thirty amended essays that he has written in the year 1815. So little does the critical world regard the author's work, that it has been known so long and so well. The incidents of her volume of stories were mostly suggested to her by the various relations and experiences of her friends at "the Station." For several years past, Miss Furman has lived at Evansville, Ind.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.
William Waldorf Astor owns 4,000 houses in New York City, and has an income of more than \$5,000,000 a year.
Moses Mendelssohn, Temple, Boston, on his own account, and taking up a collection at each meeting to defray the expense. The collections, however, do not meet the real needs of the cause.
Mrs. Susan Winans, of Santa Ana, Cal., is said to be the only known survivor of the Fort Dearborn massacre in 1812. The Chicago Historical Society has asked the United States government to give her a pension.
A Scotch clergyman in Melbourne, Australia, they say, has arrayed his male choristers in Highland dress, while the women were attired in the costumes of the "Lady of the Lake" in a specially built building at his home. The main line has a double track ninety feet long, with sidings of fifty feet, also double. The track is of six-inch gauge, with double-headed steel rails, cast-iron wheels, and is equipped with all the sidings are fitted with switches, points, locking-bars, signals, etc. Three signal-boxes have been provided, and are worked respectively. There are two stations, with the usual waiting rooms, ticket offices, etc., for passengers and goods. The engine, carrying a road over the line, and even a cutting and a tunnel. The rolling stock, made to scale, consists of several allays of a freight train, each with the different styles of cars known in use. Brakes, buffers, couplings, greases boxes, etc., are all models, and even bolts, springs, etc., are made to scale. The engine, which is a modern four-coupled engine with a leading bogie, has reversing gear, whistles, water gauge, etc., precisely as in the original.

Of the numerous new substances made known by chemists early in the present century, the late Dr. I. P. Davy tells us in Knowledge, by far the most unpromising of possible usefulness was the metal thorium and its oxide thoria. Berzelius, the discoverer, succeeded with difficulty in extracting a minute quantity of the metal in powder form from the Norwegian rocks. Aside from its use in the manufacture of gas mantles, the thorium, even in minute quantities, seemed to have no striking properties, and its oxide resembled common lime, but the light-giving property is just bringing this thorium to the notice of the public. It is a metal which has been found in seventy years. Of all the metallic oxides that have been tried for "hoods" or "mantles" in gas mantles, thorium burners, which are making street gas a rival of the more expensive electric light, have proved themselves to be the best. The sequence is a brisk demand for this substance so long believed to be useless, and various thorium compounds are being produced. The minerals thorite, orange and pitchblende, which contain a large amount of thorium, are being mined in the United States. A source of supply is monazite, which contains 18 per cent of thorium, and forms a large part of the sand of the coast of Brazil. The mineral thorite, orange and pitchblende, which contain a large amount of thorium, are being mined in the United States. A source of supply is monazite, which contains 18 per cent of thorium, and forms a large part of the sand of the coast of Brazil.

LITERARY NOTES.
Thomas Bailey Aldrich is the author of "Judith and Holofernes," which Miss Nettleton expects to produce in London next spring.
Sidney Colvin is making steady progress with the biography of Robert Louis Stevenson, though the publisher has not yet been ready for publication in under of eighteen months. Mr. Colvin has a wealth of materials and his work promises to be singularly interesting.
Jules Verne is at present busy in the execution of a plan to publish a series of stories bearing on different countries. Unlike many authors, he thinks of the plot first, letting it form his material, and then up geographical, historical and other books of scientific nature on the part of the world is going to be.

Bjornstjerne Bjornson, whose son married Ibsen's daughter, speaks thus of the dramatist's pessimism: "Ibsen is no Norwegian. His ancestors were Scotch, as might be seen from his character and his gloomy views of men and life. It is a lamentable fact for the Norwegians, and his pessimism has been brought into Norway by a foreigner."
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