

IN THE LITERARY FIELD

A NEWSPAPER'S SHARP CRITICISM OF THE MODERN MAGAZINES.

Why Certain Writers Assumed the Names They Did—The Strength of Poetry—On Writing.

What is the matter with the magazines, asks the Brooklyn Eagle. Do their publishers think to drive newspapers out of business? They are assimilating themselves more and more to the newspapers...

Such strong, serious work as was done by the New England coterie thirty and forty years ago—yes, and such lighter and more playful work as that of Oliver Wendell Holmes, had its first showing in the magazines before it was put into books.

It is that all the serious men are dead, or is it that a public that reads yellow papers and has vitiated its taste is demanding in what it takes to be serious literature...

The clientele of the present-day magazine demands to be amused. It is necessary to recognize this element for magazines should be in part devoted to amusement.

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PEN NAMES AND THEIR ORIGIN.

Why Certain Authors Assumed the Names They Are Known By.

Humdrum people have indulged in fruitless speculation as to the reason for the choice of pen names by so many of the authors of the past and present day.

In so far as this impending literary deluge promises profits for publishers it is a thing to be welcomed, but in many of its aspects it is by no means an unmix'd blessing.

Why should prosperity cause the publishers to lift higher and higher the sluice gates to the flood of mixed manuscripts, rendering it increasingly difficult to choose the good books out of the chaotic mass of rubbish which now comes annually hurrying past us?

POPULAR GRAND DUCHESS

The name of Mark Twain was, is and is pretty generally known as the name of the leadman on a Mississippi boat.

The exact quality of poetry is misunderstood by all those unsuccessful contributors—unless it be the poetry in a form of writing which can be used legitimately to amuse those who have not had enough of serious prose.

In all arts it is the same. A small knowledge of the art leads to the belief that the greater the knowledge the more one is to further and further from its mastery.

The late Edward Eggleston was in a peculiar and admirable sense a self-made man. With only a public school education, he passed through the Methodist ministry and by way of journalism to an honorable place in our literature.

Our university students borrowed the notion and the name—cultureschichte—from Germany. They accepted this programme of research and copying as well much as the German pedantry with which it had become invested.

Philadelphia Ledger. We have received from an ingenious youth the following request for advice: "I am very ambitious to be an author, and you will do me a favor by giving me some advice about it."

Philadelphia Press. Curiously enough, an American publisher has approached Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his brother-in-law, E. W. Hornung, with the suggestion thrown out in the Press last Saturday that they should collaborate in a novel where Sherlock Holmes, prince of detectives, should be pitted against Raffler, most ingenious of ruffians.

Academy making is a fascinating pastime, and all lists for a very improbable school of immortals are little more than after-dinner entertainments. Perhaps an assemblage that was at once sufficiently immortal and sufficiently popular would consist just now of Mr. Lecky, Mr. John Morley, Sir Leslie Stephen, Mr. Lang, Lord Rosebery, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Swinburne, Mr. William Watson, Rev. H. Beeching, Mr. Thomas Hardy, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Mr. Hall Caine, Mrs. Craigie, Mr. J. M. Barrie, Mr. Augustine Birrell, Mr. Austin Dobson, Dr. Garnett, Mr. Galsworthy, Mr. Rudyard Kipling, Sir Lewis Morris, Mr. Alfred Austin, Sir Frederick Pollock, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, Mr. Henry Arthur Jones and Mr. Pinero.

Another example of the cleverness and ingenuity of the modern woman when forced into the literary world is found in the clever London girl who makes money by selling plots and titles for stories and plays to unimaginative authors and playwrights. She is coming to New York to establish a branch of the business here, and will display her plan of work at the forthcoming Women's Exhibition in Madison square garden as a preliminary to what she hopes to do in this city.

In London she has a little shop in New Oxford street, and numbers among her customers many people who contribute regularly to magazines and newspapers, though, of course, the majority of her clients are merely ambitious publishers. This woman gets from £1 to £20 for the synopsis of a story, the price depending on length and strength, and she sells titles at 10 shillings apiece.

HOUSE TO BE BEAUFIED

EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL. Hall of the House of Representatives to Be Made as Gorgeous as the Senate Chamber.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—Great changes are taking place in the interior of the national Capitol. When the representatives return, in December, they will think they are in the Senate end of this great building, and then they will wonder what their constituents will say about the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The House members were afraid of anything that is being done and costly. They are afraid to spend their own money or the government's money. The members of the House also like to see things done that they can face their people at the polls every two years.

It takes the constant labor of 60,000 people to make the constant labor of the House of Representatives in the United States in 1891 to be 25,000,000.

Dr. H. K. Carroll reports the total church membership in the United States in 1891 to be 25,000,000. Spain has the record for cheap working of her railways. Only 48 per cent of the gross earnings are spent in maintenance.

Paris, according to the latest census returns, has a population of 2,500,000 persons, of whom over 1,300,000 are either foreigners or provincials.

The most curious cemetery is situated at Luxor, on the Nile. Here repose the mummified bodies of millions of sacred cats. Their remains are packed in jars and boxes, and the bodies of kings and emperors in mausoleums.

There is a marked increase in the growth of the woolly caterpillar in Louisiana. The industry is spoken of as being transferred from the South Atlantic States to the Gulf States.

Each Iowa soldier who marches in the grand parade at the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1902 will carry the largest ear of corn he can find.

A wooden chimney stack 100 feet high is in operation at Mapimi, in the province of Durango, Mexico. The interior is lined with corrugated iron, and there are platforms at intervals to throw water on the inside of the chimney.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

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According to modern literary canons it is said that his work lacked artistic finish, that his construction was poor, and that on the whole, he would not do. Against this judgment we enter a solemn protest.

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