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THE APPEAL,
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SATURDAY NOVEMBER, 4, 1899.

"Some Aspects of the Negro Problem" was the subject of discussion at the regular meeting of the Presbyterian ministers Monday. The Rev. Dr. William J. Chichester, of the First Presbyterian church, read a paper on this subject and reviewed the problem from many sides, quoting occasionally from writers of the South. Dr. Chichester, in speaking of the frequent lynching horrors in the Southern states, declared that the men who engage in this form of lawlessness are no more typical of the people of the South than the Negroes who have committed brutal crimes are models of their race. He advised a more restricted suffrage for the ignorant blacks, who are so easily influenced at the polling places that their votes often do more harm than good. In summing up his subject and suggesting a remedy for the betterment of the Afro-American race, Dr. Chichester declared it is useless to think of exporting the Afro-Americans of the United States into a colony where they may live by themselves. This, he said, would be only more cruel than was the action of the first slavers, who took them from their native country and thrust them upon the Western hemisphere. He suggested as the only solution of the problem better educational facilities in order to teach the Afro-American to look forward to something higher.

A short time ago in Leake county, Miss., the Gamble family, consisting of five persons, was murdered. Joe Lefiere, an Afro-American, was accused of the crime, and was burned at the stake. He claimed to have accomplices and since his murder the fiends who murdered him have been torturing other Afro-Americans to make them confess complicity. They are not satisfied with suspects as victims, but vent their spite on known innocent persons. West Teat, a well-to-do Afro-American, living in his own home, seven miles from the scene of the murder, was badly beaten by these self styled regulators just because he was industrious enough and smart enough to become somewhat wealthy. And this is the land of the free and the brave.

The white ministers of Atlanta, Ga., have entered a vigorous protest against the midway, which is an exhibition at the state fair. They claim that many of the attractions are immoral, and that the youth of the city should be protected from such debasing influences. When an Afro-American was burned at the stake in hell, i. e. Georgia, and portions of his half-roasted flesh carried off as souvenirs by the mob of barbarians, these goody-goody preachers did not raise their voices in protest, although the spectacle was far more debasing than any midway performance could possibly be.

Dr. James Johnston, delegate from Jamaica to the commercial congress in session at Philadelphia this week, in his address on "What Jamaica Offers to the United States," paid a strong tribute to the character and worth of the blacks in Jamaica. All slaves were made free in 1833, and since that time no race has developed more rapidly than those black people. There are 500 blacks to one white. He declared that Jamaica can teach the Southern portion of the United States many lessons with reference to the Afro-American. He declared that crime of all degrees is almost unknown in Jamaica.

Gen. Thomas M. Anderson has just inspected the Forty-eighth regiment, United States volunteers, which is to be sent to the Philippines. He said:

"The 1,366 men who compose the Forty-eighth are the blackest lot of troops I ever saw. It is my observation of colored troops that the blacker they are the better. The company officers are all Afro-Americans, and they are really more intelligent than the white officers of the same grade."

When a crime is committed and an Afro-American is the guilty party, or, is even suspected of being the guilty party, how swift is justice (?) A white bar tender was shot in Weir City, Kan., Tuesday night and in less than two hours George Wells, an Afro-American miner, "his supposed murderer," was swinging to a telephone pole, the victim of a mob which had forcibly taken him from jail. How true the saying: "Justice, in thy name how many crimes have been committed."

Hobson City, the new town in Alabama founded by and for the use of the Afro-American race, has its charter, its mayor, council and city officers, but it lacks the wherewithal to make it go. It has no money, and as no taxes can be assessed until next year the mayor has asked for voluntary contributions to meet absolute expenses.

There is some trouble in Atlantic City over the color line in the schools. The board levied extra rooms and put the 200 Afro-American pupils in them, claiming the regular schools were overcrowded, but the parents of the children saw through the very thin subterfuge and would not send their children.

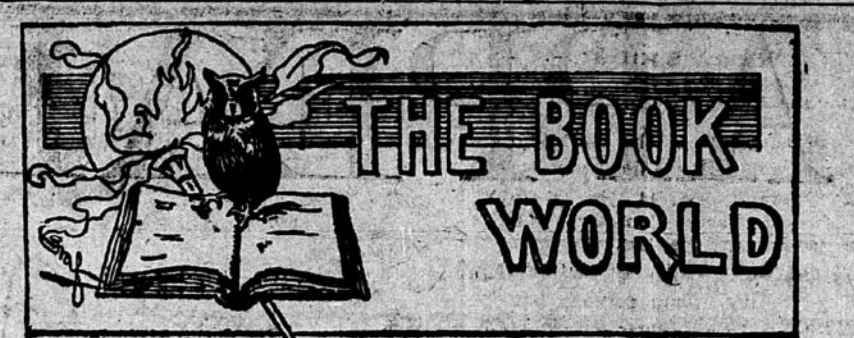
As we do not feel that the British are in the right in their war against the Boers, we are not sorry that they were repulsed at Ladysmith. We are sorry, however, that the Boers must eventually be overcome unless there is intervention by other powers, which is a very uncertain contingent.

Gen. George W. Davis, military governor of Porto Rico, has submitted his report. He says the Porto Ricans are unfit for self-government. Negro blood is pretty well distributed over Porto Rico, and it would not do to give people of Negro blood a chance to govern themselves.

An Afro-American boy only twelve years old and weighing 501 pounds has been discovered. He is traveling around the country in a special car, exhibiting himself, while his white manager rakes in the shekels.

In taking the Cuban census the enumerators are classifying as white all persons who are nearly so, usually accepting the person's own statement, even when the Negro mixture is apparent.

'Tis said that Willy Bryan is getting weary with his windy work. No more so than the people throughout the country, however.



"Review of the Constitution of the United States"—By W. G. Bullitt of the Frankfort (Ky.) bar. This volume of the constitution, with its many changes and amendments, is written not only for lawyers, but for those "not learned in the law." It is strange how few even among cultivated people have made a careful study of this important document which stands guard over the liberties of the Nation's millions. Our author discusses intelligently and briefly the interesting events which led up to the building of the Federal constitution. Without indulging in technicalities, he defines the powers granted to Congress to lay and collect taxes; to borrow and coin money; to regulate commerce; to admit new states; to declare war; to maintain an army and navy; also the rights and privileges given to the states, and the many safeguards provided for the protection of life, liberty, and property, and for the regulations of courts, etc. One of his excellent chapters is upon "The Naturalization Laws," and the many questions arising under them, and whether treaties with foreign powers were in conflict with them. He says: "The right of expatriation lies at the foundation of the American system and the United States cannot afford to surrender that right. The inhabitants of the colonies were British subjects at the time they severed the tie that bound them to that kingdom, and constructed charters thereof emanating from themselves.

"To have admitted, as may be claimed by reason of the treaties referred to, and as contended by most of the European nations, that the consent of one's native country is necessary to authorize him to sever his allegiance to it, and to be lawfully naturalized in any other country, would have prevented our revolutionary ancestors from becoming citizens of the United States, until sanctioned by the treaty recognizing the independence of the several states of the Union. It also surrenders all that the United States gained by the war of 1812 against the right of searching our ships and taking seamen and pressing them into the service of their native country. During the late civil war, large numbers came from Germany and elsewhere and enlisted in the army of the United States and served with distinction, and were naturalized before remaining in this country the five years. If said treaties express what the law was at that time, it was binding on the United States, and every such naturalization was void."

Mr. Bullitt points out the difficult questions arising in the government of the people in the District of Columbia, and says:

"The District of Columbia, the seat of the government, was taken partly from the state of Maryland and partly from the state of Virginia, in accordance with authority granted. If this district constitutes a separate jurisdiction from the states within which the respective parts are situated, it cannot be a state with a republican form of government as long as its lawmakers are chosen by the states generally, and not by the people thereof, and the language of the paragraph is, 'to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district.' The Congress must do the legislation thereof itself, and cannot authorize it to be done by any other organ or government. * * * The Congress cannot extend the English common law over said district, as it relates largely to royalty or classes of people, without coming in conflict with the provision of the constitution prohibiting the granting of titles of nobility.

"Nor can the Congress adopt the common law of any of the states without preventing every other state from changing its own laws in relation thereto. Nor is it possible to compress the laws of the several states relating to marriage, descent, and distribution; tenures of title to real estate, evidences of title to personal property; of contracts, the extent contracts shall be guarded by statutes of frauds and perjuries; nor of trade and traffic to be carried on by the citizens thereof."

The constitutional provisions concerning the choosing of electors are little understood by even intelligent voters, nor how safeguards had to be thrown around these provisions to prevent disaster. The original plan was for electors to vote by states, but it was early seen that this would lead to trouble. In 1800 Jefferson and Burr got exactly the same electoral vote. It then devolved upon the House to decide, voting by states and not individually, and then again the result was a tie, and a decisive result was only reached with difficulty. Had the House failed wholly to elect, the results might have been very serious. An amendment to the constitution was made in 1803, which relieved the situation of much of its danger. There is further a special guard in the provision that the President and Vice President shall be from different states. Concerning the counting of the electoral vote Mr. Bullitt says:

"The language of the constitution is: 'The certificates shall be opened by the President of the Senate, in the presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the votes shall then be counted.' This cannot be construed to require the counting of votes unless they were legally cast. No one will contend that, if by counting the votes, it would elect the Prince of Wales, or any foreign Prince, or one who was foreign born, or less than 35 years of age, the votes must be counted, however clearly the certificates may show on their face that the vote was taken and certified to in every respect according to law. But, as before shown, the Congress being divided into two houses, and each being required to act separately in enacting laws, and in doing all other things, except wherein they may be expressly authorized to act together, the vote of no state appearing on the face thereof to be defective, or informal, can be counted, unless each house shall by separate act concur in counting the vote. Nor can the vote of any state appearing on the face of the certificate thereof, to be formal and valid, be rejected, unless the two houses shall by separate acts concur in rejecting it. The vote of every state appearing to be formal must be counted, unless the two houses agree by separate action not to count it. And, on the contrary, the vote of no state appearing on the face of the certificate thereof to be defective, can lawfully be counted unless the two houses by separate action concur in counting it. But the constitutional provision is silent as to how the counting of a defectively certified vote, or votes appearing on the face of the certificate thereof, to be formal, shall be rejected or counted.

"Any motion to reject or count a vote must be made after the counting begins and before it is concluded, for if he delayed until the vote shall have been counted, it will be too late, as the counting of the vote amounts to a decision by the Congress, from which there is no appeal, nor can the Congress itself set aside that judgment and make a new count or change the result of the judgment by the first counting of the vote. The counting of the vote must be in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, and when the votes shall be so counted it must be final, and the Congress must declare the result thereof, which constitutes final and irrevocable judgment of the Congress, and there is no authority for the Congress itself to reconsider that count."

Mr. Bullitt waits until he reaches the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the constitution to turn aside from all the dignity and proprieties of such a volume, and become a pettifogger, injecting into his work such stump speeches as are usually addressed to cross-roads political meetings. He declares that "natives born of African descent could not be added to the family of sovereign citizens of the United States by any amendment proposed by Congress, even if ratified by the signatures of all the states." He thus makes null and void the first clause of the amendment, which declares "all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. He then asserts: "If the native-born of African descent were made sovereign citizens by these amendments to the constitution, they must have been made citizens of the states wherein they reside, and, therefore, citizens of the United States, and they not only have the right to travel in the same railroad coaches, but to send their children to the same public schools the children of white people attend, for the black children may learn much from associating with the white children; and they have the right to patronize the same hotels, churches, theaters, and to intermarry with the whites, and they cannot be denied either of these, or any other equal rights, by either state or Federal laws. If they are sovereign citizens, it needs neither argument nor the citation of authorities to show that they cannot be discriminated against in any way whatever, for sovereignty is supreme and cannot be limited otherwise than by voluntary agreement, which may be broken at will by the sovereign, and no act of the law-making power can become a law that allows greater privileges to one sovereign than to another.

"That the children of that race of people are excluded from the schools provided by the public for white children, and are prohibited from intermarrying with the whites, or occupying the same seats in theaters, or riding in the same railroad coaches with the white people, and in many other ways discriminated against by the laws of the states, which are recognized as valid by every department of the United States, shows that the African inhabitants are not sovereign citizens of the states or of the United States; for, if they were sovereign citizens, every discriminating act of the Legislature of any state would be unconstitutional and void.

"But they are inhabitants of the United States and of the state wherein they reside, and as mere inhabitants they are entitled to protection under the laws of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. As the native born of African descent owe no allegiance to any other nation, Prince, or potentate, and have always resided in the United States, it is difficult to define the exact relation they bear to the United States and the state wherein they reside." He further absurdly declares: "That the draftsman of this fourteenth amendment did not intend to make the African inhabitants sovereign citizens, for, as sovereign citizens, no laws could be made prohibiting them from intermarrying with the white people, or from attending the same public schools. And the danger of daughters of the white people being entrapped into marriage with the black bucks, while attending school together, would have defeated its ratification by the states which probably presented itself to the draftsman of the amendment," and closes his volume with this sentence: "Therefore the colored race of people born in the United States cannot constitute any part of the national family of sovereign citizens." He fails to see that to ring in the dangers of "white daughters of the South being entrapped into marrying black bucks" is not only out of place in a thoughtful law volume, but is a grave insult to the intelligent white people of the South. If such utterances could possibly meet with applause the result would no doubt be mischief, and even crime, of the gravest class. (Cincinnati: Robert Clarke Co.).

"A General Survey of American Literature." By Mary Fisher. The author of this volume has written not only a book of valuable instruction upon American literature, but has so interwoven facts and incidents into the individual lives of her subjects as to make her chapters profoundly interesting. She says that her book "has grown largely out of" her "work in the classroom." Rarely has a book so admirably adapted to classroom study been made so notably interesting to the general reader. The volume contains terse, clear, honest studies of those men and women who have done most to raise the standard of literary work in the United States. Three names—those of Prescott, Motley, and Parkman, represent historical literature, while the leading romancists mentioned are Irving, Hawthorne, Thoreau, and Howells; and the poets noted are Bryant, Longfellow, Whittier, Poe, Holmes, and Lowell. W. E. Channing represents the work of theologians, while the transcendentalists are also given a full chapter. Each biographical sketch is accompanied by a critical estimate of the person's work, which bears no mark of fads or favoritism. The transcendentalists organized a club at Brook farm in 1836. It attracted Emerson, Channing, Hawthorne, James Freeman Clarke, Alcott, Ripley, George William Curtis, Theodore Parker, Margaret Fuller, Elizabeth Peabody, Longfellow, Charles A. Dana, and many others. It was a novel company of visionaries, whose avowed object was "to reform the prevailing philosophy of the day," and whose theory was that all questions of the day should not be submitted to scholars, but to the common sense of the race. Longfellow gives some graphic sketches of his entry at Brook farm. He says:

"I intend to convert myself into a milkmaid this evening; but I pray heaven that Mr. Ripley be moved to assign me the kindliest cow in the herd, otherwise I shall perform my duty with fear and trembling." Being a milkmaid, or, as he later expressed it, "a chambermaid to cows and pigs," soon lost all its poetical glamour, and became the veriest prose to poor Hawthorne; and he writes, under date of the 12th of August:

"Joyful thought! In a little more than a fortnight I shall be free from bondage, free to enjoy nature, free to think and feel. Even my custom-house experience was not such a thraldom and weariness. Oh! labor is the curse of the world, and nobody can meddle with it without becoming brutified. Is it a praiseworthy matter that I have spent five golden months in providing food for cows and horses? It is not so."

He pronounced his life at Brook farm "an illusion, a masquerade, a pastoral, a counterfeit Arcadia, in which we men and women were making a play-day of the years that were given us to live in. * * * If ever I have deserved—which has not often been the case, and I think never—but if ever I did deserve to be soundly cuffed by a fellow mortal for secretly putting weight upon some imaginary social advantage, it must have been while I was striving to prove myself ostentatiously his equal and no more. It was while I sat beside him on his cobbler's bench, or clinked my hoe against his in the cornfield, or broke the same crust of bread, my earth-grimed hand to his at his noontide lunch. The poor, proud man should look at both sides of sympathy like this."

Hawthorne soon ended such romantic nonsense by taking a wife and settling down to life's enjoyment. Brook farm soon had a literary organ, The Dial, with Ripley, Emerson, and Margaret Fuller editors. That it made a sensation is not doubted. The farm boarded members for $4 a week; it allowed members to work at whatever they liked, and paid the same wages for manual as for intellectual labor. The theory was that it was an asylum where crime or poverty could never enter, and where earthly bliss was in reach. Ripley presented the organization his splendid library, and Charles A. Dana was secretary of this band of visionaries and dreamers. The names of so many of the active participants in the movement who afterward filled such large places in the Nation's literature and history save the enterprise from severe criticism. It was this movement which gave Margaret Fuller prominence she would not otherwise have received. She has added not one tithe as much of honor and real value to American literature as have a score of other noble American women, and yet she is the only woman who has more than a brief mention in al the chapters of this book, and as well in a book on American literature noticed last week. The author says of her:

"Margaret Fuller's standard was false. It was not the natural, but the unnatural, that appealed to her. She had a decided bias toward the romantic, the exaggerated, and the eccentric. By nature superstitious, a believer in charms, fated days, talismans, presentiments, she ignored real science, but gave a ready acquiescence to the preposterous claims of 'mesmerism and its goblin brood.' 'Subject,' she says of herself, 'to the sudden revelations, the breaks in habitual existence, caused by the aspect of death, the touch of love, the flood of music, I never lived, that I remember, what you call a common natural day. All my days are touched by the supernatural, for I feel the pressure of hidden cause and the presence, sometimes the communion, of unseen powers.' " And in closing this sketch Miss Fisher sums up and says: "She was a woman of remarkable talent, who mistook a passionate love of beauty and a passionate desire to reproduce it for the power to fulfill that desire, and lost herself in futile excitements. She was not content to see things as they are, but as she thought they ought to be, and lost the real world for a romantic dream world of her own creation. She was impatient of slow intellectual growth, incapable of loving knowledge for itself alone, and of bearing the privations and lonely obscurity of the earnest scholar's life, and sacrificed enduring glory for the fleeting glory of an hour. But if she missed the literary fame she coveted, her life was by no means a failure, but had its beauty and meaning, of which no uncertain reflections have come down to us. To those who knew her she was an intellectual stimulus, a source of inspiration, and many lives were enriched by her influence." But Margaret Fuller's influence on American literature has long been overestimated. It is a sentiment, growing out of her sad ending, and not from actual merit.

Miss Fisher thinks Emerson "in many respects one of the most interesting characters in American history." But when she comes to view Emerson as a level-headed thinker she sums him up admirably when she says: "The fundamental characteristics of his mind is an insatiable curiosity. It pushes into the remotest corners of the intellectual world. It gathers up all the ideas that attract it, and the result is a heterogeneous collection that interests and stimulates, but is utterly lacking in anything like plan or consistency. Never was a mind more fatally lacking in logical power than Emerson's. He utters half truths with the force of whole truths. He makes sweeping generalizations on insufficient data. He never sees the whole truth at once; he sees only a fragment of it, but he views it at so close a range that the fragment assumes the proportions of the whole to him, and he falls into extravagance when he describes it. Another point of view brings another fragment of truth into prominence, and he at once forgets what he has seen, and falls into equally extravagant valuation of that which now absorbs his attention. Hence those almost incomprehensible oscillations from idealism to materialism, from the wildest or fanciful speculations to the sternest of scientific truths, and a practical shrewdness as serviceable as that of any day laborer who earns his bread and butter by it—from the most extravagant laudations of Swedenborg to the warmest appreciative sympathy with Montaigne." Of Whittier this author says: "No American poet has so thoroughly infused his own personality into his work as Whittier. In all that he has written, and he has written much, prose as well as poetry, there is a distinctively individual note, quickly recognizable to the lover of Whittier, and endearing him more and more to the poet as he learns the rarity and fineness of it. There was in him a remarkable blending of the Quaker severity and chasteness with the poet's susceptibility and passionate love of beauty; a tolerance wide as the world for all human frailities and human doubts, and a faith in God as simple and unquestionable as a little child's; a nervous sensitiveness almost fastidious and yet so sane and tender a love for all simple, homely joys—so restful a calm, sought and kept amidst all the poetic oscillations of fiery spirit." She quotes largely from his poems to best emphasize the spirit of his work. We have not room for further extract or comment, and will only repeat that this volume is a valuable and charming book. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.)

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"Invisible Links"—By Selma Lagerlof. This is a series of complete short stories by the author of the famous book, "Gosta Berling." It is their first translation from the Swedish into English. They reveal Swedish life and thought, and are made deeply interesting by fine descriptive scenes and incidents that illustrate and make deeply impressive the stories recited. And yet they are not cheerful or satisfactory stories. They recite in the main stories and scenes of humble life which often end abruptly and unsatisfactorily to the reader. But withal they show a pathos and fantasy, a weird originality, and fine word painting that hold the reader by their spell. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.)

* * *

From the Macmillan company, New York, we have a new and handsome edition of Hamlin Garland's short stories, entitled, "Main Traveled Roads." The stories are: "A Branch Road," "Up the Coolly," "Among the Corn Rows," "The Return of the Private," "Under the Lion's Paw," "The Creamery Man," "A Day's Pleasure," "Mrs. Ripley's Trip," and "Uncle Ethan Ripley." Mr. Garland is seen at his best in these short stories. He is a lover of nature, and he writes entertainingly of field and forest and stream, and the people and the life in the rural districts. The Inter Ocean has charged that Mr. Garland in "Rose of Dutcher's Coolly" has done injustice to the innocent child life in rural homes, but these short stories give wonderfully clear brief descriptions of home life upon the farm. One of the best stories of the book is "Under the Lion's Paw," which reveals not only the hard laborious life of the farmer and the farmer's wife and the farmer's boy, but illustrates a type of the generous man in the person of Mr. Council, and of the mean, grasping man in Butler. But the stories are all good. They are true to life, excellent in moral tone, and elegant in their literary construction.

* * *

From Dana, Estes & Co., Boston, we have several boys' books, which will rob the eyes of American boys of sleep. They are: "Off Santiago with Sampson," "Captain Tom, the Privateersman," by that prince of story-tellers, James Otis; "Two American Boys in Hawaii," by G. W. Browne, which is not only a live story, but gives sketches of the country and the people. As it is our country now every wide-awake boy will want to know all about it. Then comes "The Minute Boys of Bunker Hill," by Edward Stratemeyer, in which the incidents of the far-away time which were so potent in their bearing upon the liberties of the present great nation, are so well delineated as to make every historical fact doubly interesting. Then, and last, another bright little volume from James Otis, entitled, "Christmas at Deacon Hackett's." Those of our young readers who read "How Tommy Saved the Barn" will welcome further news from the crippled Luke, the motherly little Garry, and the lively Thomas. This Mr. Otis has obligingly given, and he tells in his characteristic style of the adventures that the city waifs had the following holidays on the deacon's hospitable farm. The mischievous and boasting Joey Ramsdell makes his appearance again, and is the cause of most of the troubles that ensue. But all ends well, and the deacon is repaid as before for his generosity.

Literary Notes.

In Myth Land is the title of a handsome Chicago magazine, edited by Frances A. Woods, which makes its first issue with the October number. It is designed for children and makes an attractive appearance.

Richard Whiteing, the author of that popular book, "No. 5 John Street," is writing a series of papers on interesting phases of modern life in Paris, which will be printed in the Century Magazine during the coming exposition year.

Unusual interest attaches to the Thanksgiving (November) number of the Pall Mall Magazine for its large and increasing circle of American readers. One of the contributors, William Archer, has shown deep interest in American subjects.

William Nicholson, whose bold portraits of celebrities are so well known, has made another collection of drawings under the title of "The Square Book of Animals," published by R. H. Russell, New York. These pictures are as striking as anything Mr. Nicholosn has yet done.

Frederick A. Stokes & Co., New York, send out "Wild Flowers," by Mrs. Ellis Rowan, a handsome album of floral beauties. The plates are facsimiles of water colors. The artistic work of the pages is excellent. Scarcely a more beautiful book could be laid upon the center table of the library. It is a beautiful gift book.

"Rupert's Ambition," by Horatio Alger, published by H. L. Coates & Co., Philadelphia, is a capital story which boys will especially enjoy. It abounds in practical lessons, and shows an honest, unselfish boy, who is always on the lookout to help others, and is himself the gainer in the end. As selfishness is one of the great faults in so many people, unselfishness is a good quality to emulate.

"The Woodranger," by G. W. Browne, from the press of L. C. Page & Co., is an exciting story of pioneer life on the Merrimac river more than a century and a half ago, in which Scotch, Irish, English, and Indians figure. The stories of contest between savage beasts and savage men follow each other so swiftly as to leave no dead pages.

LILLIAN ST. CLAIR, Duluth: The average weight of a girl of nineteen is 132 pounds.

* * *

M. P. BARTON, Springfield: The word "earth" first occurs in the Scriptures in Genesis, chapter 1, verse 1.

* * *

DAISY, Detroit: R. S. V. P. stands for the French words, "repondez s'il vous plait," in English "answer if you please."

* * *

LIZZIE, Louisville: The best way to regain your former plumpness is to take a good tonic and exercise freely in the open air.

* * *

LAURA DAVIS, Chicago: You would not materially better your condition by marrying a man whom you do not love. The better way would be to summon all your courage and bear your home troubles until you meet with some one to whom you can give your heart's love. No woman should marry a man she does not love with all her heart.

* * *

DIXIE DENT, St. Louis: The cardinal bird, also called red-bird, Virginia nightingale, and cardinal finch, is about eight inches in length. Its general plumage is a beautiful red, the color around the bill and on the throat being black. The song of the cardinal-bird resembles that of the nightingale, and during the spring and summer, its sweet notes are heard from the tops of the highest trees.

* * *

PRETTY MAID, Indianapolis: The term confessor was a title given in the early days of the Christian church to those who had undergone persecution for Christianity short of death. They were peculiarly honored by the primitive church, together with the memory of the martyrs who had actually suffered. At present the term is applied to one who makes a profession of his faith in the Christian religion, and to a priest who hears the confession of others, and has power to grant them absolution.

* * *

STUDENT, Philadelphia: The German language is a branch of the Indo-Germanic class of languages, which separated from the parent stock at a very early period. The Germans called the language Deutsch or Teutsch, from their ancestors, the Teutons. In its widest sense the Teutonic consists of two branches, the Northern or Scandinavian, and the Southern or Germaan. The latter has three sub-divisions, the Eastern or Gothic, and the High German and the low German. The Gothic is the earliest of these of which there are any literary remains. The low German (Flatt Deutsch) comprehends many dialects in the lowlands of Germany, as well as the Trisian, Dutch and Flemish dialects. High German (hoch-Deutsch) has been the literary language of Germany since the days of Charlemagne. In the present day there are various dialects of German spoken in different parts of the country; as the Suabian, Bavarian, Fraconian, Saxon, etc. The work entitled "Lectures on the Science of Language," by Max Muller, will give you further and interesting information upon this subject.

Ottmar Mergenthaler, the inventor of the linotype typesetting machine, died last Saturday, but his work will live after him.

After the fall of Omdurman a romance of much interest and pathos was woven around Sister Theresa, the nun who married to save her companions from massacre. Following the nuptials came the most dramatic part of the story, telling how, after the ex-abbess got to Egyptian territory, she bolted from her dusky husband and took refuge in a convent. Fortunately, or otherwise, this pious and sensational incident has been quite spoiled by the humdrum facts of history. Sister Theresa, as she was, or Mrs. Caracolombo, as she is, now lives, we are told, with her husband in Cairo, where their marriage has been "regularized" by the ecclesiastical authorities.

When Frederick Douglass died he left a will giving his wife Helen his house and fifteen acres of land at Anacistia, a suburb of Washington, $10,000 in bonds, and the same amount in cash. Mr. Douglass drew his own will, and it was duly authenticated by two witnesses. The District of Columbia is still doing business under the old Maryland law, and this requires three witnesses to a will which makes a transfer of real estate. For that reason Mrs. Douglass has lost entirely the property, valued at $60,000, except so far as her life interest is concerned. The property therefore goes to the daughter and three sons by the first wife.

Besides this misfortune to the widow, it appears that while Mr. Douglass had $10,000 in bonds when he made the will, the bonds were sold before he died. The courts of the district held that the bequest was specific, and that the widow could not force the estate to buy new bonds to make good the bequest. The case will soon come up before the supreme court, and aside from the legal pleading there is a story to the effect that the widow's claim was prejudiced in the local court because she was the white wife of an Afro-American, and the judges therefore were not inclined to stretch the law any in her behalf.

Volunteers Ordered Out.

Washington, Oct. 30.—Orders have been given for the Forty-ninth volunteers, Afro-American organization, to start from Jefferson Barracks, Mo., on the 15th of next month for San Francisco, where they will take ship for Manila.

TUSKEGEE AT PARIS.

Booker T. Washington Confers With President McKinley.

Washington, Nov. 1.—Booker T. Washington saw the president today regarding the school exhibit at the Paris exposition. There will be a distinctive Afro-American exhibit in the American section, but Prof. Washington wants, if possible, a small space particularly for the exhibit of the Tuskegee institute, which is the largest school of the kind in the world. The president assured him of his interest in the educational work of which Mr. Washington is the leader, and referred him to Commissioner Peck as to the details of the exhibit.

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If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fear o'ertake us!
Let not faith and hope forsake us!
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