THE FREE CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

GREAT GROWTH OF THE WORK—THE BRIGHT SIDE OF NEW-YORK LIFE.

Benjamin H. Field, whose relations with charitable institutions in this city are well-known, recently said: "This city is by no means so bad as a good many people make it out. To be sure it has its bad side, but it also has its good one, and in no way is the latter more clearly shown than in the large number of charitable institutions in the city. And these are supported by contributions from our citizens. Look over the list of committees in the New-York Free Circulating Library, for instance, or the Home for Incurables, Young Women's Christian Association—whichever of these lists you study you find the names of well-known men and women, who devote much time and labor to advancing the interests of these institutions. They are not mere figureheads; nor do they alone give their labor. They dive into their pockets and give from $50 or $100 to $5,000 or $10,000, and nothing is said of it or thought of it. A well-known lady of this city sent me a $5,000 check the other day for one institution. She does not wish her name to be mentioned; she contributed the sum from a warm heart and a noble instinct. And so it is going on constantly. This is the good and beautiful side of New-York life, and it enables the poor and unfortunate to secure good reading at a good library, and to have the most skilful treatment at the hands of expert surgeons and physicians."

Mr. Field is president of the New-York Free Circulating Library. He said of the last year's work of that organization:

"It is remarkable how this library has grown in favor, and how large a circulation it has attained. This last year the book circulating from the Bond Street and Ottendorfer branches reached the number of 250,000, far exceeding the anticipations of the founders of the society. The provision for financial aid to circulating libraries made by the last Legislature will greatly aid us. The increase in circulation this last year over the year before was 33,000. And only two books were lost out of this large circulation.

"The number of readers using the books last year was 108,760, a gain of 11,392 over 1885. The number of volumes in the two branches is 25,323. The expense of the library work was $10,123 27. To this is to be added $1,320 82 for the purchase of books, much of which was spent in replacing books worn out by constant reading. It was found that many popular and juvenile books were literally read to pieces. The circulation of juvenile and popularly written books has been large, because fully two-thirds of the readers are young men between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five years."

Among the donators to the permanent fund of the library from 1880 to 1886 were John Jacob Astor, Cortlandt Field Bishop, David W. Bishop, Andrew Carnegie, Frederic De Peyster, Cortlandt de P. Field, Cyrus W. Field, Mrs. Benjamin H. Field, Robert Hoe, Jr., Morris K. Jesup, J. Pierpont Morgan, Oswald Ottendorfer, Mrs. Frederic W. Stevens, and A. B. Stone. The sums range from $200 to $10,000. Among the subscribers last year were Mrs. F. C. Barlow, Miss Breeze, James M. Brown, Andrew Carnegie, George C. Clark, George C. Clark, jr., Charles H. Contoit, B. J. Cross, W. Bayard Cutting, Mrs. W. H. Draper, C. P. Huntington, M. K. Jessup, Mrs. J. F. Kernochan, J. F. Kernochan, Abraham Kuhn, Johnson Livingston, Thomas Maitland, D. O. Mills, James S. Noyes, Frederic Prime, E. F. Shepard, W. D. Sloane, Roswell P. Smith, F. W. Vanderbilt, G. W. Vanderbilt, Mrs. Sidney Webster, Robert Winthrop, Mrs. C. F. Woerishoffer.

Mrs Woerishoffer has recently contributed $10,000 in memory of her husband, while Miss Catharine W. Bruce's gift of $50,000, with which a new branch will be opened on the West Side, is still fresh in memory.

The librarian's report on the most popular reading in the library contains the following statement:

In religion and philosophy there is very little reading, the few books that have been provided being mainly historical and speculative. The social science list shows a great and increasing demand for knowledge, the majority of the books read being on education and culture. In the department of science most of the popular books have circulated as many times as possible during the year, for instance, Cooler's "Easy Experiments," of which we have but one copy, twenty-five times (once in every two weeks); and another, written in a narrative but scientific style, "What Mr. Darwin saw in his Voyage round the world in the Ship Beagle," one copy circulated fifty-seven times—oftener than once a week. The greatest need for additions is in this department and in that of useful arts, where the list is equally remarkable. In poetry, Shakespeare holds so much the lead that we have made a special list. The circulation of Shakespeare (complete editions) reaches 200; Longfellow follows, at fifty-eight. The department of essays and miscellany deserves special attention, as showing that "our public reads the best books." Fiction, as was to be expected, shows the largest circulation, though lower in this than in any other public library of which we have reports; but the books selected are uncommonly able, and the list in this department is the greatest encouragement to us. The history list shows the great demand for works on American history, which demand so greatly exceeds our supply that often no desirable books on that subject are to be found on the shelves. Biography and travel show the same patriotic tendency. No further comment is needed to show that this society is accomplishing the greatest good in the best way.

THE ORIGIN OF "MY MARYLAND."

Major Dawson before the Maryland Line Confederate Association.

It was a baltimore woman who gave to the South the one great lyric of the war. Written by James R. Randall, of Maryland, it was, in a moment of inspiration, set to the air of an old college song, and thus was the undying music "married to immortal verse." Mrs. Hetty Cary Martin kindly consents to tell the story:

"After our bridges were burned by Baltimore militia to prevent the passage of Northern troops, one of the regiments, formed mainly of young men of social prominence here, was disbanded. The men went South in dead of night with only the clothes they wore.

"It soon became known among our friends that boxes of clothing were to be sent to them from our house. Daily and nightly meetings were held there in defiance of the vigilance of the authorities, whose frequent searchings of the house made it known in the papers as 'Headquarters of Rebeldom.' Fingers and machines were ceaselessly at work; subscriptions came freely in. On stormy nights boxes were packed and shipped from the stable in our rear. These were sent directly to General Lee, who told me that he had himself seen to forwarding them to our boys. Danger and daring kept every heart on fire. The girls who worked and the boys who watched for a chance to slip through the lines to Dixie formed a glee club, and their enthusiasm found vent in such patriotic songs as could be written or adapted to suit their needs.

"One evening, early in June, my sister, a young lady, had charge of the programme, the club meeting at our house. With a young girl's eagerness to score a success, she resolved to secure some new and ardent expression of feelings, by this time wrought up to the point of explosion. In vain she searched through her stock of words and airs; nothing seemed intense enough to suit the occasion. Aroused by her tone of despair, I came to the rescue with the suggestion that she should adapt the words of 'Maryland My Maryland,' which had been constantly on my lips since the appearance of the lyric a few days before in 'The Baltimore South.' I produced the paper, and began declaiming the verses. 'Lauriger Horatius!' she exclaimed, and in a flash the immortal song found voice in the stirring air so perfectly adapted to it.

"That night, when her voice rang out the stanzas, the refrain rolled forth from every throat present, without pause or preparation, and the enthusiasm communicated itself with such effect to the crowd assembled beneath our open windows as to endanger seriously the liberties of the party.

"A few weeks later it had become impossible to forward the supplies, of which we had still on hand several large trunksful.

"My brother was about to leave for the army, and I concluded to risk running the blockade with him, taking my sister also, to furnish more plausible excuse for leaving Baltimore with a very undue amount of luggage.

"With some difficulty and not a little danger our party was finally landed in dead of night on Virginia shores. My sister and I kept guard over the trunks while my brother scoured the vicinity in search of a conveyance to Stratford, a few miles distant from our point of landing, and the birthplace of our friend and kinsman, General R. E. Lee.

"An old hay wagon, drawn by a very large ox and a very small mule (guided by ropes and goaded with a hickory pole) was finally secured, and in this striking conveyance we made our triumphal entry into the Confederate States.

"Up to this time I had worn on my person a flag bearing the Maryland coat-of-arms, and presented by Baltimore women to the Maryland troops in the Southern army. In addition to the discomfort of this unwonted article of apparel, I had suffered no small amount of anxiety lest the paint, which was quite fresh, should sustain some injury, therefore shook its folds to the breeze the moment we were safe in Dixie.

"My brother cut a pole, we raised the banner aloft, and, perched upon our trunks, jolted up and down hill to Stratford in the early dawn of that fair Fourth of July, making the Virginia woods ring with 'Maryland, my Maryland!'

"The story of our adventures soon reached home; the 'aid and comfort,' given to the enemy were greatly magnified, and my family received notification from Washington that we should not be permitted to return.

"We were living in Virginia in exile, when, soon after Manassas, General Beauregard hearing of our work and sufferings for the Marylanders, who had already done such gallant service in his command, invited us to visit them at his headquarters, near Fairfax Court House. The festifications there were in charge of my cousin, Captain Sterrett (U. S. N.) who received and entertained our party during the visit.

"The night of our arrival we were serenaded by the band of the famous Washington Artillery, of New-Orleans, and all the fine voices within reach. Captain Sterrett expressed our thanks, and asked if there were any service we might render in return. 'Let us hear a woman's voice!' was the cry which arose in response. And standing in the tent door, under cover of the darkness my sister sang, Maryland, My Maryland.'

"This was, I believe, the birth of the song in the army. The refrain was speedily caught up and tossed back to us from hundreds of rebel throats. As the last notes died away there surged forth from the gathering throng a wild shout, 'We will break her chains! We will set her free! She shall be free! Three cheers and a tiger for Maryland.' And they were given with a will.

"There was not a dry eye in our tent, and they told us next day not a cap with a rim on it in camp.

"Nothing could have kept Mr. Randall's verses from living and growing into a power. To us fell the happy chance of first giving them voice. In a few weeks 'My Maryland' had found its way to the hearts of the whole people, and become a great national song."

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE EYE.—The following is an experiment performed by Dr. Gillet de Grandmont before the French Society of Physics. The head of an observer is rendered immovable by means of a support, upon which rest the chin and forehead, and a screen is placed before one of the eyes. Then a brilliant metallic button is placed for a few seconds in front of the free eye, and a small bright green surface is made to appear alongside of it by means of a spring. In less than half a minute this green surface completely disappears from the sight of the observer, and he no longer sees anything. A wink of the eye suffices to make it reappear, but entirely gray. Then by another motion of the spring a white surface is substituted for the green; but the eye does not see it white, for it appears to be colored fuschine-red—a color the complementary of green. At the first wink of the eye, however, the illusion disappears

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S W Flour, pkgs	99	Oats, bush....	82,650	Pork, pkgs....	270
Beans, bbls..	278	Rye bush....	3,300	Beef, pkgs...	98
Beeswax, pkg	2	Malt, bush....	11,400	Cutmeats, pk	2,554
Broom corn, bales	1	Barley, bush	16,250	Lard, tcs.....	962
Cotton, bales	1,694	Flaxseed bgs	550	Lard, kegs...	792
Cotton seed oil, bbls....	207	Grass seed bags.....	47	Butter, pkgs	2,891
Copper, bls..	129	Hemp, bales.	5	Cheese, pkgs	1,571
Dried Fruit, pkgs.....	29	Hides, No....	31	D Hogs, No..	221
Eggs, bbls..	2,190	Hides Tales.	477	Rice, pkgs...	102
Eggs, cases..	4,065	Leather, sides	4	Spelter, lcs.	1,063
Flour, bbls..	17,130	Molasses, hds	111	Starch, pkgs.	875
C Meal, bbls	547	Spirits turp,	14,594	Stearine, pks.	57
C Meal, bags	423	Rosin, bbls..	36	Tallow, pkgs	111
Wheatbush.	57,200	Oil cake, pks	149	Tobacco, hds	81
			90	Tobacco, pcs	140
			554	Whiskey bbls	695
			578	Wool, bales.	53

GENERAL MARKET REPORT.

COFFEE—The movement in all directions was light. Brazil growths were maintained, however, at 14½c. for fair Rio spot invoices. Mild growths were quiet. Sales, 344 bags Caracas. In the trading in future deliveries there was little accomplished until the last hour. The first prices showed an advance of 5@10 points and the marked closed steadily at the opening prices as follows: March, 12.45@12.50; April, 12.45@12.50; May, 12.50@12.55; June, 12.50@12.55; July, 12.50@12.55; August, 12.55@12.60; September, 12.55@12.60; October, 12.55@12.60; November, 12.60@12.65; December, 12.60@12.65. Sales, 39,000 bags.

COTTON—With a firmer market for options values for actual cotton were advanced 1-16c. on a moderate movement. Sales, 758 bales (410 last evening) 598 of which were for consumption and 160 bales for export account. The port receipts to-day were 11,950 bales, comparing with 16,512 bales this day last week and 8,514 bales the corresponding day last year. Since September 1 the total port receipts have been 4,828,333 bales, against 4,551,230 bales for the same period last year.

Quotations based on the American standard of classification are as follows:

	Uplands.	New-Orleans and Gulf.	Texas.
Ordinary.....	6⅞	7 1-16	7 1-16
Strict Ordinary.....	7 5-16	7⅝	7½
Good Ordinary.....	8¼	8 7-16	8 7-16
Strict Good Ordinary..	8 11-16	8⅞	8⅞
Low Middling.....	9⅛	9 5-16	9 5-16
Strict Low Middling...	9 7-16	9⅝	9⅝
Middling.....	9⅝	9 13-16	9 13-16
Good Middling.....	9⅞	10 1-16	10 1-16
Strict Good Middling..	10⅛	10 5-16	10 5-16
Middling Fair.....	10½	10 11-16	10 11-16
Fair.....	11⅛	11 5-16	11 5-16

STAINED.

Good Ordinary.....	6 11-16	Low Middling.....	8 3-16
St. Good Ordinary....	7⅜	Middling.....	9 1-16

Options opened at an advance of 3 points on improved accounts from Liverpool, ruled quiet but firm all day and closed at a net advance of 5@7 points. Sales, 60,100 bales.

Months.	Today's closing.	Extremes. Highest.	Lowest.
March.....	9.54@ 9.55	9.53	9.50
April.....	9.60@ 9.61	9.61	9.58
May.....	9.69@ 9.70	9.70	9.67
June.....	9.78@ 9.79	9.79	9.76
July.....	9.86@ 9.87	9.87	9.83
August.....	9.91@ 9.92	9.93	9.89
September.....	9.66@ 9.67	9.66	9.64
October.....	9.46@ 9.48	9.46	9.45
November.....	9.37@ 9.39	9.37	9.36
December.....	9.41@ 9.43	9.41	9.41

FLOUR AND MEAL—FLOUR—A decidedly larger business was accomplished to-day, in good part for export. City Mill Extras received most attention, although medium brands of spring and Winter had a fair demand. Prices show no marked change. Low grades are held relatively steadier than all others. Sales—26,600 bbls., including 8,700 City Mill Extra, part at $4 50@$4 60 for West Indies, including 6,000 sacks for England, private terms; 950 bbls. Fine, $3 30@$3 60, and $3 10 for Fancy; 800 bbls. Superfine, $2 70@$3 30, latter for Choice; 350 bbls. Extra No. 2, $3 20@$3 60; 7,200 bbls. Winter Wheat Extra, $3 20@$3 25; 7,400 bbls. Minnesota Extra, $3 20@$3 95 for Common to Good, $4 00@$5 25 for Good to Choice, the latter for one or two private brands of Patent. Included in the sales were 14,000 bbls. for export. Quotations: Fine, $2 50@$3 10, letter for Fancy; Superfine, $2 70@$3 30. Extra No. 2, $3 20@$3 60. Good to Fancy Extra Ohio, $3 60@$4 00; Common to Good Extra Western, $3 15@$3 60; Good to Choice Extra Western, $3 65@$5 00; Common to Fair Extra Ohio, $3 15@$4 00; Good to Choice, $4 05@$5 00. Common Extra Minnesota, $3 15@$3 60. Clear, $3 60@$4 25. Rye Mixture, $3 65@$4 25. Straight, $4 00@$4 60. Patent, $4 40@$5 10. Buckwheat Extra, $3 80@$4 00. St. Louis Common to Fair Extra, $3 15@$3 90; Extra Fancy, $4 00@$4 60; Good to Very Choice, $4 70@$5 20. Patent Winter Wheat Extra, $4 40@$5 10. City Mill Extra for West Indies, $4 50@$4 65; market closed steady.....SOUTHERN FLOUR—Moderately active and generally steady. Sales, 1,300 bbls. Common to Fair Extra at $3 50@$3 90, and Fair to Choice at $4 00@$5 20.....RYE FLOUR—Easier and moderately active. Sales, 700 bbls. Superfine at $2 80@$2 95.....CORN MEAL—Steady. Yellow Western quoted $2 50@$2 75 and Brandywine at $2 65@$2 75.....BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Quoted $1 65@$1 75.

GRAIN—WHEAT—An increased business was accomplished to-day in the speculation, May, June and December delivories are growing more to the more favor, but May continues to be the main favorite. Prices advanced ¼@⅜c. at the opening, sympathizing with the West, subsequently the market broke sharply ¾@⅞c. on realizing, from which the variations were light, closing steadily at a shade above the bottom rates. Spot lots were dull early in the day, but late in the afternoon shippers came in and took a fair quantity. Prices show no decided change as compared with the current rates of yesterday. Sales—7,224,000 bushels future, 282,500 bushels spot, including Ungraded Spring at 90½c.; Ungraded Red, 83@94c.; No. 3 Red, 88½c.; No. 2 Red, 90½c. in elevator; 91@91½c. afloat; 92¼@92½c. railroad delivered (especially 89½c. f. o. b.); No. 1 Red, 92½c.; No. 2 Red March and April, nominally 90½c.; May, 91@91¾c., closing at 91¼c.; do. June, 91 5-16@92c., closing at 91½c.; do. July, 91⅝@92c., closing at 91¾c.; do. August, 91⅝@92⅛c., closing at 91¾c.; do. September, 92⅛@93c., closing at 92½c.; do. December, 95 13-16@96¾c., closing at 96c.....RYE—Quiet and firm. Sales—500 bushels State at 59c.....BARL