LITERARY NOTES.

Adirondack Murray is going north in his new yacht, obtaining on the way material for a new book which he has in preparation.

A contributor to *Notes and Queries* says that it used to be generally remarked among Dickens's friends and acquaintances that he had taken all the names in "Pickwick" from persons residing in Ramsgate. There was Weller, the straw hat manufacturer and hosier in High Street, near the market; Mr. Tupman and Mr. Snodgrass lived higher up; Mrs. Bardell also lived near.

Mrs. "St. Elmo" Evans has written a new novel. Dillingham will bring it out under the title of "At the Mercy of Tiberius"—a lurid title, a title that implies a thing of adjectives and wild wierdness.

Mr. Edgar Fawcett protests against the statement that there is a similarity between Gautier's "Avatar" and his "Douglas Duane.'" No one," says Mr. Fawcett, "who reads Gautier's fanciful, beautiful, but somewhat trivial tale, with its necromantic, mesmeric absurdities, cleverly handled by a master of mere ingenious quaintness, and then considers the much more serious motive of 'Douglas Duane,' founded upon an imaginative treatment of actual scientific law, can fail to perceive that the two stories bear no intrinsic resemblance to one another."

There are a great many people who will be glad to hear that Mrs. Walford, the author of "Mr. Smith" and "Cousins," has nearly finished a new serial story which will be begun in the October number of "Blackwood."

Ignatius Donnelly's forthcoming book, "The Great Cryptogram; or Lord Bacon's Cipher in the so-called Shakespeare Plays," is to be sold by subscription. It is mildly conjectured that the shade of Shakespeare is not trembling as it treads the Elysian fields.

"Volapuk," the universal language, is prospering. Count Von Moltke lately expressed his belief that it has a great future before it; and it has been learned and is being studied by an enormous number of persons on the Continent. Last winter more than 2,000 pupils received instruction in the language in Vienna alone. It is claimed that Volapuk is so simple that it can be learned in ten lessons; and a week or two ago at a public examination held in Vienna several pupils, who had received only nine lessons, showed remarkable proficiency in Professor Schleier's new language. Volapuk enjoys the very enviable distinction of being the only tongue on earth in which the rules have no exceptions. There is now published at Vienna a "Volapukagased" which claims to have a large circulation among the initiate.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

THE PLEASURES OF LIFE. By Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M. P. 16mo, pp. 191. (Macmillan & Co.)

TAINTOR'S GUIDE BOOKS. Northern, Southern and Seaside Resorts. 10 vols. (Taintor Brothers & Co.)

DOROTHY THORN OF THORNTON. By Julian Warth. 12mo, pp. 276. (Boston: D. Lothrop.)

BESSIE'S SIX LOVERS. By Henry Peterson. 12mo, pp. 240. (Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.)

GILMAN'S HISTORICAL READERS. The Discovery and Exploration of America; The Colonization of America; The Making of the American Nation. (Chicago: The Interstate Publishing Company.)

THE VENTILATION AND WARMING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS. By Gilbert B. Morrison. 12mo, pp. 173. (D. Appleton & Co.)

IN THE GOLDEN DAYS. By Edna Lyall. 12mo, pp. 374. (D. Appleton & Co.)

EDUCATIONAL MOSAICS. By Thomas J. Morgan. 16mo, pp. 274. (Boston: Silver, Rogers & Co.)

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THE PICTURESQUE QUALITY OF HOLLAND, a most clever paper by Mr. George Hitchcock, delightfully illustrated by the author.

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