"LEWIS CARROLL,"

THE MAN WHO WROTE "ALICE'S ADVENTURES."

From The (London) Bookman.

There can scarcely be a well-regulated family of English-speaking children to whom the Alice of Wonderland and Looking-glass renown is not a household friend. But though she may, in one sense, belong to the children of the present day, she is a still more intimate connection of those who twenty years or so ago followed the pages of her adventures while yet fresh from the printer; of those in whose memories the songs of the "Walrus and the Carpenter," of the White Knight, of Humpty Dumpty, and all the other ditties which add so much to the charm of the narration, have become as classic as their schoolroom-learned speeches from Shakespeare's plays. And above all, it is those who were children in Oxford at that particular period who may justly claim the monopoly of "Alice." For they were not only fervent admirers of Lewis Carroll (as he is known to the reading public), like their less favored contemporaries, but also they were Mr. Dodgson's personal and privileged friends. It was in their midst that the adventures of "Alice" were actually conceived and written, it was to them that the presentation copies were given by the author, and to one of them that the actual dedication of "Alice" was addressed.

Twenty years ago the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson was, as at the present day, a fellow and mathematical tutor of Christ Church College, and the daughters of the former Dean, Dr. Liddell, an attractive group of little girls, occupied a prominent place among his small friends. There is some doubt as to which of them the stories of "Alice" are actually dedicated, but tradition commonly points to Mrs. Reginald Hargreaves, Alice Liddell as she then was. That the name is the same, is certainly an argument in favor of this view. Some, however, maintain that the dedication was in reality addressed to the next sister, Edith, whose untimely death, sixteen years ago, upon the eve of her marriage with Mr. Harcourt, of Newnham Park, was the cause of very deep grief and regret to all who knew her. Apart from the tragedy of her death at such a moment, she was universally beloved for her own sake, and was as gifted as she was in every way charming. In any case, however, though the dedication poem of "Alice Through the Looking-Glass" is very obviously intended for one only of his little friends, that at the beginning of "Alice in Wonderland," and also the one at the close of the Looking-glass adventures, would seem to be rather addressed to three of the sisters together. On reading these graceful little verses, one might easily infer that the first idea of this fantastic dream tale had flitted across the author's brain upon a certain drowsy summer afternoon as he drifted in a boat along the Oxford River, while the three little girls pulled manfully at the oars, and at the same time begged for a fairy story from their ever-willing friend.

Any one who reads the adventures of Alice in later years will appreciate the marvellous knowledge of child nature which Mr. Dodgson possesses. No doubt he started with a large share of that most indefinable gift for understanding and sympathizing with the young; but though he has himself always remained a bachelor, his experience of children has been none the less extremely wide. In Oxford alone, among his university acquaintance, there was not a house which owned children, and particularly little girls, which he did not frequent, and where a warm welcome was not always ready for him. His appearance, generally at odd hours and flavored with that, to children, delightful element of the unexpected, was a signal for lesson-books to be discarded and for a general rush to the drawing-room, with a happy disregard of unbrushed hair or soiled pinafores. The children knew perfectly well that this visitor came to see them, and that they were not only to be seen, but heard. The parents also acquiesced in the arrangement. Mr. Dodgson was always admitted to be unlike other people, and his popularity with the children lies in his perfect liberty to pursue the unconventionality of his ways. He had seldom been in the house three minutes before, with pencil and paper, he had embarked the elder of his young friends upon some elaborate puzzle or conundrum, while jokes of all sorts and weird fairy tales were reserved for the little ones who clustered around him. One of the greatest treats that the children could have was to go to tea with Mr. Dodgson in his quaint rooms in the Tom Quad, at Christ Church, where games and entertainments without number were always ready for them, and where the hours passed only too quickly. Better still, perhaps, to be snatched from the dreary routine of a walk with nurse or governess, and borne off, regardless of remonstrance on the part of these worthies, to the mysterious gloom of a half-darkened room, to be photographed. Mr. Dodgson was very fond of taking portraits at a time when amateur photography was scarcely as finished as it is at present, and many little groups of boys and girls, faded now almost out of recognition, are still preserved as mementoes of these childish treats.

Apart from Mr. Dodgson's intimate and faithful knowledge of children, it is his peculiar gift for blending fact and fancy which constitutes in great measure the charm of his writings. He possesses moreover to the highest degree the art of employing such extreme "naturalness," even while depicting the wildest impossibilities, that every child comes to feel, for instance, that she which quite well have dreamed what Alice did, though it is a sign that no child ever dreamed anything half so interesting.

To meet a white rabbit carrying gloves and a fan becomes quite a matter of course, while any child of ordinary imagination only longs to join the March Hare and Hatter's tea-party without stopping to criticise their mode of conversation. There is also in everything which Mr. Dodgson writes an exceptional vein of imaginative humor, which converts the commonplace into the fantastic, and provides his readers with something to think about beyond the actual story, as for example the really elaborate arrangements of the animated chess-board in Looking-glass land. Mr. Dodgson usually expresses himself in the form of dreams as giving larger scope to this particular form of imagination, and occasionally the dreams are not unlike nightmares. Those stories ostensibly embodying mathematical problems which twist through one another in the volume he has rightly entitled "Tanglewood Tales," might have haunted the sickbed of a Senior Wrangler, and the "Hunting of the Snark" is not far removed from delirium. Nevertheless, it is the "Snark" that, after "Alice" has probably enjoyed the greatest popularity among Mr. Dodgson's productions. The same fantastic humor which in his earlier work invented an expensive vocabulary for the famous Jabberwock Lay, bursts out again in this spirited poem, which the author, for some queer reason of his own, has divided into a series of "fits." Serious-minded people have endeavored to prove that the "Hunting of the Snark" was written with an object, and that the snark itself represented some abstract or concrete thing, the exact nature of which is unknown. It is said, however, that Mr. Dodgson has absolutely denied the imputation—otherwise he would most certainly have been called upon to explain the meaning of the boojum and much else besides. And, after all, why should not a man write nonsense if he likes? Especially if it be such first-rate nonsense as that of the Bellman who

> Had bought a large map representing the sea
> Without the least vestige of land,

and his light-hearted companions who

> Were much pleased when they found it to be
> A map they could all understand.

But in spite of the nonsense, Mr. Dodgson is very clever at all times in introducing touches of human nature, and most of us may recognize certain familiar peculiarities, even in the strange ship's company. The Barrister's dream is no doubt not wholly fancy, and in several of his verses at different times Mr. Dodgson has introduced topical, university and other matters. Verse has always been a favorite vehicle for expressing his fantasies, and it is difficult to say whether he is most delightful in that or in prose. There is also a little volume consisting only of acrostics and puzzles, dedicated to two granddaughters of the famous Dr. Arnold, who have enjoyed his friendship since the days of their earliest childhood at Oxford. And we must not omit to mention the delightful illustrations provided by John Tenniel for the two volumes of "Alice," nor the grotesque representations of the ship's crew in the "Snark," by Henry Holiday. "Sylvie and Bruno" has been illustrated with Harry Furniss's usual grace and charm. In this last work, which has produced within recent years from Mr. Dodgson's pen, the humor of his earlier writings is rather wanting. A certain amount of refreshing nonsense is still to be found, but distinctly inferior to what he has given us before.

The fairy-land portion of "Sylvie and Bruno," woven in in the form of dreams, is as charming as anything that the author has yet written, but none the less this latest story is never likely to be as popular with the children, at any rate, as "Alice." At the same time, it must be remembered that "Sylvie and Bruno" is a more serious undertaking, and written with a deeper purpose than anything which Mr. Dodgson has before attempted. The real interest of the book, indeed, lies in the fact that it is the work of his later years, and gives us some idea of the man of whom so little is now known. In the long preface he gives us his views upon many things in life, and upon the always possible nearness of death, and this story is throughout largely influenced by the deep religious feeling which has always been one of Mr. Dodgson's strongest characteristics, and which is so beautifully expressed in the Easter Greeting at the end of "Alice" through the Looking Glass. It is not unnatural that those who of all ages and at different times have read and loved "Alice" should ask what the author is doing now, and whether he is still the guide, philosopher and friend of the Oxford children. And this brings us to a curious and rather melancholy side of Mr. Dodgson's character, melancholy at least to many of its external results.

Even in former years, as his little friends grew older, he seemed to cease to care to see them. When the children went to school, his visits to their homes almost invariably ceased. No reason was given, except that, if the children were not there, he did not care to come, and the parents were obliged once more to acquiesce in this sudden neglect. Nor has he often consented to renew his acquaintance with his former little friends in after life. By degrees he seems to have isolated himself from his surroundings, and at the present day it is said that within his own four walls in Christ Church he leads almost the life of a recluse. He still dines in Hall at High table, but seldom speaks, and takes no part in the society of the university.

He has not, however, lost his love for children, though in Oxford itself, if his circle of small friends exist at all at the present day, which is doubtful, it is a very much diminished one. He still, however, constantly entertains little actresses from the London theatres, and among these professional friends have been numbered the Misses Wehlitz.

A story has recently been told of him which, true or not, and it is not authenticated, vividly recalls the Mr. Dodgson of former days. It happened that in two houses near together in a London street, dinner parties were being given upon the same night. Just as the guests in one house were about to descend to the dining-room, the door was flung open and, to the surprise of the assembled company, a gentleman entered on all fours. Fortunately, one of the guests recognized Mr. Dodgson in this strange apparition, who, realizing his mistake, was able to explain it, to the amusement of all present. It seems that he was supposed to be dining in the other house, where a number of his small friends were waiting to see him in the drawing-room before dinner. In his haste, and considering the strong family likeness between London houses, it is not surprising that he entered the first door which showed signs of a party. Nor did he notice the unfamiliarity of his surroundings till the aghast expression of the butler and the bewilderment upon the face of the guests roused him to a sense of the situation. It is easy to imagine the delight of the children in the right house if this very original mode of entrance was repeated for their benefit.

To those whose earliest memories are associated with Mr. Dodgson, it must ever remain a matter of regret that their friendship with him has never been permitted to be renewed in later years. None the less, however, will they always retain an affectionate recollection of this early friend, and feel a real gratitude toward one who brought so much happiness and amusement into their childhood.

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REAL ESTATE.

BUSINESS AT THE EXCHANGES.

It was a great day in the real estate market yesterday, and every piece of property offered, with few exceptions, sold readily. The most important sales were at No. 111 Broadway. George R. Read offered the Metropolitan Opera House, occupying the block between Broadway and Seventh-ave., Thirty-ninth and Fortieth sts. The block is 205 in Broadway, 230 in Fortieth-st., 197 in Seventh-ave. and 285.6 feet in Thirty-ninth-st. The sale included all right, title and interest which the Metropolitan Opera House Company, limited, had on January 11, 1883. There was a large attendance to witness the sale. Only one bid was made, by James A. Roosevelt, for $1,425,000, and the property was struck down to him at that price. It is understood that Mr. Roosevelt made the purchase on behalf of the stockholders.

Another important sale was by Peter F. Meyer of the site of the former Hotel Royal, being the southeast corner of Sixth-ave. and Fortieth-st., and fronting on Bryant Park. The property has a frontage of 169 on Bryant Park and 59.6 feet on Sixth-ave. There was keen competition, chiefly between Myer Finn, L. M. Jones and Morris Littman, the last of whom was the purchaser at $24,000. This site includes about 9,950 square feet, so that the price paid represents about $40 a square foot. The same auctioneer offered N. s. 138 and 140 East Ninety-sixth-st., being the southwest corner of Lexington-ave. and Ninety-sixth-st. The property consists of a five-story and basement stores and apartments. The bidding ran up to $60,750, J. D. Bucky being the buyer. The same auctioneer offered the southeast corner of Rector and Washington sts., a brick building on a lot 21.6x57. Hellner & Wolff were the buyers for $24,600. No. 223 West Fourth-st. is a three-story brick building on a lot 25x80. It was sold for $18,000 to W. A. Larmer. Two lots in West Broadway, with the southeast corner of Canal-st., being three and four-story brick buildings on lots 25x100 and 58x73, sold in one parcel for $141,000 to James Hennessy.

Smyth & Ryan offered No. 611 East Eleventh-st., a four-story brick building on a full lot. It was sold for $12,950 to L. Katz. No. 444 East Fifty-eighth-st. is a three-story stone front dwelling on a lot 20x100. It was sold for $9,625 to Archer Weinstein. Bryan L. Kennelly disposed of No. 125 West One-hundred-and-twenty-seventh-st., a three-story house on a lot 15x103, to the plaintiff in the proceedings for $9,000. S. de Walltezers sold No. 425 East Ninety-first-st., a two-story brick and stone building on a full lot, for $3,400 to the plaintiff in the proceedings. James Bleecker & Son offered No. 67 West Ninety-sixth-st., a four-story brick dwelling on a lot 21x100. It brought $3,200 from Thomas Curran.

At the Liberty Street Exchange R. V. Harnett & Co. offered Nos. 189 and 191 Allen-st., six-story and cellar brick tenement-houses with stores on lots 25x87 each. They rent for $3,800 a year each, and were sold to Dr. H. W. Berg for $72,000.

The following sales at private contract are reported:

Ascher Weinstein has sold to F. Lowine and H. Mandelbaum Nos. 206, 208 and 210 East Fifty-ninth-st., three five-story tenement-houses, 75x50x100, for $75,000. Ascher Weinstein has also sold to A. Watrous, Henry W. Watsons and Walter W. Watsons, No. 39 West Thirty-sixth-st., north side, between Fifth and Sixth aves., a five-story bachelor apartment-house, 18.8x95x98.9, for $41,000. Ascher Weinstein has leased to Alexander M. McKenzie No. 263 West Thirty-seventh-st., a four-story English basement brick dwelling, 16.8x70x98.9, at $1,000 a year, for three years and two months from March 1.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Canal-st., No 108; Ansel Weinberg, executor, to Teresa Strasburger	$33,100
Water-st., n s, 100 ft e of Jackson-st, 50x100; Lucy A Buhler, as executrix, to William Buhler et al	19,500
Monroe-st, No 137; Joseph W Tigner and wife to Jacob Miller	1
Monroe-st, s w corner Pelham-st, 36x25x33.2x47.7; Bernard Galewski and wife to Banned Friend	1
4th-st, s s, 221 ft w of Macdougal-st, 21x100; Cesare Barrette and wife to Giuseppe Barretti	1
Goerck-st, Nos 27 and 29; Henry Geodes and wife to Henry H Muller and wife	30,250
Great Jones-st, No 52; Pauline Friend to Robert M Dore and wife	1
Willett-st, No 39; Louis Schoen to Annie Feldman	5,000
33d-st, n s, 192.11 ft e of Broadway, 21.10x98.9; Annie C Sutherland et al to Ascher Weinstein	40,500
Broadway, s e corner 32d-st, 24.9x73.6x irregular; George A Ridley, referee, to Matilda Sloane	15,250
36th-st, n s corner 30th-st, 50.4x60; Samuel L Gross and another to Ascher Weinstein	1
33d-st, n s, 192.11 ft e of Broadway, 21.10x98.9; Ascher Weinstein and wife to Julia Wells	45,000
23d-st, Nos 340 and 342 East; Roche McWhitlock et al to the rector, etc., of Calvary Church	10
31st-st, n s corner 30th-st, 25.5x98; Victoria P Watson et al to Ascher Weinstein	63,200
23d-st, No 41 East; Susan L Warren to William A Read	1
75th-st, No 53 West; James T Hall Co to Joseph J Lawrence	1
94th-st, s s, 200 ft w of 9th-ave, 54.8x99.8 to Arthur's Lane; Eva Kaye to Bernice Kouzes say	17,000
66th-st, No 241 West; Henry T Elliot and wife to James M Gano	35,000
9th-ave, s e cor Ascher Weinstein and wife to John A Pleines, jr	9,500
88th-st, No 147 West; Charles P Maclay and wife to Henry Van Hornebergh	16,500
53d-st, No 217 West; William Dougherty and wife to Jacob Mattun	100
88th-st, No 19 West; Spencer Aldrich and wife to George W Tooker	1
10th-ave, No 738; Henry Hatch and wife to William H Hill	1
55th-st, s s, 175 ft east of Ave A, 25x100; Randolph Guggenheimer et al to William Hoffman, and another	8,000
88d-st, s s, 275 ft w of 1st-ave, 25x100; Peter Schmidt to August Jaeger and wife	20,750
64th-st, n s, 100 ft w of 3d-ave, 25x100.5; William Ludcke to Louis T Ludcke	1
97th-st, s s, 400 ft e of 2d-ave, 25x100.11; James Crowley and wife to Leopold Rosenthal	17,500
Amsterdam-ave, e s, 300 ft s of 143d-st, 25x100; M C Keenan to Charles Keenan	1
133d-st, n s, 225 ft e of 7th-ave, 25x99.11; Louis G Leyser and wife to Nathan L Hahn	1
Amsterdam-ave, e s, 325 ft s of 136d-st, 25x100; Charles Keenan and wife to Matthew C Keenan	1
122d-st, n s, 118 ft w of Lenox-ave, 19x100.11; Catharine J Paine to Henry C Hirsch	28,000
167th-st, s e s, 130 ft e of Bathgate-ave, 19x120.4; John Whalen, referee, to Henry Fischer	3,300
133d-st, n s, 325 ft e of Trinity-ave, 75x103; Thomas and wife to Charles Rohl	5,500
Southern Boulevard, e s, east part of tract of land in 24th Ward of Marc A Hunt; Sarah S S Sturges to Benjamin L H Trask	1
4th-ave, e s, 200 ft s of Waverly-pl, 50x100; Gertrude Geyer et al to Mary F Wood	700
Poplar-st, n s, 100 ft e of Madison-ave, 100x125; Louis Rahin to Amelie Rahin	1
171st-st, s s, 125 ft w Audubon-ave, 50x97; Matthew C Keenan to Charles Keenan	1
Lot M & L, part lot 35 map Newtown 24th Ward; John H Eden and wife to Abraham B Tappen	1
Same property; Abraham B Tappen and wife to Adelaide M Shenk	700
Forest-ave, w s, 175 ft s Beech-st, 25x100; John Schwartz and wife to George Marshall	650

RECORDED MORTGAGES.

Althause, Sarah M, to the Bank for Savings, N Y, Nos 142 and 144 Greenpoint, 3 years	$15,000
Flannery, Simon P, and wife to Henry A Bogert, trustee, 48 Rooseveltst, 3 years, 2 mortgages	30,000
First Baptist Church in Melrose, New-York City to Harlem Savings Bank, New-York City, lot 68 map of lands of William H Morris, 23d Ward, 1 year	1,000
Harmers, Henry C, to the Title Guarantee and Trust Company and another, n s 122d-st, w of Lenox-ave, 2 mortgages	20,000
Kohl, Charles, to T Gaillard Thomas, n s 132d-st, e Trinity-ave, 1 year	5,200
Jaeger, August, and wife to Peter Schadt, s s 86th-st, e of 1st-ave, 1 year	2,600
Kendall, Charles S, and wife to Tallmadge W Foster, e s Boulevard, s of 95th-st, 7 months	5,000
Kaufman, Heyman, and wife to the East River Savings Institution, n s 80th-st, e of 1st-ave, 1 year	12,000
Kubicek, Frank, et al, to Vaclav Hladcke, e s Suburban Plain in Boston-ave, 4 years	400
Muller, Herman H, et al to Henry Gerlis, Nos 27 and 29 Goerck-st, 10 years	18,000
same to Samuel W. Strickland, trustee, etc, same property, 5 years	3,000
McDonald, Ellen and John, to William A Martin, No 115 Varick-st, 3 years	2,000
Mittern, Jacob and wife to William Dougherty, n s 53d-st w of Broadway, 3 years	11,500
Pleines, jr, John A, to Ascher Weinstein, e s 9th-ave, n of 57th-st, 1 year	3,000
Redler, Joseph, and wife to Albert G Morgenstern, n s 29th-st, e of 3d-ave, 3 years	6,000
Rohrs, Frederick, and another, to Charlotte R. Johnson, n s Westchester-ave, e of Eagle-ave, 3 years	14,000
Tellkampf, Anita, to the Title Guarantee and Trust Company, s s 42d-st or South Washington Square, e of McDougal-st, 3 years	7,000
Van Riper, Charles, et al to the Harlem Savings Bank, New-York, s e corner Vanderbilt-ave and Morris Place, etc, 1 year, 4 mortgages	10,000
Wilcox, Franklin A, and wife to New-York Cotton Exchange, n w s 3d-ave, adjoining lot 286, lot 287 map of Melrose, 3 years	13,000
Willey, William B, and wife to the East Side Cooperative Building and Loan Association, n s Potter Place, lot 133 map No 3 New-York City, private park, Twenty-fourth Ward, instalments	456
Weinstein, Ascher, to St Mary's Free Hospital for Children, n w corner 34-ave and 30th-st, 3 years	45,000
Wells, Judson G, to Henry A C Taylor, n s 30th-st, e of Broadway, 3 years	26,000

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Four-story high-stoop brick dwelling.

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PHILO T. RUGGLES, Esq., Referee.

Messrs. A. P. & W. MAN, Attorneys, 50 Wall-st.

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FOR SALE.—In the best street between 23d-st. and Washington Square, near 5th-ave., a four-story brownstone house, fitted for the accommodation of a gentleman's family, and having special facilities for entertaining. It is 25 feet wide, 60 feet deep, lot 98.9, with stable on lot in rear street.

Model cellar, specially light, wine cellar lighted by heavy glass tiles above coal vaults. Kitchen in first story, fitted with complete laundry arrangements and ample closets; kitchen mezzanine large and light; fine French ranges; marble floors in kitchen and hallways.

The parlor floor opens up grandly for entertaining, and comprises library, drawing-room and dining-room, all with open fireplaces; butler's pantry also on this floor.

The 2d and 3d floors each contain four large rooms, with bathrooms fitted in the most expensive manner, with porcelain bathtubs, marble walls and floors, and exposed plumbing.

The 4th floor has seven rooms, and so arranged as to accommodate a large retinue of servants.

There are open fireplaces throughout; the heating is by hot water and steam; in every room washbasins and closets unusually numerous; have special ventilation. The plumbing of basins is new, and is entirely disconnected from main sewers. Polished hardwood floors on 1st, 2d and 3d floors, and polished pine of 4th floor.

This property runs through to the rear street, on which is excellent stable with coachman's room over.

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MODERN ... NEAR 72D-ST., 16.8 feet wide, in good condition; $27,500; terms to suit. WINANT & GOADBY, 500 Madison-ave., corner 52d-st.

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Finest fireproof Hotel in the City, with Apartments adjoining.

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