

AN AMUSING BOOK.

MR. G. W. E. RUSSELL ON THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.

AN ONLOOKER'S NOTEBOOK. By the Author of "Collections and Recollections." Octavo, pp. vii, Ed. Harper & Bros.

The author of the newspaper articles collected in this volume does not place his name upon the title page, but it is an open secret that he is Mr. G. W. E. Russell, youngest son of Lord Charles Russell. He has had much experience of public affairs, has long been familiar with London society, and possesses a genuine feeling for literature. He is a man with the courage of his convictions, and it is presumably not without a certain satisfaction that he quotes on his title page a passage from a letter of Sydney Smith's: "Another peculiarity of the Russells, wrote the famous wit, to Archdeacon Singleton, is that they never alter their opinion; they are an excellent race, but they must be trepanned before they can be convinced." This book is full of opinions, and they may well be firmly held, for they are based on sound judgment. If in the consideration of some things he looks with contentment upon the Past and with disapproval upon the Present, there is little, if any prejudice disclosed in his remarks.

He knows the bad as well as the good side of earlier days. He does not ignore the brutalities in which Londoners found pleasure a hundred years ago. He cites a debate in the House of Commons, held in 1800, in which bull baiting was glorified as a national, humane, and popular sport, "conducive to innocent merriment, and improving to the breed of dogs." From a newspaper of that time he draws an account of a prize fight in which one of the combatants "vomited a great deal of blood at almost every round, and was taken for dead from the stage." But he protests that staidness was, in his opinion, the note of 1800, while, in his opinion, free-and-easiness was the note of 1900. A hundred years ago a son called his father "Sir." To-day, laments Mr. Russell, he calls him "dad." The Dowager Duchess of Cleveland, who was born in 1742 and died in 1833, preserving to the last an unshakable fidelity to the old times, once told him that she believed Lord Salisbury had no carriage. On Mr. Russell's expressing surprise at this remark, she replied, "I have been told that Lord Salisbury goes about London in a BROUGHAM," and, adds the author, "her tone could not have expressed a more lively horror if the vehicle had been a coster's barrow." The Dowager Duchess of Beaufort, who died in 1880, used to thank heaven "that she had never driven in a hack coach nor sat in the pit at the play—by which derogatory synonyms she indicated cabs and stalls." Of course, one must smile at these quaint revivals of ancient prejudice. Mr. Russell himself is well aware of the unconscious humor in them. But we can sympathize with him in his appreciation of even such obsolete traditions, for, however absurd they may seem to our modern eyes, they at least contributed toward the conservation of a certain tone which might profitably be reintroduced in the world of to-day. The reader making the proper deductions, which are tacitly assumed by Mr. Russell, cannot but admit the soundness of the following remarks:

To our grandfathers dancing was an ordered pomp of steps and figures. Even the newly imported waltz was slow and ceremonious. To-day their descendants riot in the kitchen lancers, or shove their partners along to the music of a waltz, or spin their necks amid the ridiculous splendors of the stockbroker's suburban paradise.

Probably in all ages of history men have liked money, but a hundred years ago they did not talk about it in society. The only creditable form of wealth was rent. The profits of business were regarded as indecent. When a financier was enabled as a reward for having lent money to influential persons, to acquire a respectable condition that he sold out of business and invested his money in land, Samuel Rogers, indeed, was notoriously a banker, but if his friends wished to remain on speaking terms with him, they must needs pretend to believe that he lived in affluence on the profits of his poetry. Not thirty years ago a gentleman of the old school expressed in his hearing the most indignant objections because an expert whom he had employed sent him a photograph at Christmas. "Are all my trades people going to send their pictures?" To-day a duke's son will pull a sample of cotton upon one of his dress balls, or he will remember him when she recovers the kitchen floor, or will send her husband a speculative bottle of peach brandy, with the compliments of his firm.

Among Mr. Russell's most interesting chapters are those in which he glances at the history of monarchy in England from 1760 down to 1901. These abound in amusing anecdotes of the court, a few of them illustrating it must be confessed, something very different from the staidness which the author justly associates with much of the life of other days in England. He quotes Lord Aberdeen's remark that George IV. certainly could be the most polished of gentlemen, "or the exact opposite," and of the "exact opposite" he gives a piquant illustration:

Lord Charles Russell (1807-1894) had just received his first commission in the Blues, and was commended, with the next of kin, to the Duke of Devonshire, who was then in Carlton House. Unluckily for his peace of mind, the young subaltern dressed at his father's house, and, not being used to the splendid paraphernalia of the Blue uniform, he omitted to put on his "silkilette." He arrived at the palace, the guests, before they could enter the ballroom, had to advance in single file along a corridor in which he sat on a sofa. When the hapless youth who heard a very high voice exclaim, "Who is this d—d fellow?" Retreat was impossible, and there was nothing for it but to shut one's eyes and try to keep the King without further result. Not a bit of it. As he neared the sofa the King exclaimed, "Good evening, sir; I suppose you are the regimental doctor?" For non-combatants were not allowed to enter the ballroom, and the impudently accented youth wished that the earth would open and swallow him up alive. Yet the victim of this royal outrage always declared that the perpetrator of it "cost him his career," "every inch a King," and that he had only to show his face on any public occasion to be greeted with tumults of applause, which drowned the rival cries of "George, where's your wife?"

The pages devoted to Queen Victoria are full of interest. Recalling what Gladstone used to say, that her accession had abolished swearing, he adds: "It was impossible even for Lord Melbourne, who habitually assumed every one and everything to be d—d, to swear in her presence, and the self-control thus enforced, inebriety was a mere incident of good fellowship in the festive circles of George and William. It would have been an outrage of decency at the table of the Queen. Her ministers, he tells us, were so averse to shocking her susceptibilities that they promptly abolished the ancient practice by which the sentences in capital cases passed at the Old Bailey were submitted to the sovereign in person." He is plainly in sympathy with the regime under which "people of the highest station were made to feel that character was an essential condition of admission to the Queen's presence." Mr. Russell has much to say about the Queen and her ministers, and her likes and dislikes where these statesmen were concerned. She knew, he says, that her constitutional duty transcended all questions of personal liking; but he cites the dispute between her and Lord Palmerston as an example of the "or with which she could exercise her royal prerogative when she chose, and she gives one other instance of her happy exercise of the commanding force she possessed,

despite all constitutional trammels. A friend of his once asked the Queen if, when a prime minister resigned, he named his successor. "Not unless I ask him to," was her majesty's reply. The imperfect sympathy between her and Gladstone is well known. "He harangues me as if I were a public meeting," she is reported to have said, but Mr. Russell has further explanations to offer, among them the fact that the Liberal statesman's opposition to Lord Beaconsfield, when the latter was the idol of the court, was, at any rate, during the prominence of the Eastern question in 1870-71, nearly equivalent to an attack upon the court itself. He recalls the public snub administered to Gladstone in 1879, when he and his wife were not invited to the wedding of the Duke of Connaught, and refers to an even more remarkable rebuke given behind the scenes:

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone had been in the habit of paying frequent visits to the Queen. Well-to-do at the Deanery near Windsor, and the habit was continued during the long struggle over the Eastern question. An illustrious personage wrote to the Dean suggesting that Mr. Gladstone was engaged to marry a young girl, and that, in consequence, it might be better if his visits to the Deanery were discontinued. "Whereupon," said the stout old Dean, Wellington's nephew and countertop, "I wrote her a tickler, 'Imagination bogies at the thought. A yet the numerous instances of the Queen's unsympathetic attitude toward Gladstone, and her independence in more than one situation, do not cause Mr. Russell to forget the magnanimity and sagacity with which, when occasion demanded, she placed the public good before her own feelings. He gives the following illustration:

At Easter, 1880, the great issue between Lord Beaconsfield and Mr. Gladstone was submitted to the judgment of the nation. The Queen went abroad comfortable in Lord Beaconsfield's assurance that the election would give him a fresh lease of power. When the dismal truth that Mr. Gladstone had a majority of a hundred and thirty-one votes, and that Lord Beaconsfield resigned. Then political excitement became intense. Lord Hartington was no doubt the titular leader of the Liberal party, and a certain section of moderate Liberals were despatched to the Liberal office, to be met by the Prime Minister; but the militant and victorious element in the party would have no chief but Mr. Gladstone. Yet his distastefulness to the court was common knowledge, and Lord Beaconsfield, being assured, by one who ought to have known, that "the Queen wouldn't speak to him." In strict accordance with constitutional rule, her majesty sent to Lord Hartington, and not merely by request but implied him to form an administration. He replied that a Liberal administration with Mr. Gladstone as the candid friend just outside it would be a practical impossibility.

"I can't say I am sure he wouldn't, ma'am, for I have never ventured to ask him. I would I beg you will ask him, and come back and let me know what he says." This command Lord Hartington, as in duty bound, obeyed. Of course, the answer was what he had anticipated. "Next day," he writes, "I was taken to the Victoria Hotel, and both statesmen assured the Queen that Mr. Gladstone was the only possible Prime Minister, and that evening he kissed hands. It is pretty triumphant over personal distastes and even political convictions.

"We have touched upon only a few of Mr. Russell's themes. There are more than forty chapters in his book, and they cover a wide field. He writes of the court and of democracy, of finance and journalism, of the Church and the universities, of chivalry and of Hedonism, and of many more interesting subjects. He uses the light touch essential in brief contributions to periodical literature, but, writing out of a full mind, and with unflinching taste and with serious concern for high ideals, he has produced a book which we are glad to have between covers. It offers a rich fund of entertainment.

THE INDEX.

WISE COUNSEL FROM A MASTER OF THE SUBJECT.

HOW TO MAKE AN INDEX. By Henry B. Wheatley. 12mo, pp. 11, 23. London: Elliot Stock.

The time has gone by when literary men were wont to sneer at indexes as easy roads to acquiring a smattering of knowledge; and many and deep have been the curses directed against books without them. So, too, the indexer, who was once the butt of a joke, is now held in a certain honor—he is a go-to man. Mr. Wheatley is an old and experienced indexer, and he writes about indexes and indexers in a way that is both the subject is far from dry. In fact, it is full of entertainment. Even in the older days there were great men who were not alone making their own indexes. Thus, at the urgent solicitation of Johnson, Richardson composed more than one to his own works. At the end of "Clarissa Harlowe" he added a sort of table of all the passages best worth remembering—"and as he was the judge himself, it naturally extended to a considerable length." Later he compiled a similar and more general index to his three novels. Hume, too, made his own index; and Macaulay, when he was a boy, made an index to his father's "Christian Observer," though it must be said that in later years he classed "index makers in humble coats of frieze" as the lowest frequenters of the coffee houses of the Dryden and Swift era. Isaac Disraeli "venerated" the inventor of indexes—"an unknown laborer in literature who first laid open the nerves and arteries of a book."

Some of the older indexes are full of quaint touches and curious subjective traits. Mr. Wheatley quotes a number of entries from John Ford's translation of Montaigne's essays, such as "Action Better than Speech," "Beasts are Physicians, Logicians, Musicians, Artists, Students, Politicks, Docible, Capable of Military Order, of Affections, of Justice, of Friendship, of Husbandry, of Thankfulness and of Compassion." And in the cross references there are such as these: "Common People ride the Vulgar," "Empericks ride Physicians," etc. It was formerly not uncommon to use the index as a weapon of controversy, or of satire. Thus, when William Prynne wrote his "Historia Mastix" in 1633, it was the opinion of one reader that of onslaught upon the state that in "the Table of his Book and his brief additions thereto," he had written what would "cost him his career, or heavily punish and deeply fined." There were such entries as "Heavenly stages plays there," "Kings—infamous for them to act or frequent Players or favour Players," "Play—three examples of God's judgements on the chief of them."

Gay composed an amusing index for his picture of eighteenth century London, "Trivia," carrying out the satirical intent of his own verse, in which there are such references as these: "Asses, their Arrogance"; "Cellar, the misfortune of falling into one"; "London, its happiness before the invention of Coaches and Chairs." And, of course, most will remember the inimitable index of this sort that Lowell appended to his "Biglow Papers"—by far the best of its kind, with its "Babel, probably the first Congress," "Birch, value of in instilling contempt of the dead languages," "Bible, not composed for the use of colored persons," and many other gems. Dr. William King, of Oxford, is reputed to be the inventor of the satirical index. He first employed it in a book virulently attacking Bentley, the great classical scholar, when it reacted smartly upon himself; but this did not prevent him from adventuring on the same ground again, in lampooning the "Philosophical Transactions" of the then newly established Royal Society. He then ingeniously turned the author's own words thus: "Mountains, higher than hills," and "Hay, good for horses." The same method he used against William Bromley's book of travels, whereby that worthy was prevented from be-

ing Speaker of the House of Commons. It is a form of wit, or of ill nature, that has quite gone out of fashion.

More serious matter, though sometimes not less amusing, is contained in Mr. Wheatley's discussion of bad indexes, who are a trial and an exasperation to all readers. They always make the same blunders that would seem to be impossible were they not so frequently brought to mind. One of the worst is the entering of passages under unimportant words for which no one would think of looking. Mr. Wheatley mentions a book published last year with copious index references, such as "A Book," "The Advantage," "The Girl," etc. Only a step removed from these are entries like "Academy in Africa, a Monkey's"; "Africa, a Monkey's Academy in," and "Monkey's Academy in Africa." Some indexes have an unaccountable fancy for including authors under their Christian names. Perhaps, however, the most lamentable instances are those quoted from Palmer's "Index to the London Times" for 1842; an article on the dry weather is put under "Present Dry Season"; an account of two women committed to Ruthin prison comes under "Rather Uncommon for Females"; a small boy steals a twopenny under "The Girl"; and is to be found under "Atrocious Crime," and so on.

Destructive criticism is, however, by no means the aim of Mr. Wheatley's book; and fully half of it is given up to practical directions for making an account of one's index. And though the indexer must be born, he must be made as well, and the principles of good index making need much study. An ignorant man cannot make a good index. Mr. Wheatley sums up thus the qualities necessary: 1, common sense; 2, insight into the meaning of the author; 3, power of analysis; 4, common feeling with the consulter; 5, insight into his mind; and 5, general knowledge. It would certainly seem as if the Grub Street indexer of the eighteenth century had no place left for him to-day.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

THE PUTNAMS HAVE IN PREPARATION "THE STRANGE STORY OF DR. FORTEUCE," A DETECTIVE STORY, BY ELIZABETH KENT. This is a pseudonym, the author being a woman of prominence in New-York society, now in Europe.

THE ZEAL OF WEALTHY AMERICANS IN FOSTERING THE CAUSE OF EDUCATION, WHICH IS ONE OF THE NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS OF RECENT YEARS IN THIS COUNTRY, IS ILLUSTRATED IN THE GREAT NUMBER OF GIFTS TO LIBRARIES. A report on this subject was presented at the recent meeting of the American Library Association at Magnolia, Mass. From this it appears that, while there was a greater number of individual gifts than the year before, the average amount, as well as the total, is smaller than in that year. This is accounted for largely by the change of Mr. Andrew Carnegie's policy. This consists in giving away amounts much smaller in size and thus increasing the number of recipients. The year before he gave to the largest cities in amounts which from the nature of the case, as Mr. George Watson Cole, the author of the report, says, cannot be repeated. There were then 121 gifts by him; last year there were 234, of which 203 are in the United States, aggregating \$5,500,000; his gifts to British and British-American cities amounted to about \$1,000,000. Gifts from others amounted to about \$2,500,000 for books and about \$7,500,000 for buildings. The gifts of books included 328,880 volumes and 78,528 pamphlets. The compiler notes the fact that libraries are more and more beginning to receive collections which until late were supposed to belong more properly to museums than to libraries—an approximation to the view of a library's functions that has always prevailed in England. Speaking of the collections of Babylonian clay cylinders and tablets that have been presented respectively to the libraries of Princeton and Haverford, Mr. Cole says:

"We call upon the librarians of these two libraries to apply themselves diligently to solving the task laid before them; that of ascertaining whether these remnants from the libraries of the past throw any light upon the library methods of those days, such as the methods of labeling and shelving, and the systems of cataloging and classification employed by the librarians of that time. These ancient books should also be critically examined to see if they disclose any evidences of having belonged to travelling or circulating libraries; and especially whether the librarians of annual library conferences and post-conferences.

The next novel by Gilbert Parker will be published by the Appletons in the fall. The title is not yet announced. Mr. Eugene Smith undertakes to bring order into a subject where he thinks confusion has reigned. In his book, "The Home Aquarium and How to Care for It," which E. P. Dutton & Co. are about to publish.

It was just ten years ago—July 4, 1892—when Lieutenant Peary was on Navy Cliff, Greenland, at nearly the most northerly point reached by him. There he built a cairn, and, "after the capstone was put on, the flag of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences and the National Geographic Society of Washington, presented by Miss Dahlgren, were attached to the bamboo staff of the little silken gland (which Mrs. Peary had made at Red Cliff House and presented to me as a Christmas present), and the staff was fixed in the cairn. How gloriously the brilliant colors sparkled as the wind from the mighty ice cap spread them to the vivid sunlight and filled the air about the summit of the great bronze cliff with their laughing rustle!" It was after this flag raising that the explorers held a great feast, begun by the drinking of a thimbleful of brandy and with this bill of fare:

Pea Soup, Sauternee, Sirloin of Mutton Broiled, with Biscuits, Veal Cutlets, with Biscuits, Bartlett Pears and Cream, a la Tim Can, Tea and Biscuits.

In honor of this decennial the publishers of Peary's work, "Northward," announce a new popular edition containing the entire text, illustrations, maps, etc., of the costly edition, but at a much smaller price. A detective story, "The World's Work," on the scale demanded by a monthly magazine, goes to press so short a time before its publication. The postage on magazines is a heavy item in England, for the newspaper rates, corresponding to the second-class rates in this country, extend only to daily and weekly papers, and full rates are charged on magazines.

On the other hand, American postal regulations create difficulty for English magazines that are circulated in this country through the mails. The publishers of these magazines are in the habit of inserting advertising pages in the midst of reading matter; but this is not allowed in this country, where the pages must be numbered consecutively and advertised matter be kept together. They even circulate little flat sample packages of merchandise between the covers of their magazines in England, which passes as advertising matter there, but this is also prohibited in this class of matter in the United States mails.

We have had all sorts of self-revelations in literature, of various depths of infamy and various degrees of candor; but now comes, according to the Appletons, one that lays bare quite without reserve all the inmost workings of a mind that reached the lowest depths. It is the autobiography of a convict, entitled "As I Sailed," edited by Stanley Waterloo, and will make its appearance in the early autumn. This is said to be the genuine production of a man who was a common sailor in a whaling vessel, then in a merchant ship, then in the British navy, then an ensign in the American navy, taking part in the attack of Fort Fisher. Then he "runs the whole yellow streak of worthlessness, which ended in a quarter of a century behind prison bars," and died in a Western penitentiary. The editor speaks of the man's unconscious self-revelation in this autobiography, in which he regrets nothing and betrays no sense of shame or contrition.

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of the author has been to write a narrative suitable for the general reader that would treat in a popular style of this most important period of Italian history. He hopes that the series of which this is the first volume will be an aid to the general culture, and may pave the way for the complete popular history of Italy that is so much needed and has so long been desired.

Harper & Bros. have received an application from the Rev. Cars Branshy, of Berkeley, Cal., for permission to translate Dr. van Dyke's "The Story of the Other Wise Man" into Spanish. The translator is an ordained Presbyterian minister, born of Spanish and English parents.

Hamlin Garland has been invited by President Harper to deliver a series of eight lectures on "Significant Phases of American Literature" during the summer term of the University of Chicago. His subjects will be: "The Beginning of Landscape Poetry and Painting," illustrated in Bryant, Cooper and Cole; "Development of the Ballad," using Longfellow, Whittier and Poe as types; "The Literature of Democracy," Walt Whitman; "The Modern Novel," William Dean Howells; "The Local in Fiction," "Poets of the New El Dorado," Bret Harte and Joaquin Miller; "The Cosmic Feeling for Nature," Sidney Lanier, and a popular lecture on "The Joys of the Trail." Mr. Garland believes himself to be the only lecturer before the University of Chicago who possesses no university degree of any kind. After the lectures Mr. Garland will strike his tent in the Rocky Mountains, going in by pack trail.

The Putnams have in preparation "The Strange Story of Dr. Fortesque," a detective story, by Elizabeth Kent. This is a pseudonym, the author being a woman of prominence in New-York society, now in Europe.

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