

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. C. K. Shorter, rummaging in the sixth volume of "English Army Lists and Commission Registers, 1661-1714," a work edited and annotated by Mr. C. Dalton, has discovered a bit of new information concerning Defoe. Here it is: Daniel Defoe was a captain lieutenant in Colonel John Desbordes's regiment of dragoons, in Portugal, in 1714. There is every reason to believe that the renowned and versatile author of "Robinson Crusoe" whose career from 1688 to his death in 1731 afforded many interesting details for contemporary as well as for historical and biographical writers, to the present time no writer appears to have discovered the fact that Defoe was a commissioned officer in a cavalry regiment of dragoons.

The Putnam bring out a new edition (the twenty-third) that invaluable compendium "Havard's Dictionary of Dates." A preface points out that when the book first appeared, in 1841, it consisted of 568 pages of smaller size and larger type than those of later editions. The present edition, in which the dictionary is revised and brought down to the end of 1903, runs to nearly 1,500 pages. It is printed in clear enough type, on good paper, but it is not without signs of careless proofreading. The last column of the matter relating to the United States contains the statement that it was reported in August, 1903, that "Judge Taft" would become Secretary of War on the retirement of "Mr. Root," in January, 1904.

For the modest collector, who is content to wait until opportunity casually occurs for the purchase of some bit of ware with which to adorn his or her shelves, Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson has written a useful little volume in "How to Identify Old China" (The Macmillan Company). The amateur having neither the time nor the money to take his hobby too seriously, but needing a certain amount of information if he is not to be defrauded in season and out of season, will here find data enabling him to recognize quickly enough the product of any one of the Staffordshire potteries, to tell Wedgwood from Lambethware or Bow china from Derby. Mrs. Hodgson deals only, we may add, with English ware. She instructs her reader in this practical fashion:

Having found a piece of earthenware and one of porcelain, it is well to feel them with the eyes before a pencil will be noticed both as to texture and comparative warmth (porcelain being a better conductor of heat, is much cooler than the piece of earthenware). The easiest way for the collector who has not yet arrived at the stage when he can distinguish between the two by feel and appearance is to try the piece with a fine file at the bottom, where the glaze is thin; soft paste powders quite easily under the file, while porcelain resists it, and only a mere scratch remains.

Porcelain is classed under two heads—namely, hard paste and soft paste. English porcelain belongs to the soft paste class as a whole, and some of our factories make hard paste. The easiest way for the collector who has not yet arrived at the stage when he can distinguish between the two by feel and appearance is to try the piece with a fine file at the bottom, where the glaze is thin; soft paste powders quite easily under the file, while porcelain resists it, and only a mere scratch remains.

The illustrations in this volume are excellent half tones from photographs of characteristic pieces. Numerous potter's marks are also reproduced in facsimile. The book is prettily made, with a cover design in delicate blue and white.

Mr. G. K. Chesterton, in his recently published booklet on the art of George Frederick Watts, tells this anecdote of Tennyson: "The poet with that queer, sulky humor which gave him, perhaps, more breadth than Watts, but less strength, said, after reading some acid and unkind criticisms, 'I wish I had never written a line.' 'Come,' said Watts, 'you wouldn't like King Arthur to talk like that.' Tennyson paused a moment and then spread out his fingers. 'Well,' he said, 'what do you expect? It's all the gout.'"

Still another series of luxuriously made biographies is to make its appearance. It is announced, under the title of "Historical Monographs," by the Messrs. Jack, of Edinburgh. The first volume will be a "Life of Lord Burghley," by Dr. Jessopp. Succeeding monographs will deal with Warwick the Kingmaker, the great Duke of Marlborough, John Hampden, Neil Gwyn and George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.

Mr. Swinburne has a resounding poem, six pages long, in the June "Harper." It is called "The Altar of Righteousness," and it contains divers obscure solemnities, but we have sought in it in vain for flashes of anything like poetic inspiration. The thing seems machine made, as witness this fragment:

In the days when time was not, in the time when days were none,  
Ere sorrow had life to lot, ere earth gave thanks for the sun,  
Ere man in his darkness waking adored what the soul in his mind,  
And the manifold God of his making was manifold,  
One law from the dim beginning abode and abides in the end,  
In a sign of him sorrowing and slinging with none but his faith for friend,  
Dark were the shadows around him, and darker  
Ere light from beyond them found him, and bade him  
About him was darkness, and under and over  
him darkness, the night  
That convulsed him, and lo! he had thunder for utterance  
and lightning for light.  
The dust of death was the dust of the ways that  
that tribes and  
And he knew not if just or unjust were the might  
of the mystery of God,  
Strangest horror and hope, strange faith and un-  
faith, were his boon and his bane;  
And the God of his trust was the wrath of the  
of the  
A curse was on death as on birth, and a Presence  
that shone as a sword  
Ebed presence from heaven upon earth that beheld  
him, and hailed her Lord.

The fifteenth and sixteenth volumes of the new "Kensington" edition of Thackeray, just received from the Scribners, are given to "The Adventures of Philip." The frontispiece to the first of these is a picture of the novelist's house in Kensington, No. 2 Palace Green. The second volume opens with Fred Walker's charming sketch of Philip in church. We wish that for this wood engraving of his design the publishers had substituted the beautiful version he made of it in watercolor.

At the recent Royal Academy banquet, the president, Sir Edward Poynter, surprised his hearers when he came to speak of departed painters. The year had not been, he said, without losses to the academy and outside its walls, and then he proceeded to speak of the one man whose name few could have expected to hear mentioned within the walls of Burlington House, the late Mr. Whistler. The report of Sir Edward's tribute runs, in "The Daily Chronicle," as follows:

A conspicuous name would come to their minds when they reckoned up the losses which art has sustained—that of James McNeill Whistler (cheerfully called as he was) and all his work in his life time. He (Sir Edward) knew him well, could be called a student in Paris—that is, if, by a student, he meant one who was a boy of ten years, devoted hardly as many weeks to study, his excess of the natural indolence of disposition and excess of the pleasure of a certain share had been ultimately forced to paint. He was a painter, and could not help it. Impudent of labor, however, the brilliant reasoner, his wit supplied him with admirable reasons for carrying on his work further than inclination prompted. His follow-up of a determination to study, and then a determination to leave off when the difficulties began, was what he forgot that it was the freshest and the most original which his genius showing itself in a natural grace, which had ever been put on canvas, that made them forget the imperfections in other directions, which, he too willingly condoned in his own work. His habit of using fan of his

Summer Resorts.

critics, and even of his adherents, had misled them to the field of his admiration of the great masters of painting was limited to Velasquez, or to recall a popular story, to himself alone; but in his serious moments no one showed a greater respect for the works of great artists, and that in quarters where he would be least suspected of sympathy.

The memoirs of Mme. Bernhardt promise to be bulky. They will fill one very large volume or possibly two volumes, and they will cover the whole life of the actress.

To die for the faith was no exclusive prerogative of the early Christians. Many missionaries and Christian martyrs were cruelly murdered in China during the Boxer uprising in 1900, on account of their religious belief. From the various accounts of these atrocities which were printed in the magazines and in fugitive pamphlets, the Rev. Robert Coventry Forsyth, who was for eighteen years a missionary in Shantung, has compiled a volume, entitled "The China Martyrs of 1900." It is to be published immediately by the Revels, and will contain a complete roll of those who died, with 144 illustrations and portraits. A particularly interesting feature will be the abundant extracts from private journals, some of which have been recovered only recently.

The habit of observation and the sense of form that all artists must cultivate to be at all successful are of great assistance to them in expressing themselves well when they drop into literature. The announcement that Rose Cecil O'Neill, the illustrator, has written a novel, entitled "The Loves of Edwy," which the Lothrop Publishing Company will issue in August, will at once awaken interest in those who have enjoyed her clever drawings in "Puck." The author is the wife of Harry Leon Wilson, who wrote "The Spenders" and "The Lions of the Lord." As the practice of writing is unfortunately of no aid to the acquiring of skill in pictorial art, Mrs. Wilson, who illustrated her husband's books, will have to illustrate her own novel, too.

A new novel by W. E. Norris is published by D. Appleton & Co. It is entitled "Nature's Comedian," and is said to be a study in egotism, the hero being "a great actor, a gentleman and a man of the world." It will be pleasant news to great actors that one of them can be conceived, if only in fiction, as being also a gentleman. Mr. Norris will have the thanks of the profession.

Business men and lawyers will look with interest for the appearance this month of Gould and Blakemore's "Bankruptcy Act of 1898, Annotated and Explained." The volume is intended to combine the information furnished by both a digest and a textbook of bankruptcy law and practice, and to contain everything that the practicing lawyer needs on the subject. The fact that it will be issued at a moderate price will possibly not mean so much to the practicing lawyer as to the prospective bankrupt.

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**Voluntary Dissolution.**  
AT A SPECIAL TERM OF THE SUPREME Court in the State of New York, held in the County of New York, at Part I thereof, in the County Court Building, in the City of New York, on the 23rd day of February, 1904.—Present, Judge H. T. Lyman, Justice.—In the matter of the Application for Voluntary Dissolution of the Metropolitan Water Supply Company.—A motion coming on before me to be heard, made by Samuel Levinson and Davis Levy, two of the Directors of the Metropolitan Water Supply Company, to dissolve the said Company, and to appoint a