

OUR NATIONAL ARTERY. Discovery, Exploration and Acquisition of the Mississippi.

THE OPENING OF THE MISSISSIPPI: A STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY IN THE AMERICAN INTERIOR. By Frederic Austin...

The story of the discovery, exploration and exploitation of the Mississippi River forms one of the most important chapters in the history of the growth of civilization on the North American continent. Three great nations, Spain, France and England, contended for its control...

Mr. Ogg has evidently entered upon his task with enthusiasm, and has carried it to completion with painstaking research. The references to authorities in his footnotes are copious, and where they differ in their conclusions he gives the opposing views and his reasons for inclining to one more than to another.

The Spaniard stumbled upon the river by mere accident. The Frenchman sought it out, being drawn to it by a desire for more extended trade routes and to carry the Gospel to the remote Indian tribes. The search for the river by the French began as early as 1674...

The control of the Mississippi and the St. Lawrence gave France the mastery of the continent, with the exception of the Atlantic seaboard east of the Alleghenies, but she neglected her opportunities. The French were explorers and traders rather than settlers...

Thus the close of the Seven Year's War brought the complete subversion of the French colonial empire in America. Though the great Pitt had been able to maintain himself at the British helm all through the contest, the outcome for America was substantially what he had planned and hoped for...

When the English colonies, throwing off the British yoke, became the United States of America, the young republic found itself greatly hampered on its Western frontier by the Spanish occupation of the further bank of the Mississippi and by Spain's absolute control of the mouth of the river.

regated the treaty, and the development of the West had quickly responded to the favorable status quo. Rumors of Napoleon's ambitions to retrieve the humiliation of 1763, and to re-establish the dominion of France in America by securing the retrocession of Louisiana from Spain...

The circumstances which determined the First Consul to sell the entire domain, instead of the restricted concessions for which Monroe was authorized to treat, are now well known, and are admirably set forth by Mr. Ogg, who writes with much interesting detail, also, of the way in which Congress met the problem presented by the unexpected acquisition of Louisiana...

NEW NOVELS.

Romance in the Forest and Crime in the City.

GREEN MANSIONS: A ROMANCE OF THE TROPICAL FOREST. By W. H. Hudson, 12mo, pp. 315. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THE GREEN DIAMOND. By Arthur Morrison. Illustrated by F. H. Townsend. 12mo, pp. 304. Boston: L. C. Page & Co.

THE WOMAN ERRANT. Being Some Chapters from the Wonder Book of Barbara, the Computer's Wife. With illustrations by Will Greff. 12mo, pp. 57. The Macmillan Company.

THE MOTOR PIRATE. By G. Sidney Paternoster. With a frontispiece by Charles R. Sikes. 12mo, pp. 261. Boston: L. C. Page & Co.

The Mr. W. H. Hudson who has written "Green Mansions" must surely be the Mr. Hudson who has hitherto been known chiefly as the author of "The Naturalist in La Plata," "Green Mansions" is not a novelist's novel; it has no taint of the lamp; there is nothing professional about it whatever. It is, rather, the work of a man whose imagination has been touched by the magic of the tropical forest, and has ventured, somewhat diffidently, to make a book out of what he has felt and seen.

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Anxious to punch him, I managed to control my muscles, and asked him what authority he—a young nobody, who had no official position, and who was buying a wife for himself—could have to dispose of a sister in this offhand way. He replied that the matter was no official, that he would give his consent, as would also Otawiki, Plako and other relations; and last, and least, according to the maternal custom of these Indians, Otawiki himself would be ready to bestow her person—quocum, worn, big-leaved necklaces, on account of which, and all on so worthy a sister as myself. Finally, to make the prospect still more inviting, he added that it would not be necessary for me to subject myself to any voluntary tortures to prove myself a man and fitted to enter into the purgatorial ordeals of marriage.

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There is enough of this sort of thing in "Green Mansions" to show that the author can be something of a realist when he chooses, and the whole book is, indeed, wonderfully true and vivid. But it remains, when all is said, the work of a poet, a piece of writing in which the glamour and beauty of the forest are rendered with a fine emotion.

The author of "The Green Diamond" has expanded into a book the kind of story which Conan Doyle might have told in twenty or thirty pages. The story that gives the title is the property of an Indian prince. It is the usual jewel of fiction, a rarity of fabulous value. The reason why the hands it passes through are so many is that it is a story of a great crime, that there is danger in seeking to get it out of the country by ordinary processes. It would be folly for him to conceal it about his person, so he hits upon the happy idea of placing it in a bag of Tokay and sending it to England in a case with other magnums, in the care of an acquaintance, who has not the smallest suspicion of what he has undertaken to transport.

and sentimentality, a discursive tale (which is hardly a tale) in which commonplace people are made interesting and likable. The claims of love, though not forgotten, are not given undue emphasis. The attention of the reader is drawn first and last to the engaging or piquant traits of a dozen different types, and he is made to feel that he is assisting at any very extraordinary drama, but that he is sharing in the pleasures and worries of an ordinary circle of pleasant people. Two special gifts belong to the author of this book. She understands her fellows, and she has a genial, spontaneous way of handling their characters. Moreover, they are genuine and original, in their modest way, and we take inevitably a lively interest in them and in their affairs. A pretty book, with truth in it, and an atmosphere that is altogether beguiling.

Mr. Paternoster has written an entertaining story around his idea of a twentieth century Dick Turpin, operating a motor car of unparalleled speed and control, and has overcome the literary difficulties of the case in a highly ingenious fashion. If his detective is rather more the man of the world than is usually the case, and a little less analytical than Mr. Sherlock Holmes, he is none the less agreeable on the first account, and his apparent lack of penetration permits us to enjoy for a longer period the daredevil deeds of the Motor Pirate. The novel is both a detective story and a love story, and the two are intertwined with a narrative of exciting adventures. In order to secure for the pirate a machine that should surpass anything hitherto known to automobile manufacturers, the author has conceived him as the accomplished inventor of the novel car he uses. Such a machine, if put on the market, would naturally be of far more profit to the inventor than anything he would be likely to pick up on the road as a highwayman; and as a man must probably be crazy who would sacrifice an assured fortune for a precarious if exciting livelihood, the irrationality of his acts but proves the more baffling to those who are on his track, and leads logically to the dramatic climax in which the benefits of his skill are lost to posterity or left to be worked out anew by other and saner investigators.

Another member of a literary family is to be heard from for the first time this fall. Rosalind Richards, the daughter of Laura E. Richards and a granddaughter of Julia Ward Howe, has written a collection of short stories, to be entitled "The Nursery Fire," which will be issued soon by Little, Brown & Co.

Judge Shute, the author of "The Diary of a Real Boy," has written a continuation of the narrative under the title of "Sequel," which has been running serially in "The Saturday Evening Post," and will be published in book form by the Everett Press on September 1.

"The Mind of Whittier" is the title of a volume by the Rev. C. J. Hawkins, a New-England clergyman, now in press and to be published by Thomas Whitaker. It is a study of the relation of Whittier to religious sentiment.

The Holden Art Company is issuing as a holiday gift book a trade edition of "The Hundred Best Pictures," reproduced in photogravure, with descriptive text by C. Hubert Letts. It will appear as a royal quarto volume. The work has previously been sold only by subscription.

IN ENGLISH HOMES. By Charles Latham. Illustrated. Folio, pp. xxiii, 421. (Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons.)

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Page & Co., under the title of "Letters from the Holy Land," and will contain an introduction by Mr. O'Rourke.

"The True Henry Clay" will be the next volume in the J. B. Lippincott Company's series of "True Biographies." It is written by Joseph M. Rogers, at one time Editor of "McClure's Magazine," who was born and reared on a farm adjoining Ashland, Clay's country home. He has had access to all the private Clay papers now in the possession of the family, who have greatly aided him in the preparation of the work. It is said to contain many hitherto unpublished anecdotes. There will be twenty-four illustrations, mostly taken from photographs made especially for the book.

President Butler of Columbia University has contributed an article of timely interest to the current number of "The American Review of Reviews" on "The Educational Worth of the St. Louis Exposition," having reference particularly to the great world congress of science and art to be held there this month. "It is entirely probable," writes Mr. Butler, "that never before has so large and representative a body of scholars been brought together; it is quite certain that never before has such a body of scholars assembled for so specific and lofty a purpose." The organizers, who have been diligently at work for two years, consist of Professor Simon Newcomb, who will preside over the congress, and Professor Munsterberg, of Harvard University, and Professor Albion W. Small, of Chicago University, who will be the vice-presidents.

Sister Nivedita (Margaret Noble), the Irish woman who has lived for several years with the Hindus in Calcutta, and whose book, "The Web of Indian Life," has recently been the subject of review and correspondence in these columns, is in America. She will be one of the speakers at the coming Peace Congress. The book has aroused considerable comment and criticism, and has already gone into a second edition in England. Miss Noble's London publisher, Mr. Heinemann, has received a letter in regard to the volume from Flora Annie Steele, the author of the well known novel of the Indian mutiny, "On the Face of the Waters," in which she says of "The Web":

It is exceedingly interesting; though a trifle perhaps too enthusiastic, it is an excellent bit of work for India. The woman's standpoint is, of course, taken at its highest, but it is, as such, not in the least exaggerated.

In a recent review of "The Boss," Alfred Henry Lewis's novel of American political life, an Australian critic makes the book the text for a warning to those opposed to the reign of labor in Australia, although he adds that the slackening of immigration "makes the danger distant." Quoting from a correspondent in Sicily, who says that the people there "earn only four shillings a week working twelve hours a day, but get a broth of big beans every night, stewed with water, and have to find their own breakfast, if they can find it, or else they simply starve," the critic remarks, "You can't turn such men into free Americans in two or three years without giving the 'boss' and his associates a show."

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SPORT. FISHING. Edited by Horace H. Hutchinson, in two volumes. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 528, xii, 426. (Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons.)

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