

Literary News and Criticism

How One Returned American Sees Us.

HOME LIFE IN AMERICA. By Katherine G. Busby. Illustrations by H. C. Peck. Pp. 410. Macmillan Company.

There are several series of books in the field of which the present one is a very good all-around example. We have "Our European Neighbors," the last volume of which appeared several years ago, a pioneer series on a small scale; we have the series which is distinguished by such titles as "Switzerland of the Swiss" and "Germany of the Germans," and the "Home Life" series to which this volume on ourselves has recently been added.

These various undertakings attempt to do systematically what has long been done sporadically in such works as Mr. Brownell's "French Traits," Mr. Storer Meldon's "Holland and the Hollanders" and Professor Munsterberg's "Americans" to name but three. They serve to make the members of the family of civilized nations better acquainted with each other—and in many ways with themselves—if they care to digest as well as read, by supplying the picture of daily life left untouched between grave studies of political and social institutions, of economic status and progress on the one hand and the average, necessarily superficial book of travel on the other.

The books of some of these series are written by foreigners equipped for the task by prolonged residence in the country allotted to them. In the present case the work has been confided to a native American unmistakably long resident in England.

It is the comparative point of view which is the standard maintained in these pages with a laudable measure of detachment. It weighs European criticisms drawn from comparisons, only to show the better the other side of the shield, the conclusions that are arrived at by the American enabled by familiarity with both sides to present the real facts that logically lead to apparent international paradox. "American home life has no superlative virtues and no original sins," concludes our author: "It is only in the little things that it differs from that of other nations—but it is, after all, the little things of life that mean so much."

They mean very much indeed as grouped together in these pages. The author reaches no wide conclusions, at times she herself is apparently confused by the mass of little things in a social life that refuses to harden into strata, but even where she finds it impossible to generalize she at least succeeds in indicating plainly the causes of her failure. It is in a thousand little observations that her book, chiefly written, one assumes, for British consumption, proves of constant service and revelation to ourselves, while, furthermore, it offers here and there clear glimpses of the fact that, taken from top to bottom, our social organization is no more eccentric, illogical and paradoxical than that of older communities.

From the slums we travel to New York's most famous inner circle, to Newport and to that greatest of all our curiosities, admittedly unique, Atlantic City in its summer glory. We begin, of course, with the American child, and begin with it at birth, because

The young mother in America is possessed of a love madness for her very infant to an extent never found in other countries, and which, while it is very real and picturesque, is harmful in many ways. It is a mother's love which she wants cannot be accepted as the cause of this obsession of the American mother with the belief that in infancy her constant and unrelenting effort for her child is necessary. One cannot enter an American home where the mother is not wishing that her child could be less hearty and more timid in the attitude of the American mother toward her new-born.

ends suggestively with a comparison of our millionaires with those of Europe, who give nothing away, who would laugh at the mere suggestion that it is their duty to give away money, or that they hold it in trust for the people or for society at large, a theory held by so many American millionaires in practice, and even put forward by some of them in theory. The book is a kaleidoscope of American life, ever changing; it reaches no wide generalizations, as has already been said, but it may well help the foreigner to see us more clearly, as it is sure to help us to understand better ourselves the causes and the relations of the many "little things" and many of the greater ones of our life.

FICTION

New Novels, Mostly from American Pens.

THE FROZEN FORTUNE. By Frank Little. Pp. 120. New York: The Macaulay Company.

Mr. Pollock's "shilling shocker"—it is more than a "penny dreadful"—is far from bad reading matter for whoever is looking for something that will divert his mind for an hour or two from more serious pursuits or who wishes to fill an idle moment in an inconsequential way. There is plot enough here to fill a deserted mining town back to its prosperity. The resemblance between the two is not very great on closer inspection, but as the villain has ample reason to keep under cover, it almost suffices for his purpose. Now we are aboard a steamer bound for the Klondike. It runs into an iceberg, is wrecked, the newspaper man who is heroically trying to nurse a deserted mining town back to its prosperity. The resemblance between the two is not very great on closer inspection, but as the villain has ample reason to keep under cover, it almost suffices for his purpose.

THE PRODIGAL PROTEM. By Frederick Olin Bartlett. Illustrated by H. C. Peck. Pp. 120. New York: The Macaulay Company.

He was a jovial prodigal on his own account, the son of a business man who preferred the service of Art to the office, where the family fortune was being built up, but circumstance led him to play the part of another prodigal as well who refused to return home when his dying father implored him to do so. An act of humanity, therefore, made possible by that other father's falling eyesight. But when a man thus rashly consents to impersonate another, without any knowledge whatever of his past deeds and misdeeds, complications are likely to ensue. This is what happened in the case of which Mr. Bartlett tells in this amusing book, whose scene, it must be added, is laid in the Catskills in the summer time, when artists go sketching under smiling skies and fair maidens roam the country lanes. It is in this story, one is inclined to believe, that the rural free delivery postman makes his first appearance as an agent of Cupid in our fiction.

ON THE MISSOURI.

THE DAWN-BUILDER. By John G. Nehardt. Pp. 255. Mitchell Kennerly.

UNDER THE SECOND EMPIRE.

THE DREAMS OF WAR. By H. De Vere Stacpole. Pp. 272. Duffield & Co.

Capric, the Inca of Peru, and, rising high in the favor of that ruler's successor, teaches the people many things, which is in accordance with the vague Indian legends of a wise white man who visited them long before the coming of the conquistadores. The author follows Garsiaso de la Vega's account of Pizarro's conquest of Peru very closely in the historical part of his narrative, which takes in the struggle between Atahualpa and his brother Huascar, the coming of the Spaniards and their reign of terror. The fiction interwoven with this consists chiefly of the love of the English adventurer and a daughter of the old ruler. A conscientious and very tame attempt at historical romance.

DICKENS ANECDOTES

Told About the Novelist by His Son.

Mr. Alfred Tennyson Dickens, who has been lecturing in London on his eminent father, is described as being remarkably like that parent. "He has not," the "Pall Mall Gazette" says, "the beard or the flashing dark eyes, but he has other characteristics in full measure—the prominent brow, the forceful mouth and chin, and the flexible tonality of utterance; even the simple features of the old-fashioned and untrained reciter with a natural weakness for eloquence and descriptive splendor of language."

One of his stories related to Dickens's interest in a crossing sweeper outside his door in the early '50's. He took pity on the waif and arranged that he should have his meals in the kitchen and that he should attend a night school. Two years later he provided an outfit for the lad and sent him to Australia, whence many years after came a grateful letter describing his writer's prosperity. The novelist, meanwhile, had used the boy as a model for Poor Jo in "Bleak House." Another story was this:

Another admirer of Dickens's, a stranger, wrote in middle life to say that he had thrived and owed his success in life to a diligent study of the virtues enjoyed by the man, and—this frozen fortune is found in the fact that Dickens retained the cheque, but valued the praise, saying that though a man of moderate means, he might account himself fairly prosperous. It was against his rule to receive presents of so unstinted a character. He could see himself, however, to any small souvenir which the donor might choose, and it arrived in the shape of a magnificent basket of silver filigree, with medals representing the four seasons. By way of complement the donor removed the silver filigree, and the basket of the novelist he was honoring, and in another way the symbolism of the gift was true, for Dickens never saw another winter.

Mr. A. T. Dickens appears to have genuine gifts as a lecturer, and is especially entertaining in his presentation of new anecdotes of his father.

A relic of Charles Dickens, which is for sale in London, is the gun mentioned in his letter to Wilkie Collins under date of October 24, 1850: "Rumors were brought into the house on Saturday night that there was a 'ghost' up at Larkin's monument; Ploom was frightened to death, and I was apprehensive of the ghost's spreading and coming here, and causing 'warning' and desertion among the servants. Frank was at home, and Andrew Gordon was with us; time, 9 o'clock; village talk and credulity amazing; I armed the two boys with a short stick apiece, and shouldered my double-barrelled gun well loaded with shot. 'Now observe,' says I to the domestics, 'if anybody is playing tricks and has got a head I'll blow it off.'"

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Current Talk of Things Present and to Come.

Mr. Edward Marston, "the father of English publishing," is at the age of eighty-seven about to publish a journal of night thoughts acquired during his wakeful hours. He entitles it "An Old Man's Noctuary."

A characteristic incident is noted in the just published portion of Crisp's diary. It occurred at the royal reception at Naples on November 7, 1860: "Presentations at court in the throne room. Garibaldi aside with his hat on. One of the courtiers is surprised at this. Breda replies: 'The grandees of Spain had the right to keep their hats on before the King; Garibaldi is the Grandee of Italy. He can do even more.'"

Lovers of prints and of architecture have long been waiting for just such a volume as Mr. Arthur Samuel's "Piranesi," just published by Batsford in London and immediately to be brought out here by the Scribners. The art of one of the most picturesque etchers of the great monuments of the past who ever lived is traversed in this volume with the keenest sympathy. Moreover, the author treats Piranesi not only as an artist but as a man, and has something to say about his time. A number of the famous plates are reproduced in photogravure and a list of the etchings is given, with a bibliography.

The new book about Racine, written by M. Masson-Forestier, in whose veins runs the blood of the poet's family, has a particularly interesting frontispiece. It is a reproduction of the portrait now in the Museum of Langres, which was painted just after Racine had written "Phedre." It is said to bear a strange resemblance to the early portraits of Shelley.

There are many hitherto unpublished documents in M. Gaspard Vattelet's new book, "Jean Jacques Rousseau, Genevois." The author has undertaken to prove, we are told, that Rousseau was essentially a Swiss and not a Frenchman, and more particularly that he was a citizen of Geneva, not only by early association but in his ideas, tastes and prejudices.

While Harper & Bros. are completing their admirable thin paper edition in pocket volumes of the works of Thomas Hardy we wish they could see their way to including in it those fugitive pieces of which have not yet been put into book form. Some of these waifs and strays are recalled by a writer in "The Manchester Guardian." As far back as 1865 Hardy wrote for "Chambers's Journal" an article on "How I Built Myself a House." Elsewhere, years ago, he wrote on "Ancient Earthworks at Casterbridge," "The Dorsetshire Laborer and Memories of Church Restoration."

ventures of a Milkmaid" and "The Waiting Supper."

It is announced that Mme. Marcelle Tinayre is bringing out, in collaboration with her husband, a limited edition of an artistic volume of "Scènes de la Vie de Port-Royal." M. Julien Tinayre is an engraver of ability. It was the studies made for "La Maison du Pêche," published in 1902, which suggested the making of this new book.

The recently published anthology, "In Praise of Oxford," has been so enthusiastically received that another volume, "In Praise of Cambridge," is to be brought out. This fact alone might not be of exceeding interest to American university men—but it may stir curiosity to hear that a stream of volumes in praise of Greece, Rome, Switzerland, Paris, Edinburgh, Eton and Harrow will be forthcoming. Will Harvard and Yale be encouraged to swim in this stream?

The picturesque biographies which are just now so popular have won their popularity "because such works are almost the only ones at the present day in which history is to be had in a readable form." So says, at least, an accomplished critic in "The Manchester Guardian." The public, he adds, "must have history, and when they turn to the historians proper they find that they are not writing for the general public, but for one another, or, alternatively, for some hypothetical man of genius who is to arise in the future, utilize the material they have amassed, and by his gift of imagination revivify it and once more bring back history into the realms of literature. They aim less than formerly at general ideas, and as it is general ideas that determine the scale of importance of facts their paragraphs are often packed with facts important and unimportant, so that your average pleasure hunting reader would undertake the perusal of one of their books only as a Lenten penance." This is perhaps rather sweeping, but it is not far from the truth, the "scientific" historian of the day.

A book on the great political treaties of the world has just been published in Paris, M. Pierre Albin being the compiler. It is a complete collection of all the principal treaties and their accompanying conventions and agreements that govern international relations. It is a magnificent work, the Vienna of 1815. A good index has been added.

SHAKESPEARIAN LARKS

Andrew Lang on Shaw, Harris and Himself.

From The Illustrated London News. I had not been aware that Mr. Shaw had produced a drama on the Dark Lady Elizabeth's story. I had, however, till I read the play of Mr. Frank Harris in a weekly serial. Mr. Harris, I knew, had written a book on the theme of the Dark Lady. I had, however, till I read the play of Mr. Frank Harris in a weekly serial. Mr. Harris, I knew, had written a book on the theme of the Dark Lady.

ANARCHISM AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Emma Goldman. Pp. 120. New York: The Mother Earth Publishing Association.

FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND MISCELLANEOUS. By Henry Clews. Pp. 120. New York: The Irving Publishing Company.

REVISÉ DARWINISM, OR, FATHER WAS MANN ON EVOLUTION. By the Rev. W. J. Kenney. Pp. 120. New York: Kenney & Sons.

FICTION

THE PENDULUM. A Story. By Seta Scrin. Pp. 120. New York: Duffield & Co.

THE DAILY MAIL YEAR BOOK, 1911. (Second year of publication.) Pp. 319. (London: The Daily Mail.)

JUVENILE

THE DOINGS OF THE DOLLIFERS. The Strange Adventures of a Doll Family. By Grace MacGowan Cooke. With Illustrations by H. C. Peck. Pp. 171. (The Sturgis & Walton Company.)

AN OLD BOOK DIARY FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. Designed and illustrated by Merion Miller. Small quarto. No. 100. (London: The Scribners.)

MISCELLANEOUS

MANHATTAN. By Joseph I. C. Clarke. Pp. 120. New York: Duffield & Co.

THE DAILY MAIL YEAR BOOK, 1911. (Second year of publication.) Pp. 319. (London: The Daily Mail.)

THE ART OF BOOKMAKING. Treating of the various problems and operations in the construction of books. By Harold Frost. Pp. 120. New York: The Sturgis & Walton Company.

THE JEWS AND MASONRY IN THE UNITED STATES. By Samuel Oppenheim. Pp. 120. New York: Samuel Oppenheim.

POETRY AND DRAMA

A LESSON IN MARRIAGE. A play in two acts by Bernard Shaw. From the original French by George Bernard Shaw. Pp. 64. (London: The Sturgis & Walton Company.)

MY FATHER'S HOUSE. By Charles E. Whelan. Pp. 4. (London: The Sturgis & Walton Company.)

REPRINTS

LXXV SONNETS. By William Wordsworth. Pp. 120. (The Houghton Mifflin Company.)

TRAVEL

BARBARESCO MEXICO. By John Kenneth Murton. Pp. 340. (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co.)

THE STORY OF THE COUNTRY AND HOW IT IS GOVERNED. By Charles H. Kerr & Co.

TWO YEARS IN THE HIMALAYA. By Major The Hon. C. H. Bruce, M. V. O., 5th Gurkha Rifles. With sixty illustrations and a map. Pp. xiv, 335. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

An account of the author's wanderings, during a period of five years, in the Hindu Kush and Himalaya ranges. He tells of the conditions between people, country, life, etc., in the different districts.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

NOW READY

The Conservation of Natural Resources in the United States

By CHARLES RIVAN HISE. Inquire of any bookseller.

LETTERS OF CELEBRITIES BOUGHT

WARE ROOMS & PRINTS IN EUROPE

"A L-O-U-T-OF-PRINT-BOOKS"

From The London Telegraph.

number of old coins and three pieces of bronze. Two of the latter fitted and formed one piece five inches long by one inch broad. The three pieces are described with Greek inscriptions. They were sent to Mr. Grueber, keeper of the department of coins and medals at the British Museum, who replied that the two pieces referred to are at the Athenian Museum of the fourth century before Christ. The inscription states that the object belonged to one Polystratos of Halae, of the 6th section of that town. Mr. Grueber added that the tickets are numbered eight being known, of which four are in the British Museum, and that the find is of very special interest. He asked where this one was found, and the answer was that it had been found in England or Wales. The Banzor curator is unable to answer the question. Captain Jones travelled all over the world and collected the objects in his museum from all countries.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK

BIOGRAPHY

RECORDS OF A LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP. 1858-1880. By W. W. Emerson and William Henry Furness. Edited by H. H. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Consisting of the letters which passed between Emerson and Furness, including the correspondence of "Fortun," written by R. W. Emerson when he was ten years of age, and illustrated by William Furness, aged eleven.

MADAME DE POMPADOUR. From the Notebooks of Madame de Pompadour, her family and her friends. Translated from the French by E. Jules Moras. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. ix, 230. The Sturgis & Walton Company.

These memoirs appeared for the first time in France in 1802. They describe Madame de Pompadour, her family, and her friends, and explain her influence on Louis XV. and show her influence on the French Revolution.

SECRET MEMOIRS OF THE REGENCY. The Minority of Louis XV. By Charles Pinot Lucot. Translated from the French by E. Jules Moras. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. ix, 313. (The Sturgis & Walton Company.)

Comprising an analysis of the incidents of the court, of the characters of the regent and of the most prominent men of the time. This and the foregoing volume are issued in "The Court Series of French Memoirs."

FACTS, FIGURES AND BRAM STOKER. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. ix, 349. (The Sturgis & Walton Company.)

The title of this work is a satire on the swindlers, charlatans and pretenses; practitioners of magic, who have disquieted themselves with the Jewish Law, the Orton, the Tiberone claimant, and the Sibley Boy. There are ten illustrations.

ELKS AND OTHERS. Life and Works. By F. C. Brown. 8vo, pp. x, 170. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.)

This book contains the biography and a discussion of the literary squabbles and political career of the poet. This and the foregoing volume are issued in "The Court Series of French Memoirs."

CHILD LIFE IN SONG AND SPEECH. A Study of the Folk Songs of the South. By F. Frontispiece. 12mo, pp. 23. (The A. S. Barnes Company.)

A manual on voice training for children.

INDIAN LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES. By Nellie E. Allen. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. xii, 335. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)

Chapters on the Indian life of the United States, including the life of the children from the fifth grade up. In these chapters the author deals with the type, so that the child will understand its essential nature.

TONS PLAYS FOR CHILDREN. By Alys E. Bentley. 8vo, no pagination. (The A. S. Barnes Company.)

Comprising exercises for the development of the voice of the child.

ANARCHISM AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Emma Goldman. Pp. 120. New York: The Mother Earth Publishing Association.

A collection of twelve essays. Some of the titles are: "Francisco Ferrer and the School of Modern Education," "A Disseminator of Radical Thought," "Patriotism: A Menace to Liberty," "The Right to Life," "The Hypocrisy of Puritanism," etc.

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An essay dealing wholly with the scientific and philosophical aspects of the problem of evolution.

FICTION

THE PENDULUM. A Story. By Seta Scrin. Pp. 120. New York: Duffield & Co.

A story of modern life.

BLACK SMITH'S STORY OF THE OLD CORNHILL COACHING AND KIDNAPPING DAYS. By James Cassidy. Pp. 120. New York: The Sturgis & Walton Company.

A compilation of information concerning British political affairs in 1910, local government, the House of Commons, and politics, literature and art, social reform, the churches, education, women, etc.

THE ART OF BOOKMAKING. Treating of the various problems and operations in the construction of books. By Harold Frost. Pp. 120. New York: The Sturgis & Walton Company.

THE JEWS AND MASONRY IN THE UNITED STATES. By Samuel Oppenheim. Pp. 120. New York: Samuel Oppenheim.

Written in non-technical language, suitable for the general reader. With an extensive bibliography and a descriptive list of the various countries and pamphlets on the subjects treated.

THE JEWS AND MASONRY IN THE UNITED STATES. By Samuel Oppenheim. Pp. 120. New York: Samuel Oppenheim.

Order in the early history of the Order in the United States and the connection of the Jews with Masonry.

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FLEET'S HOMEWARD VOYAGE

U. S. Battleships, Off Scilly Islands, Will Sail To-day.

Cherbourg, France, Dec. 30.—The sixteen battleships comprising the United States Atlantic Fleet, gathered off the Scilly Islands to-day, following goodbyes at the French and English ports where the officers and men have been entertained by government officials and civic bodies for the last six weeks.

To-morrow the warships will turn their bows homeward, the immediate destination being Guantanamo, Cuba, where they are due on January 14.

The first division, comprising the battleships Connecticut, the Delaware, the Michigan and the North Dakota, under command of Rear Admiral Schroeder, commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet, sailed from this port at 9 o'clock this morning. As the vessel passed off Rear Admiral Schroeder, from his flagship, the Connecticut, signalled a cordial message of farewell to the French naval authorities. Salutes were exchanged with the French squadron.

The third division, comprising the Minnesota, the Idaho, the Mississippi and the Oregon, set sail from Gravesend yesterday, commanding, sailed from Brest at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. Earlier in the day the second division, made up of the Louisiana, the Kansas, the New Hampshire and the South Carolina, left Portland, England, while the fourth division, including the Georgia, the Nebraska, the Rhode Island and the Virginia, set sail from Brest at 10 o'clock.

In addition to the search problem, in which the battleships will attempt to escape the vigilance of the scout cruisers lying in wait for them, and approach undetected the American coast line, the combined will undergo fleet manoeuvres en route.

While in European waters the American ships, officers and men made a most pleasing impression.

FUN FOR BLIND CHILDREN

Will Have a Magazine All Their Own, in Raised Letters.

From the "Lighthouse" at No. 118 East 25th street, the New York Association for the Blind will send out on New Year's morning hundreds of copies of "The Searchlight," a new magazine for the blind children of the city. The publication was established by the association in response to a letter sent it by a blind child who wanted a "magazine all our own." It is the first publication of its kind that has ever been issued, and it will be distributed free to the many blind children the society is constantly in touch with.

There will be letters from the children themselves, a talk of the "Lighthouse Keeper," stories of adventure, puzzle department and numerous other features for their amusement. The magazine will be printed in raised letters, and each little child of the city will receive a copy of the same sort for the year 1911.

With the issuance of the new publication the association is soliciting for its support. The organization is entirely supported by voluntary contributions, and the public is invited to contribute to the fund.

VETOES TILDEN MONUMENT

Madison Square Site Objected to by Municipal Art Commission.

The Municipal Art Commission has disapproved the design and location of the proposed Tilden monument on the west side of Madison Square.

John Quincy Adams 51, secretary to the commission, explained yesterday that the disapproval of the design of the monument, the site should not be used for any monument, and that it was impossible to accept the design without also approving a site for it. There are monuments at each of the four corners of the park now; that of William H. Seward at the southwest corner; that of Roscoe Conkling at the southeast corner; that of John Jay at the northeast corner; and that of Admiral Farragut at the northwest corner.

The monument, and Wilder and White designed the pedestal.

"BANQUET" FIT FOR A KING

Alfalfa from Soup to Nuts—And Nebuchadnezzar Dead and Gone.

Rifle, Col., Dec. 30.—A menu which might have made the mouth of Nebuchadnezzar water in the latter days of that Biblical personage's life has been prepared for a banquet to be given here in celebration of the opening of an alfalfa mill. The succulent green plant will appear in every dish on the board.

Biscuits will be made of alfalfa meal, the turkey will be stuffed with alfalfa, mashed alfalfa will take the place of potatoes and alfalfa leaves will counterfeited spinach. Alfalfa salad will be served, and for beverages there will be alfalfa tea and alfalfa elder. At the end of the feast toothpicks made of alfalfa straw will be distributed.

For mental food the guests will listen to ex-Governor Alvah Adams discourse on "Apples and Alfalfa."

LYNN PEACE COUNCIL PLANNED

Object of Organization Will Be to Prevent Strikes in Shoe City.

Lynn, Mass., Dec. 30.—There is a movement on foot among the shoe workers of this city, the largest shoe manufacturing centre in the world, for the establishment of a peace council, the object of which will be to prevent strikes. Walter G. Murphy, president of the Goodover Operatives' Union, has undertaken to appear before each of the unions connected with the industry and outline the plans for the proposed organization.

Briefly, the plan is for each union to elect one representative to a central body, to be known as the Peace Council. This central body is to have the power to restrain any union from declaring a strike until all efforts to settle the difficulties by arbitration have failed. The Goodover operatives' union has already elected its representative in favor of such an organization.

It is provided also that the business interests of the city in general, and the shoe manufacturers shall have a representation on the council.