Books and Authors

VAIN LITERARY AMBITION

THE publishers of Mr. Winston Churchill's "Richard Carvel" and "The Crisis," announce that each of these novels has now reached in sales the formidable number of 375,000 copies. People who are inclined to think that there is a vast overproduction of books, notably of fiction, ought to see that the vast increase in the output of books is due to just such announcements as this. The list of successful authors of the day may be very quickly counted—reference being made to writers of fiction. In this country, Mr. Churchill, Charles Major, Irving Bacheller, Edward Westcott, Miss Johnston, Seton-Thompson, Cable, are conspicuous among the authors whose books have sold in six figures and who may be accredited with success. All told there are not a dozen American writers of fiction who have had such an experience or anything corresponding with it. But, for each writer whose books have achieved big sales, there are thirty or forty persons or more who are of the opinion that they can get there also and they sit down and proceed to work off "the great American novel," which is to make them famous and make all the publishers kowtow to them. The big overproduct of fiction is begotten of such inspiration as this. Thus every year new authors appear; new publishing houses are announced, but, in a comparatively short time, their names disappear, and they are not again heard of.

Magazines start up like mushrooms and, after blooming awhile in a sickly way, wither and die for want of sustaining financial moisture. Still there seems to be no discouragement. New crops of this mushroom literature spring up and disappear. But it is not always true that the publishers of veritable literary trash come to grief. For certain kinds of literary trash there seems to be always a market and the idiots who supply the copy seem to have permanent jobs.

Publishers in these days are constantly looking out for the obscured genius who can bring out something new. The genius found, a single success will inebriate him with a sense of his importance and he will work at high pressure and surely write himself out in a short time. There are many persons who think they can achieve the literary success of Churchill, Major, or Booth Tarkington. They read that Marie Corelli gets $100,000 from the sales of a single book; that Hall Caine has pocketed a like sum or more for the serial rights and royalties on one of his novels; that somebody else is closely approximating these figures. But it is a fact that in England there are not over thirty fiction writers who make novel-writing pay them a good living and a surplus. In this country there are not a dozen novelists who accomplish this.

An author who puts good work into his novels and secures big sales through the intrinsic excellence of his work, combined with expert advertising by his publisher gets much better remuneration than popular authors of the last century got. Jane Austen, who was widely read, received less than $3,500 all told, for the literary work of her life. Bulwer, in 1853, got $10,000 a year for a ten years' copyright of the cheap edition of his novels and the subsequent contract for five years brought him half that sum a year. Charles Kingsley received only $750 for "Alton Locke," a half century ago, while his daughter, Mrs. Harrison ("Lucas Malet") has pocketed twenty times that amount for her last rather peculiar and somewhat immoral romance, "The History of Sir Richard Calmady," of which nearly 100,000 copies have been sold.

The man or woman who writes a successful novel to-day must have the strength cerebral and knowledge of human life, withal, sufficient to handle and pull the string of the mighty bow feebler people cannot handle, and send the arrow of success to the bull's eye. They must be able to "hit the spot," get in touch with the time spirit and write of things within the experience of the people for whom they write. This is the secret of James Whitcomb Riley's great success as a poet. He is a realistic painter of familiar things. He touches the popular heart. Ninety per cent of the novelists do not understand this kind of work. They cannot succeed unless they do.

New Books

Maude Adams. By Acton Davies. Illustrated. New York: F. A. Stokes company. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy.

This is a very interesting biographical and critical sketch of the popular actress, Miss Maude Adams. This lady was bred to the drama from infancy, taking child's parts on the stage when her mother, Mrs. Kiscadden (Annie Adams), was playing in support of J. K. Emmett at San Francisco. Miss Adams was then 5 years old and, with the exception of five or six years spent at a young ladies' seminary in Utah, she has been on the stage ever since. Mr. Kiscadden was at first opposed to his child's preference for the stage, but consented and the girl entered after a few years upon a very successful career. Mr. Davies adversely criticises her only with respect to her Juliet and L'Aiglon. He thinks she fails to encompass the full possibilities of the latter role. Many interesting things are told about Miss Adams, who is very devoted to her profession and is a hard student, while not neglecting proper physical exercise, which she takes on horseback chiefly. She says acting is a good profession for a woman and "there is no limit to what she can do if she has talent and is willing to work and wait." She does not believe in "woman's rights" and says: "I think the men have taken pretty good care of us all these years, and I don't see what is the matter with letting them keep it up. Any woman halfway clever can make the men do just as she wants to have them and, at the same time, keep them thinking they are having their own way—and what more would she have?"

Riley Farm-Rhymes. By James Whitcomb Riley. With Country Pictures by Will Vawter. Indianapolis: The Bowen-Merrill company.

The publishers of this most attractive collection of Riley's poems relating to farm life deserve the thanks of every admirer of the Indiana poet for producing these poems in such a beautiful dress. These farm poems have a permanent value, because they will always appeal to memory and even if farming ways of the present are so superseded by man's inventive ingenuity that they become only a tradition, such poems as these will stand as the expression of country life so fine and suggestive that they will have a permanent place in our literature. Too much cannot be said in praise of Will Vawter's illustrations. The artist has caught the spirit of the poet and interprets his conceptions most charmingly. We find in the volume such poems as "When the Frost is on the Punkin," "Wet Weather Talk," "How John Quit the Farm," "Knee-Deep in June," "Watermelon Time," "Romancin'," and "Old-Fashioned Roses." Verily Riley voices the unspoken thoughts of multitudes who smile or shed some tears as they read these poems. What is more touching than "Old-Fashioned Roses"?

They ain't no style about 'em,
And they're sort o' pale and faded,
Yit the doorway here, without 'em,
Would be lonesomer, and shaded
With a good 'eal blacker shadder
Than the morning glories makes.
And the sunshine would look sadder,
For their good old-fashion' sakes.

Types of Naval Officers Drawn From the British Navy. By A. T. Mahan, Captain United States Navy, author of "The Life of Nelson," "Influence of Sea Power Upon History," etc., etc Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Price, $2.50 net.

Captain Mahan is always a most entertaining and informing writer on matters pertaining to sea power and naval warfare. In this book we have biographical sketches of six British admirals who won great distinction—Lord Hawke, Lord Rodney, Earl Howe, Earl St. Vincent, Lord De Saumerez and Lord Exmouth. All these men were conspicuous in the conflict which began in 1739 touching the right of British ships to frequent seas bordering the American dominions of Spain. This conflict gradually involved Russia and France and ultimately forced France out of the north continent, and was followed by the independence of the United States. Hawke, Rodney, Howe and St. Vincent served through the whole conflict. Exmouth's early fighting was on Lake Champlain in 1776 and Saumarez fought us in that year at Fort Moultrie. Captain Mahan shows the condition of naval warfare at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The old galleys, moved by oars, had a scope and freedom of movement not possessed by warships moved by the wind and dependent on the wind for maneuvering and tactical combinations; so, as the author says, "it was in the man rather than in his weapons that the navy of the eighteenth century wrought its final conspicuous triumph." The captain does justice to those famous old sea fighters, Hawke and Rodney, and has, throughout, produced a most interesting book.

Dames and Daughters of the Young Republic. By Geraldine Brooks. Illustrated by H. A. Ogden. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. Price, $1.50.

This is a very entertaining book, the author leading off with Dolly Madison, the vivacious and clever wife of James Madison, who, grave and sedate, was captured by the blue-eyed beauty when she was Dolly Todd, a widow of Philadelphia, who was introduced to Madison by Aaron Burr. She proved a tactful and gracious mistress of the White House. There is a sketch of the wife of the great jurist and diplomat, John Jay, who was one of the most brilliant women in the gay society of Paris and New York. She was a Livingston, one of the great whig families of New York. The author writes most interestingly of Theodosia Burr, whose tragical end endeared her memory to so many. The author rightly says that all that was good in Aaron Burr came out under the sunny influence of Theodosia's love. Her father's troubles shadowed her life, and, while she loved her husband, Joseph Alston, devotedly, she did not like the other members of the Alston family. When she was lost at sea her husband's heart was broken and her father was crushed by the cumulative sorrows of his life. There is a chapter on Elizabeth Patterson of Baltimore, the wife of Prince Jerome Bonaparte, who deserted her at the command of Napoleon I., and there are very entertaining stories of Thomas Jefferson's daughter Marther, who married Tom Randolph; of Rachel Jackson, wife of Andrew Jackson; of John Hancock's wife, Dorothy, and of Emily Marshall, daughter of Josiah Marshall of Boston, who was known as "the beautiful Emily Marshall," and who was usually attended by ten gentlemen escorts when she took a walk on Boston's streets. The illustrations are very effectively done. Price $1.50.

The Princess Cynthia. By Marguerite Bryant, author of "A Great Responsibility," etc. Illustrated. New York: Funk and Wagnalls company. Price, $1.20 net.

This is a story of no little power. The literary construction is simply beautiful. Portions of it read like the rhythmic measures of a true poet. The Princess Cynthia, beautiful; combining all the graces of fully matured maidenhood, wanders from the trend of the hunt of her brother, the king, and his court, on to the estate of the Lord of Arrancourt, a youth who remembered the execution of the elder Arrancourt on a trumped up charge of conspiracy. The princess meets him and he leads her horse to the track of the hunt and leaves her, discovering from a distance that she is the princess by the adulation paid her. Subsequently the king, desiring to make peace with the noble house, sends for the Lord of Arrancourt to come to court and he goes. The king makes him equerry to the Princess Cynthia and gives his brother a command in the army. The Lord of Arrancourt takes the equerryship and naturally, in the course of time, falls in love with the beautiful princess and ultimately in a torrential moment kisses her and confesses his love. Like many a woman, she loved Arrancourt without realizing it and was indignant and told the king, as she had been betrothed to another. Arrancourt is sent from court disgraced and fights a duel with Sir Floridas, the princess' lover, and is slain, the princess coming to the place just after the youth dies. The king also comes, sees the body and turning to Floridas says, "Your doing!"

"No, no; not his doing, but mine!" the princess cries; "it is I who have killed him! Do you hear, Constantine! He loved me and I could not understand. I laughed at him. I did not know—how could I know?—that love meant anything like that! He was mad when he kissed me, but it was I who made him so—it is I who have killed him! Constantine, I did not know really—the moment I did I—I came—only it was too late. Look at my hand, it is his blood—his, Constantine." She fell on her knees before him and caught his arms. "Can we do nothing?" she sobbed. "Oh, why did I not understand! What does it all mean? Are we helpless, then? A minute sooner, that is all—only a minute, he would have been saved! O God! God! why did I not understand? He loved me, he loved me!" The king tried to get her to go away. "She tore herself from him, and returned to Palemede's side, sobbing wildly, and she knelt down by him and kissed him. 'Forgive me! Forgive me!' She said it below her breath and put her hand over his heart again."

The scene on the river steps where Arrancourt confessed his love and kissed her; her own struggle between princess and woman's heart and the assertion of princess are finely described, masterfully described.

In the Days of Audubon. By Hezekiah Butterworth, author of "In the Boyhood of Lincoln," etc. Illustrated by B. W. Clinedinst and others. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Price, $1.20 net.

This is an admirable story of the life and work of the great ornithologist Audubon, John James Laforest Audubon, who was born in New Orleans in a house about which the mocking birds sang their richest melodies. The author discloses enough about the devotion of Audubon to science, the sacrifices of personal comfort he made to pursue his al fresco studies, to present him as a fine example of patience and perseverance and devotion to profession to the world. Audubon once struggled up through thorns and briars for two days to get the nest of a white mountain eagle. He would pass days and nights in swamps or dense forests to study the habits of a single bird. He risked his life often in the pursuit of his studies. He painted birds exquisitely and his original work in this direction is immensely valuable now. He knew that to comprehend nature and do his life work well he must live with nature as closely as possible. He was often without means to pursue his inquiries. In Louisville, Ky., he painted signs for merchants to get money to continue his journeyings. Audubon was miserably poor while seeking subscriptions for his magnificent volume, "American Birds." He went to England and, after many rebuffs, secured the written approbation of George IX., who authorized the publication of the work under his special patronage and protection. King Louis Philippe of France also gave his approving signature. The sale of the book netted Audubon a fortune and he bought a beautiful home on the Hudson river. The work of Audubon was well and faithfully done and his name and work are honored by the many Audubon societies organized for the study and protection of birds. In the appendix to this volume will be found suggestions to those who wish to form Audubon societies. In these days the student of birds uses the sketching camera, which removes the necessity for taking the life of a bird in order to paint it.

The Burgess Nonsense Book.—By Gelett Burgess. New York: The Frederick A. Stokes Company. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy. Price, $1.50.

To him who vainly conjures sleep
In counting visionary sheep;
To her who, in the dantist's power
Would fain recall a gayer hour;
To him who visits tiresome aunts,
And comes upon this book by chance:
To her who, in the dentist's power
And, bored with Ibsen, Burgess tries;
To those who can't remember dates,
While nonsense rhymes stick in their pates;
To those who buy and do not borrow,
Nor put it off until to-morrow;
To all who in these pages look,
I dedicate this nonsense book!

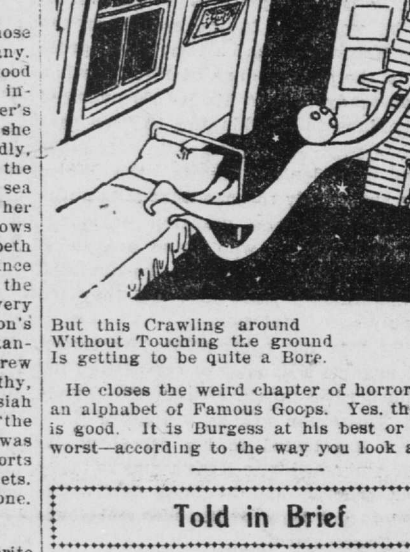
Such is the dedication by Gelett Burgess of the Burgess Nonsense Book. If Poe was mad when he wrote "The Raven," Burgess must have been dead to the world of sense and reason and buried in a profound nightmare when he wrote these grotesque rhymes and drew the startling illustrations for them, and the prose is like nothing else so much as a bad dream. Burgess is unique or nothing, and he is most always unique. Listen to this:

INSOMNIA: Strange Membership,
And an Attachment Bound to Slip.
My Legs are so Weary
They break off in bed;

And my caramel pillow
It Sticks to my Head!

And when he gets to sleep here is a sample dream for you:

THE FLOORLESS ROOM; a Novel Sort
Of Argument Without Support.
I Wish that my Room had a Floor!
I don't so Much Care for a Door.



But this Crawling around
Without Touching the ground
Is getting to be quite a Bore.

He closes the weird chapter of horrors with an alphabet of Famous Goops. Yes, the book is good. It is Burgess at his best or at his worst—according to the way you look at it.

Told in Brief

"The Last of the Arawaks" is a good story of adventure in the island of Santo Domingo, by Fred H. Ober, author of "Camps in the Caribbees," etc. (Boston: W. A. Wilde & Co. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy.) Mr. Ober has spent much time in Santo Domingo and visited the old castle at the mouth of the Ozama river, which figures conspicuously in this story, which reveals conditions under President Henreaux and relates to the career of two American boys, brothers, who were rescued from a murderous negro mob in the castle yard. What these boys were doing there and what happened after the rescue is very interestingly related by Mr. Ober, who contrives to give an inside view of Dominican government under a black tyrant. There is no little real humor in the story.

A very attractive historical romance is "A Heroine of 1812," by Amy E. Blanchard (Boston: W. A. Wilde & Co. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy. Price, $1.50.), whose heroine, Lettice Hopkins, a Maryland girl, shows how brave and daring a sweet young girl who shudders at the sight of blood may become under the stimulus of intense patriotism. We have in this book an attractive picture of country and city life in Maryland ninety years ago, in time of peace, and the changed aspect in war time, when Admiral Cockburn was ravaging the coast of Chesapeake bay and burning houses and driving the people into the interior, and there is a fine description of the burning of Washington by the British. Lettice Hopkins figures splendidly in the story as a first-class fighter, using her shooting tools with disastrous effect upon the enemy. It is no wonder she had many lovers, and it is gratifying to know that she became the bride of a valiant young naval officer, a worthy lover.

A very thrilling story of the mining region of the Rockies is "The Award of Justice," by H. Maynard Barbour, author of "That Mainwaring Affair" (Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co.). It relates the failure of a conspiracy of the managers of a mining company in the far west to swindle New York capitalists who had invested their money in their mining properties. The latter sent a man out to investigate, in the capacity of bookkeeper, and he discovered the rottenness and gave proper warning, and the swindling crowd were exposed and came to grief. There is a deeply interesting love episode which is the charm of the book, both the young women concerned finding the best of husbands. Miss Leslie Gladden and her friend, Lyle Maverick, the mystery of whose birth was so satisfactorily cleared up, are notable portrayals of fine, womanly women.

Doubleday, McClure & Co., New York, have published a very good detective story entitled "The Black Tortoise; Being the Strange Story of Old Frick's Diamond," by Fredrick Viller. Translated from the Norwegian by G. H. Braekstad. This diamond in peculiar setting was stolen several times from Frick's house near Christiania, the last time, the thief being a gambling Englishman, who had imposed upon old Frick's hospitality. His methods of rascality were ingenious and the explanation of his agency in the last theft of the diamond, he trying to fasten it upon Frick's inocent niece, is decidedly interesting reading.

"The Grip of a Bookmaker," by Percy White. (New York: R. F. Fenno & Co., Nos. 9 and 11 E. Sixteenth street; Minneapolis: Minneapolis Dry Goods Company. Price, $1.50.) is a story of the persistence of antecedents. Philip Gordon, son of a rich ex-bookmaker, who laid the foundation of his fortune at the race course, found his father's former occupation was constantly thrown up to him as a kind of social ostracism. The father had changed the family name to get rid of the taunts, but people wouldn't forget. Philip, the son, a clever gentleman of wealth fell in love with Connie Madryn, who liked him, if she did not really love him a little. Her father, however, wouldn't hear of the match and the girl married one Drayton, from whom, after years of cruel treatment, she was divorced and she married Gordon, after all.

Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, have published "The Backwoodsman," a very interesting story of the New York frontier region during the revolutionary war, embodying rarely good delineations of ranger and Indian life, by H. A. Stanley, author of "Rex Wayland's Fortune," etc. The story begins with a tragedy of a thrilling character, and the interest is maintained in the hero, Quedar, throughout, for he was a "fighter from way back" and as true a lover, withal, as any woman ever had. The love episode, indeed, is peculiarly interesting. Price, $1.50.

"The Gordon Mystery, or the Plot that Failed," is a story of no little interest, by C. Du Mont Parmater, published by E. Tennyson Neely company, New York. It tells of a conspiracy to rob a man of his property by representing him as dead in the far west. James Gordon, the hero, was entangled in the meshes of a diabolical plot of two smooth-faced villains. The story is full of exciting incidents, but, as the reader understands from the title that the plot failed, he will not be surprised at the ultimate emergence of Mr. Gordon from the cloud.

The Magazines

The January Harper has some very attractive art features, as the illustrations and decorations of the "North-folk Legends of the Sea," reproduced in color from paintings by Howard Pyle, and the illustrations of C. H. Caffin's "Pictures at the Metropolitan Museum," from photographs of famous paintings reproduced in tint. These are very fine. There are several very attractive short stories, and the first installment of a very blood-curdling detective story by Mark Twain. Among the other attractions are Sydney Brooks' "London and New York," illustrated; "What a Schoolgirl Saw of John Brown's Raid," by Jennie Chambers; H. I. Smith's illustrated paper on the great pyramid; H. T. Finck's "Evolution of Girlhood," and Dr. Simon Newcomb's "The Fairyland of Geometry."

Lippincott's completed novel is very funny—a love story, too, entitled "Naughty Nan," by John Luther Long. It will make most anybody who can appreciate a good thing smile. Mrs. Belloe-Lowndes contributes a paper explaining the method of electing a pope, and an attractive feature is a paper, "Music of Shakspere's Time," written by Sidney Lanier in 1879. Father Tabb and Paul Laurence Dunbar are among the poetical contributors.

Current History for December reviews the world's events during October. The work is admirably done, covering completely all important international matters, and the live questions of the day in politics, science, industry, finance, religion, etc., in both hemispheres. There is an index to periodical literature touching all important articles, and the number is well illustrated throughout. For reference purposes this periodical is without a rival for convenience. Boston, Mass.: Current History company.

McClure's (New York: S. S. McClure company) has a very attractive feature in George W. Smalley's illustrated "Personal Reminiscences of Famous Men and Women," this installment relating to English statesmen and rulers. Included are Lord Rosebery, Arthur Balfour, H. H. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey and Campbell-Bannerman, with portraits. Mr. Hall's "Telegraph Talk and Talkers" is full of interesting incidents and observations by a veteran telegrapher. There are half a dozen good short stories, and readers will enjoy Cyrus Townsend Brady's illustrated story of Davie Crockett and the defense of the Alamo.

The Smart Set (New York: Ess Ess company) gives its readers a story in French, "Le Jeu et L'Amour," by J. H. Rosny. Not a bad idea! It should print some Spanish, Italian, Turkish and Chinese romances in the original, to make the smart set studious. The completed novel is "Prince Reckless," by Arthur Grissom. There is a bewildering number of short stories and some frightfully bad poetry.

Frank Leslie's for January has some strong attractions. There is a character sketch of Chief Arthur of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers by W. R. Merrick, showing how that organization has for many years kept the peace and avoided strikes by adjusting differences with the employers. B. J. Hendrick tells in an illustrated article how "An American Country Gentleman," Walter W. Law of New York, transformed 4,000 lean acres of land into a rich and productive farm on the Hudson river. Mr. Law is spending his later years in a very pleasant and intelligent manner, after several decades of hard business life in the city. An interesting illustrated paper explains the working of the South Carolina dispensary law, which is now a fixture as a revenue producer, and it is claimed that it has greatly reduced intemperance in the state. The paper is by Senator Tillman. A feature is David Warfield's "The Making of a Comedia.n" There are six good short stories, Hamlin Garland and Ian Maclaren being among the writers.

An interesting feature of the January number of the Popular Science Monthly is Professor Conway MacMillan's illustrated paper on "The Minnesota Seaside Station." This is the seaside laboratory camp of the University of Minnesota in a cove at the entrance of the Straits of Fuca, nearly opposite Cape Flattery, three miles from Port Renfrew and sixty miles north of Victoria, B. C. The station is located in close proximity to an apparently inexhaustible field of instruction and research in marine and coastal botany and zoology. At low tide a wealth of kelp and algae, and other marine vegetation is obtainable for microscopic study and the trees back from the sea are festooned with mosses and hepatics, the bark being covered with lichens, ferns and small flowering plants. The professor is encouraged over the first results of the work and believes that the modest camp on the Straits of Fuca "may develop into a genuine marine laboratory with full equipment and a field of usefulness peculiarly its own." There is a valuable paper in this number on antarctic exploration, by Professor I. W. Gregory of Melbourne university, and an interesting feature is Dr. Frances Galton's paper on "The Possible Improvement of the Human Breed Under the Existing Conditions of Law and Sentiment." The doctor regards such improvement as possible and offers some very strong arguments. Professor Bailey of Harvard observatory contributes a paper on "Recent Total Eclipses of the Sun," and concludes that, while much is known about the luminary, "its deeper secrets are yet unraveled!" He thinks, ultimately, electric agency will be found to solve the mysterious solar problems.

The "Lake Superior Limited" on the "Duluth Short Line."

Of the Northern Pacific is the NONPAREIL of Daylight trains in the Northwest.

It runs daily in both directions between St. Paul and Minneapolis and Duluth and the Superiors.

It is a brand new train of four cars, hauled by Atlantic type engines, the only ones of the sort in the northwest.

It consists of a combination baggage and smoking car, first-class coach, parlor car, and observation cafe car—all electric lighted, steam heated, wide vestibuled and Pullman built.

The parlor car is elegantly finished in mahogany and satin wood, has finely upholstered movable wicker chairs, and the lavatory arrangements, particularly for women, are something quite unusual.

The observation car is also finished in mahogany and satin wood, has two smoking rooms, a fine library, desk and stationery free to passengers, and a large observation parlor with plate glass windows, and at the rear an observation platform. The cafe serves the best of meals at very moderate prices. Try this train once and you will use no other.

Charles S. Fee, General Passenger Agent, St. Paul, Minn.

Florida and the South via the Popular Monon Route.

Tourist tickets to all southern points. Fifteen days transit limit, with stopover privileges. All tickets via Louisville are good for stopover at French Lick Springs. Through daily service to Florida, beginning January 6th, 1902. For "Ten Routes to the South," rates, folders, etc., address Frank J. Reed, General Pass. Agent, Monon Route, Chicago, or L. E. Sessions, Gen'l. Agent Pass. Dept., 541 Andrus Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.

Afternoon Train for Hutchinson.

Train leaves Minneapolis for Hutchinson, via Great Northern Railway, at 5:05 p. m. daily except Sunday.

Pain from indigestion, dyspepsia, and too hearty eating, is relieved at once by taking one of Carter's Little Liver Pills immediately after dinner. Don't forget this.

NORMANNAHEIMEN

DR. NOBEL'S PRIZES

Inventor of Dynamite Gives to Encourage Pursuits of Peace.

AWARD OF THE PEACE PRIZE

Norwegian Storthing Makes a Holiday When Its Committee Reports the Winner.

One of the greatest anomalies of modern times is that Dr. Alfred Nobel, who achieved great fame by his inventions in destructive explosives and amassed an almost fabulous fortune by manufacturing them, should give the most princely prizes for inventions and work which are peculiarly calculated to foster peace. Recently $200,000 of his vast estate has been distributed among men who have distinguished themselves in physics, medicine, chemistry, literature and for the cause of universal peace. Yet for the past generation he has been known as the inventor of dynamite and other high explosives. His first invention, on which he obtained a patent in 1863, was a new powder with nitro-glycerin as the base.

Though the products of his factories were the cause of deaths, they yet wrought good.

Dr. Nobel was unusually charitable, and was simple in his habits of life. Rich persons, unless they had acquired wealth by their own efforts, he despised, and it was for this reason that he cut off his relatives. The executors of his will, however, were obliged to allow the relatives 1,000,000 kr. in order to restrain them from contesting the will. They have been appeased, and the Nobel prizes will now be given regularly.

The report of the committee on the peace prize to the Norwegian storthing was the occasion for a sort of a holiday. Prince Carl and Princess Ingeborg, Count Lagerhein, the Swedish minister of foreign affairs, and the wives of the members of the cabinet and other high officials were present. When the members of the committee, Councillor Lovland, Premier Steen, Bjornstjerne Bjornson, President Horst of the Lagthing and John Lund appeared, the whole assemblage arose. Bjornson, who looked remarkably well, attracted much attention.

President Berner of the storthing received the report and took occasion to remark that it was doubtless Norway's consistent advocacy of peace measures which had prompted Dr. Nobel to select the Norwegian storthing as the judge in awarding the peace prize. He thanked the committee for its work and expressed the hope that the cause of arbitration and peace would be advanced. As the committee retired the assemblage arose again in their honor.

The peace society in the storthing held a festival in the evening, which was attended by 150 persons. Remarks were made by Rector Horst, Councillor Lovland and Bjornson.

The other prize winners were Professor Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen, for his discovery of the X-ray; Emil Behring, for his discovery of the diphtheria serum; Jacob H. Van't Hoff, the Dutch chemist, and Sully Prudhomme, the philosophical poet of France. The prizes were awarded at Stockholm on Dec. 11, in the elegant hall of the Musical academy. Crown Prince Gustaf, Prince Eugen, many of the nobles and the most distinguished men were present, as well as the fortunate winners of prizes, with the exception of M. Sully Prudhomme, who was prevented from attending by illness. Former Minister of State Bostrom made an eloquent address, and the prizes with diplomas were awarded by the crown price amid lively applause.

The influence of German and French culture and thought on Scandinavian life is strikingly displayed in the awards of the Nobel prizes. The scientists and authors of Great Britain, Italy and Russia, as well as those of the United States, failed to secure one of the six. Thomas A. Edison was highly recommended, but failed. It seems to be only a matter of personal opinion whether his great inventions in the field of electricity are more valuable to the human race than the discovery of the X-rays by Roentgen.

IN DANISH WEST INDIES

A Land Where There Is No Color Line.

The Boston Daily Globe in a long editorial has this to say of the Danish West Indies and conditions there:

Here are three beautiful islands—St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix—that may become the possessions of the United States at a bargain. They cover 127 square miles, with a population of about 30,000. They have been the possession of Denmark since 1671. It is true that they have never been the source of much revenue to her, and are worth more to us than to anybody else. But they have never caused much trouble, and contain a very interesting civilization. Education is compulsory there, they have excellent churches, while peace and harmony reign, with the aid of a small army of 250 men.

It may surprise the white brother in Alabama and Texas to know that among these unsophisticated islanders there is no such thing as the color line. It will probably seem most shocking to Mississippi philosophers that all children, white and black, between the ages of 7 and 13, go to school together. In the churches there is an utter absence of all distinction as to color, and there is certainly no line drawn in business. The Dane recognizes a man for his worth, and never thinks of excluding his neighbor from social, business or religious functions because of his color. In the colonial council at St. Croix there are two black men, who fill the places with entire satisfaction to their associates. The best citizens of Georgia will compose themselves as best they may when told that intermarriage between natives and whites in the Danish West Indies is nothing unusual; and clergymen in the various denominations never refuse to perform the marriage ceremony between black men and women.

Now these are no barbarians. Education with them is universal, and their schools are said to be equal to those of the most highly favored nations. They have Episcopal, Moravian, Catholic, Dutch Reformed churches, and a synagogue. Some of the churches have coal black deacons. The fact is, which it is difficult for some of us Americans to understand, that under the Danes the color line has never been drawn. Children from their infancy have never been taught that such a thing can exist. The people simply act as they have been educated to do, hard as it may be for some of us to understand it.

Booker T. Washington will have no mission in St. Thomas, for the blacks have always been educated there along with the whites. Whether the institutions of the Danish West Indies are right or wrong, the races have existed in harmony since 1671. Amid cheap wine, balmy breezes and internal harmony, most of these people would prefer to be let alone in the enjoyment of their revered institutions. What could be more natural?

BENEFIT FOR MISS PETTERSON

Concert in Her Behalf Being Arranged by Many Friends.

Friends of Miss Anna Petterson, the well-known pianiste of this city, are joining hands in the arrangement of a benefit for Miss Pettersen to take place at Dania hall, Jan. 29. The benefit should be a great success, for very few more richly deserve it than Miss Petterson. She has ever been glad to be able to assist any worthy object not only with her music, but by personal work. Last winter, practically unaided, she arranged a concert for the aid of a poor woman, who had fallen ill while fighting the wolf from the door which protected her helpless little flock. A very tidy sum was realized. Miss Petterson is a talented woman, but has thought more of others than of herself. She holds two evidences of her talents in personal letters from President Kruger of the South African republic and from Countess Casa de Miranda, Christine Nilsson. The former expresses the thanks of "Oom Paul" for a poem on the South African war dedicated to the Boer envoys, and Christine Nilsson tenders her thanks for a musical composition dedicated to herself.

Among those who have volunteered their services for Miss ePtterson's benefit are John W. Arctander, Anton Malme, a new tenor of splendid ability; Mrs. Ida Sjoblom Dearborn, the Ibsen reader, Miss Emma Nilsson, the well known Swedish actress and singer and Anton Sannes, the popular actor and others.

A FULL LIFE

Was That Lived by "Ole" Peterson, Founder Norwegian Methodism.

It has already been chronicled in the telegraphic news that the Rev. O. P. Peterson of the Norwegian Methodist church died at Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 20, of apoplexy. He was the founder of Methodism among the Norwegians in America and Norway, and for fifty-five years labored incessantly in behalf of his chosen church. For several years he was stationed in Minneapolis, but he left here about ten years ago.

Mr. Peterson was born April 28, 1822, and thus lived to be nearly 80 years old. At the age of 6 he was an orphan, and at an early age went to sea. He came to America in 1843 and was converted to Methodism in 1846 by the Swedish missionary, the Rev. G. O. Hedstrom. In 1849 he returned to Norway and founded there the first Methodist congregation. In 1850 he was back again in America with his wife, whom he married that year. He was a zealous missionary, and the Norwegian M. E. church is a lasting monument to his memory.

"Svensk Teater."

"Smalandsknekten," the Smaland Soldier, will be given to-morrow evening at Normanna hall, by the Swedish Dramatic society. Of all Swedish provinces not one has sent a larger contingent of sons and daughters to the United States than rocky, pineclad Smaland. The author of the play, Dr. August Bondeson, is exceedingly popular himself with all Swedes on account of his tales and songs of provincial life. "Smalandsknekten" deals with life in Smaland some fifty years ago. Hurtig, a young stalwart soldier, is in love with Inga, a wealthy's farmer's daughter, but there is no possibility of a union between them until Hurtig returns from the Danish-Prussian war with honor, medals and advancement. Hurtig will be played by Richard Rosengren; Inga will be sung and acted by Miss Emma Nilson. The cast is a large one, including Miss Ellen Frisendahl, Mrs. Richard Walten and Messrs. Ernest Magnusson, Herman Tidholm, Charles Milnor, Richard Walten, Charles Wiberg, Gust. Carlson and others. After the performance there will be a social time, with dances around the Christmas tree.

Low Rates for Augsburg.

A round trip rate of one and one-third fare, good until Jan. 6, has been granted by the Soo, the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific railways, for the dedication ceremonies at Augsburg seminary, Jan. 1-3. Those who wish to avail themselves of the reduced rate must secure a special ticket receipt and certificate from local agents. The certificate must be indorsed by H. N. Hendrickson to entitle the holder to a one-third fare home. All those intending to attend the dedication should send their names to Halvor Sageng, Augsburg seminary.

Three New Acadamicians.

The three vacant seats in the Swedish academy have been filled by the election of Baron Carl Nils Daniel Bildt to succeed President Forsell, Professor Magnus Gustaf Retzius to succeed Baron A. E. Nordenskjold, and Claes Annerstadt, librarian at the university, to succeed Gustaf Wennerberg. The election does not meet with popular approval.

Admiral Krogh's Last Cruise.

Admiral George Fredrik von Krogh, commanding admiral of the Norwegian marine, died at Christiania on Dec. 10, aged 58½ years. He had been ill about two months.

Norway's Big Debt.

Verden's Gang opposes the proposition of the Norwegian government to float a new loan of 35,000,000 kr. Norway already has a debt of 227,000,000 kr., and when it is considered that the country has only 2,000,000 of inhabitants the debt is excessive to say the least. A generation ago the whole national debt was not much larger than the new loan.

Misfortune to Dr. Hedin.

Dr. Sven Hedin has lost the valuable collection of relics which he has picked up in his recent wanderings in Central Asia. His little party was attacked by 500 Thibetan soldiers and everything but his notes, which he managed to recover, was destroyed or stolen. Dr. Hedin is on his way home.

More Daughters.

The third lodge of the Daughters of Norway has been founded in this city. It will have headquarters on the East Side and starts out with a membership of twenty-six. A name will be selected at a meeting to be held Jan. 4. The officers are as follows: Mrs. Marie Ottesen, past president; Mrs. Lind Scholberg, president; Mrs. Bertha Negaard, vice-president; Mrs. Nettie Meland, secretary; Mrs. Anna Kvam, treasurer; Miss Jennie Nilson, cermoner; Mrs. Thomme Larsen, guide; Miss Magdalene Kilness and Mrs. Inga Gravrok, guards.

Of General Interest.

Henrik Ibsen's drama, "An Enemy of the People," has been published in the Japanese language.

The Norwegian odelsthing has rejected the government's proposition to levy a tax for exemption from military service.

Dr. P. G. R. Hogner, of Boston, Mass., has been honored by King Oscar with the decoration of the Sasa order of the first class.

Professor Bartholomew, head of the music department at Augustana college, Rock Island, has been elected president of the International Society of Pianoforte Teachers and Players.

King Oscar has sent the Norwegian Seamen's Mission, in East Boston, a present of 1,000 kroner.

Miss Ellen Thompson, of Renville, Minn., has gone to South Africa to take a position in the girls' school at Entumeni, Zululand, as soon as she has learned the Zulu language. She succeeds the late Marie Larsen.

Charles G. Wahlgren, a mail collecter in Chicago, is a duplicate in appearance for President Roosevelt, and is as much like him as two persons could be.

Several Swedes from Worcester, Mass., have bought four farms near Deerfield, N. H., on which are found valuable ores. Gold and silver have been discovered, but at least $50 worth of lead to the ton is to be obtained, and the venture will not be a losing one.

Stockholm has a new morning daily, Stockholms-bladet. It has attracted considerable attention and has apparently come to stay.

A statue to Magnus Stenbock, the hero of Pultoma, was recently unveiled at Helsingborg with much ceremony. Several detachments of soldiers and the students from Lund university participated in the exercises.

Christiania has the exposition fever in virulent form in some quarters. While some advocate the plan with enthusiasm, others oppose it very vigorously, and as the sentiment is greatly divided the plan may fail.

Professor Morgenstjerne's contribution to a French magazine, on "Norway and Its Relations," is not securing him much approbation in Norway. It is reported to be misleading and detrimental for Norway.

The Swedish-American Republican Club of Denver, Col., is one of the leading political clubs of Colorado. C. M. Lindquist is president and John Holmberg, formerly of Minneapolis, Minn., is the secretary.

Seven Mormon missionaries have recently returned to Salt Lake City from Scandinavia with thirty-two converts. Not a very rich harvest, it would appear.

The strike at Roros works, Roros, Norway, is over, the men having returned to work.

Gathered in Minneapolis.

Thorwaldsen lodge, No. 45, Danish Brotherhood, will give a dance to-morrow evening at Dania hall.

Fram society will hold its annual meeting next Thursday evening. The principal business before the society will be the election of officers.

Alfred Nelson of Youngstown, Ohio, has been visiting Minneapolis during the past week.

The Swedish society, Tanning och Frihet, will try to decide to-morrow evening if there is any permanent happiness to be found in this world unless it is based on love. John Mattson will lecture on the subject and lead the debate.

St. Olaf's Norwegian Lutheran church in North Minneapolis has called E. P. Harbo as its pastor, but has not yet received his final answer.

New officers have been chosen by Norden society as follows: President, Louis Halvarson; vice president, Frank Fritz; treasurer, N. P. Nelson; recording secretary, Swan Kallstrom; financial secretary, Karl J. Hall; librarian, Leonard Bonander; master of ceremonies, E. J. Forsen; revisors, Otto A. Nelson and John B. Johnson.

The men's society of St. Luke's Norwegian Lutheran church will give an entertainment with literary and musical numbers at the church next Monday evening. The proceeds will be devoted to repairs on the church.

Not satisfied with the shooting they get in summer, the Normanna infantry company will continue their practice during the winter with target rifles. Their first tournament in this class will be held to-morrow.

Enigheden Good Templar lodge will celebrate on New Year's day with an entertainment.

The annual masquerade ball of the Norwegian Turners will be held next Tuesday evening at Normanna hall.

Normanna Good Templars lodge has authorized a committee consisting of Miss Lottie Langmo, Miss Anna Anderson, A. Strand, L. Johnson and C. Nilsen to arrange a social for next Friday evening.

Officers will be elected by the Norwegian Turners on Monday, Jan. 6. The following have been placed in nomination: A. B. Jensensen, J. Finneman and Charles Olson for president; A. Lind and J. Jacobson for vice president; C. Jesdahl, O. Fageros and C. Olson for secretary; A. Johnson and J. Skyberg for financial secretary; J. Arntzen, J. Skyberg and A. B. Jenson for treasurer.

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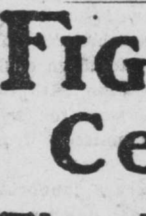

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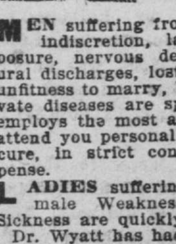

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