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The Mayor's Veto Message.

Mayor Jones, as anticipated, vetoed the resolution of the council practically awarding a contract to the Patterson lighting company by authorizing it to light the streets on the basis of its recent bid, until the mandamus proceedings against the mayor are determined by the supreme court. All of the resolution was not objectionable to the mayor. He was perfectly willing to sign the contract with the gas and electric companies, but the resolution being an omnibus affair, which carried with it approval of the Patterson contract the mayor had no course open to him but to approve what he had heretofore objected to or to disapprove the whole resolution.

The argument of the mayor would indicate that the fight of the Patterson lighting company is one which threatens, if successful, a monopoly of the lighting of the streets. The controversy hinges upon the value of the lamp heads and the possibility of the city buying them from the successful bidder. Other cities have made contracts which gave them the option of buying the lamp heads, and now own a supply sufficient for their needs. It appears from the mayor's message that after the lamp heads have been used a year under the Patterson contract they are paid for and thereafter this company by a very small reduction in its bid would be able to keep all other contractors out. The city would then never get the benefit of such a reduction in the cost of lighting as is possible where the city acquires the lamp heads and makes its own contract for gas. The mayor quotes the superintendent of lighting of Cleveland as saying that that city gets now for $9.62 what under the contract system cost $16.10. The mayor also properly calls attention to the rapidly growing bill for public lighting. The appropriation has practically doubled in five years. Part of this increase is due to the abandonment of the moonlight schedule, and part to the introduction of the incandescent-lighting system, both of which the public approves. With this system the mayor has no quarrel, but he is of the opinion that the city is paying too much for the privilege of using the new and better light.

The position of the mayor is that of a public servant anxious to do his duty and get the best results for the public out of the expenditure of public money. It may be said that the council is equally entitled to credit for the best intentions. However, it would seem as tho the mayor had the better case unless the council can show some flaw in the argument of the mayor on the question of lampheads. This seems to be the point. As long as the council invited in its specifications, offers for the sale of the lampheads to the city, and got one such offer, there seems to be no reason why it should stick so much closer than a brother to the Patterson concern, which neglected to make such an offer, and which made a bid that cannot be called liberal toward the city.

It is time to begin to think about putting in those tomato seeds.

Anti-Pass Idea Grows.

Ohio now has a two-cent fare law, passed by the legislature with practically no opposition, and signed by Governor Patterson. The law is a natural consequence of the action of the eastern railroads in cutting off passes, and to some extent, no doubt, it is provoked by pique, but the two propositions go together. It is against public morals for officials to carry railroad passes, but when it comes to shutting off all free transportation, the public expects to get the benefit of a lower rate. The first antipass agitation in the country was in Wisconsin, where it was confined to officials, and Senator La Follette has carried the Wisconsin idea with him to Washington. He introduced a federal antipass bill just the other day. The senate will never let his bill see the light at this session, but the antipass idea is growing.

Minnesota is likely to have an antipass law in another year. The defeat of the Peterson measure last winter was only a skirmish. Public opinion has progressed in a year, and a demand for an antipass law may be expected from both political parties in their next conventions. Candidates for the legislature will be asked how they stand on that plank of the platform, and if possible a majority of the legislature will be pledged in advance to pass such a law. It is based on the principle of the square deal, and the man who pays his fare will not submit much longer to be taxed for the benefit of the man who rides free.

If Bob Dunn gets his revenge, what will the republican party get and where will it get it?

Tax Absurdities Demonstrated.

The tax conference in St. Paul yesterday gave a fine demonstration of artful dodging. Its main purpose was to agree on a ratio for assessing property. While the law requires assessments to be made at full cash value, custom sanctions a general departure from the rule. Some kinds of property are assessed at 33 1-3 per cent, some at 50 per cent, and some at nearly full value. The county auditors wanted an agreement with the state board of equalization to take a uniform rate, but when they came to discuss it themselves, some troublesome fellows who believe in enforcing the law declared that no basis but 100 per cent could be adopted by anybody. So the auditors tried to pass the problem over to the state board. The astute members of that body dodged it on the plea that they weren't holding a legal meeting. Of course they were just as able to make a recommendation then as next fall, but they had to get away from the question in some way.

So the conference failed of its main purpose, and the failure was inevitable. It is too late to begin making assessments at full value. On account of fixed levies this would necessarily raise taxes, and it would also nullify all the classifications of counties by law, according to assessed valuation. In such a dilemma it was no wonder the state board took refuge behind a technicality. When all is said, it must not be denied that the board of equalization is a political body. It tries to do even justice, as a rule, but its members have always in mind the prestige of the governor who appointed them. The Lind boards in 1899 and 1900 made political capital, and boards ever since have been following that example. A dilemma such as the county auditors proposed throws the board into a panic.

The weakness of our present tax system was emphasized by the failure of the conference. The farce of state equalization was made more apparent than ever. The local option argument by W. L. Harris gave everybody food for thought, and the position taken by him is approved by the most enlightened tax authorities of the day. Local option is not possible till we have passed the amendment to the constitution that is to be voted on next fall, but as soon as it is made possible, local option should be the rule. Less than 10 per cent of the tax paid in Hennepin county goes to the state, and control by the state breeds injustice. As Auditor Halden of Duluth argued yesterday, the state should simply apportion to each county its share of the state tax, and let the county raise the amount in its own way. Increased corporation taxes will reduce the state levy every year, and should soon wipe it out, when local option will be inevitable. Till then the state tax could be distributed according to the Purdy plan, adopted by New York. There the state tax burden is shared by counties according to the amount of tax they collect for local purposes, exclusive of special assessments.

The only real lesson learned from this tax conference is that we must not fail to pass the constitutional amendment next fall.

De Pauw university, Methodist, has dropped compulsory Bible study. Crowded out by football, probably.

Minneapolis Schools.

The Journal prints today an appreciation of the Minneapolis public schools from the pen of the editor of the Journal of Education, a school paper of the highest importance in America. Its praise of Dr. Jordan and his system of school development is warm, but it indicates personal knowledge of the subject. He places Minneapolis in a class by herself and gives the credit for the common-school achievements here to the business-like devotion to his work of Dr. Jordan, who shines, not by reason of any striking public utterances, nor by scholastic pretense, but by knowing and doing the things which organize and make schools efficient. The Minneapolis school system is entitled to great praise and gets great praise from educators. We owe it to the school board and to the untrammeled superintendency that it has neither been ruined by politics nor retarded by false methods.

The mayor's veto message is the first clear information the public has received in regard to the lighting controversy. Many citizens believe that the mayor originally took up the matter because he wanted the contract awarded by resolution and he be given the chance to exercise the veto power. The mayor was criticised for stopping a contract on such grounds, because he, as an alderman, had voted himself to award contracts by motion. Mayor Jones admitted that he had done so, but did not admit that it was right to do so because it had been done. He made the point that the charter ought to be construed. In addition it will be observed that the mayor had grave and serious objections to the Patterson contract which he has now stated clearly in a veto message, which we hope many citizens will read.

The trouble with the argument of the defender of the trusts at the insurance banquet is that the trust monopoly does not give uniform rates to every customer. It gives what it chooses, and as everybody knows, it does not always choose to treat everybody alike. When the trust has a monopoly there is no escape for the customer who is discriminated against; if there were competition he would stand some chance of escape from unreasonable charges, tho he might incur the risk of his competitor getting the better of him at some other time. In regulating railroad rates the government undertakes to see that injustice is not done either by railroad monopoly or by reckless competition.

The state board of equalization has a chance to make a record, but has made a bad start in one particular. The new board ought to get away from the practice of star chamber sessions. This subject of taxation interests everybody, and the public is entitled to know what is going on. People want to know not only what is being done, but who is doing it, and what the reasons are. There is no good reason to give for talking public business behind closed doors, and The Journal hopes that the board will not find it necessary to lock up again.

W. D. Marks, a practical constructor of railroads, has figured carefully that the total railway capital on June 30, 1903, was $12,599,990,258. Of this about $5,600,000,000 was actual value and the rest, about $7,000,000,000, represents watered stock, which is used to keep up rates and to work speculative games. When the square deal hits this imposition on the public there is going to be a smashup for your life.

Edward Everett Hale, Jr., a middle-aged professor in a college, has just been converted in a Methodist revival in the good old-fashioned way. He says it is a good thing, different from learning or anything else he ever took hold of, and better. Have you ever tried it?

The New York Life's payments to Judge Andy Hamilton "for services" total the astonishing sum of $1,347,332.41. Wonder what he did with all that? Probably, like Hi Henry Rogers, he feels that it is none of the public's business.

Senator La Follette has been made chairman of the committee To Investigate the Condition of the Potomac River at Washington. Who said La Follette wasn't going to cut any ice down there?

Count Boni spent money at the rate of $2,000 a day—just about the amount "Scotty" would like you to believe he spends. But really, "Scotty" pays out every day about $4.80.

Gold has been discovered at Houlton, Me. Watch for the prospectus of the "Increase Mather Consolidated Gold, Silver & Salvation Company, Limited.

General Horace Porter wants our navy greatly increased. Any man who had the legal affairs of a large shipyard in hand would hold the same opinion.

Mr. Wallace tells the senate committee that Taft nearly cursed him. Taft did not understand there was any doubt about it.

Los Angeles desires a new union depot, but is reproved by the Boston Globe for not asking for a new union station.

The president's appeal to the people to stop crowding ought to be heeded. Full reports of the wedding will be published.

A Detroit paper ascribes Dr. Dowie's troubles to egomania. His success was so great that it swelled on him.

Already people who "went to school" with Attorney General Hadley in Missouri are turning up.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOOK GOOD TO THIS EXPERT

Editor of the Journal of Education Finds Here One of the Most Interesting Educational Studies in the Country.

The editor of the Journal of Education has been traveling thru the country studying the public schools in the larger cities. In the current number of his paper he prints the following estimate of the public schools of Minneapolis. That an expert of the standing of the editor of this paper should find so much to commend in this city will be gratifying to our citizens and should beget a high degree of confidence in the management under which such excellent results have been produced:

All in all, nothing speaks more emphatically for a city, its spirit and purpose, than its schools, and their value cannot be tabulated statistically. What will reveal the value of the schools to the community? Different temperaments will give different answers, and the same writer will give varying estimates from time to time. My own rule is to seek that which best represents the lines of effort put forth for the improvement of the schools. * * * Minneapolis presents one of the most interesting educational studies in the municipal life of the country. She stands practically alone in having attained educational eminence without changing leaders, without civic-educational discussion, and without legislative interference. She has neighbors in her pre-eminence, but they are few. Her problems appear to have been solved thru her supervision.

There is no more interesting or important study than that presented by the various types of supervision, and that of Minneapolis is distinctly a class by itself; it may be described as one that centralizes and radiates. In many cities the supervision centralizes, in some it radiates; here it does both, thanks to the individuality and professional conception of Dr. Charles M. Jordan, who was principal of the Adams school for eight years and has been superintendent for fourteen years. He is a son of Maine, a graduate of Tufts college, a Bangor teacher before he came to Minneapolis.

Dr. Jordan's ideal is superior specialist-supervisors, who make superior teachers, who make superior pupils. These he certainly secures. Note the appreciation of his supervisors: Sarah Louise Arnold made "Stepping Stones to Literature" while at work in that city, and was called from there to a $3,780 position in Boston, and is now dean of Simmons college; Mrs. Alice W. Cooley made the Cooley-Webster language books while there, and left for a professorship in the state university of North Dakota. Bonnie E. Snow made drawing books while there, and left to accept the position of editor of the Prang Educational company's drawing series; Mrs. Louise Preece developed a physical culture series and got out some books embodying her ideals, and M. Adelaide Holton has made the much-used Holton Primer and an influential work on industrial activity in schools. So much for the strength of his supervisors.

The record of the principals is scarcely less noteworthy. Mr. Webster of the East high school has a valuable rhetoric and is joint author with Mrs. Cooley in her language series. At least five grammar principals have made noteworthy textbooks, and some have left school for more profitable literary life.

Several high school students have done work in various lines which reveals aspiration and power. Here, for instance, is a bit of verse written by Louise Pye while still a high school student:

SUNSHINE.

If the day be dark and dreary,
Look for sunshine.
If you're sad and weary,
Look for sunshine.
You will always find a path of blue
Where the sunbeams sparkle thru
If you look for sunshine.

Friends are falling every day
For want of sunshine.
Help them up along the way,
Show them sunshine.
If you help the world in seeing
You are always sure of being
In the sunshine.

If any other city of the size has such a record as this it would be gratifying to know of it.

I have known Dr. Jordan since he was a student at Tufts college twenty-five years ago; I watched his success in Bangor and have seen his work in Minneapolis, as principal and superintendent, on the average every other year, rejoicing always in his success, and in his triumph over various obstacles that have come in his way. When he presided over the department of superintendence of the N. E. A. it was an honor well earned, and he has been among the first three or four men talked about for every high-salaried supervisory position in the United States of late. He is one of the first two laymen as choice of the alumni as president of Tufts college.

And his pre-eminence is not due to any public utterance, to any scholastic pretension, to any brilliant tactics, but largely to business-like devotion to his educational mission, and to his great skill in centralizing all school interests in his own office and radiating therefrom a noble spirit and purpose.

His board of supervisors cover every phase of school life, embody specific intelligence, unswerving loyalty, and alert responsiveness. This has been true for fourteen years, and will always be true, here and anywhere that he may be.

There is in the Minneapolis schools everything to be found in any good schools, from the kindergarten thru the manual training high school. There is a supervisor for every feature of school work. Each supervisor lives in the schools with the pupils, reaching all children every month, meeting all teachers in grade groups every month, acquainting the superintendent with all errors and virtues of each school in each subject, and delivering in return to every room the message and purpose of the central office. There is no trace of the boss or of the autocrat, but rather a return current of light and life.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

Instead of a drinking song with a chorus clanking empty glasses, a cigar song has been substituted in "Miss Dolly Dollars," the Victor Herbert-Henry B. Smith musical comedy, in which Miss Lulu Glaser has made the hit of her career this season. This song is effectively sung by Melville Stewart. It is entitled "A Woman Is Only a Woman, but a Cigar Is a Smoke," after Kipling's lines. "Miss Dolly Dollars" will be the attraction at the Metropolitan one week, beginning Feb. 19. The cast and production will be identically the same as seen at the Knickerbocker and New Amsterdam theaters, New York.

Amateur night at the Unique was responsible for one of the most laughable entertainments of the season last evening. There were crowds of young people of both sexes anxious to try their taking arts on the public, and some fifteen aspirants were given an opportunity. Mary Kivon's violin solo, "Cavalleria Rusticana," was the most artistic number. A. D. Weynard, trick bicycle rider, gave a fine exhibition, while the Norwegian folk songs of Alex Peters won the heartiest applause. Others who appeared were Frank Bartosh, Johnnie Dolan and Harold Chandler, comedians; Joe Rose, Lydia Solly and Mary Cummings, William Newton, singers, and George Berquist, who sang popular songs.

Bennett brothers gave a clever acrobatic act. Oneida Porter and Jack Kaufman, buck and wing dancers, also made a hit.

"The Cipher Code," the fascinating drama of life at the national capital, which has engaged the abilities of the Ralph Stuart players at the Lyceum this week, will be presented for the last time tonight. The play has made a big hit.

JUST HIS JOB

Boston Herald.

Judge Wilbur, who retired from the Rhode Island bench last June, when the new court and practice act went into effect, had for many years previously handled the criminal business of the state. He was perfectly familiar with the wiles and excuses of men who sought to evade jury duty, and showed them little consideration.

A venireman gave as his reason for desiring to get out of grand jury service physical disability.

"What is the nature of your infirmity?" asked the judge.

"I am deaf in one ear, your honor," replied the man.

"You'll do," said the judge. "Don't you know you have to hear only one side of the case in the grand jury room?"

"WHEN MOTHERS-IN-LAW FALL OUT," ETC.

Nebraska State Journal.

The Southwestern Kansas Implement and Hardware Dealers' association brings action against the Santa Fe railroad charging violation of the laws against freight rate discrimination. The Santa Fe responds with the charge that the association has no standing in court, being itself guilty of violating the antitrust laws. This situation ought to let the public in on some more secrets.

A TOUCHING LAMENT

London Globe.

Addressing a political gathering the other day a speaker gave his hearers a touch of the pathetic. "I miss," he said, brushing away a not unmanly tear, "I miss many of the old faces I used to shake hands with."

"A RISING SUN" STUCK

Boston Globe.

Mr. Jerome's characterization of Mr. Perry Belmont as "a distinguished ex-statesman and a rising sun that got stuck on the horizon," will also stick.

Recent Products of the Literary Craft

By W. P. KIRKWOOD

MAGNIFICENT ILLUSTRATED RECORD OF ENGLISH LITERATURE FOR READERS OF GENERAL CULTURE.—The superior literary finish of the work of British writers, even of those of mediocre originality and force, is occasion for frequent comment and inquiry. Critics note it and wonder what the explanation is. They see American writers with more invention and vim than Britons of like general rank failing to reach higher levels because they lack literary style or polish, and they are prone to say it is because the Britons take more pains, and let that go as a sufficient explanation of the larger portion of the difference. But they have in reality not answered the question at all; they have simply raised the question in a different form, namely: Why does the Briton take more pains? It is perhaps not far from the truth to answer: Because of Britain's literary traditions. These traditions the average Briton cannot escape; they confront him at every turn; even if his own immediate vicinage holds none, some adjoining village or countryside is certain to do so, and the spirit of it easily reaches him and creates a circuit thru which not only do the traditions of the neighborhood reach him, but the traditions of the nation exert more potent influence upon him.

THOMAS DE QUINCEY.
After a Drawing by James Archer, Reproduced in "An Illustrated History of English Literature."

The One Thing Needed.

To appreciate even approximately the force of British literary traditions one must get a somewhat comprehensive view of British literature, must see it large; must see it in its historical settings, in its multiform phases; must know something of the men who created it, of their characters and environments, of what they looked like and of what their surroundings looked like, and, of course, must know somewhat of their work and the spirit that animated and shone thru it in each case. Then he will understand the force and refinement of the influence that is driving any truly conscientious writer of today, and that makes him take unlimited pains with his work.

The opportunity to gain such an appreciation has never, we believe, been given in such a satisfactory form as in **English Literature, an Illustrated Record**, a work in four large volumes by Richard Garnett, C.B., LL. D., and Edmund Gosse, M. A., LL.D., a new edition of which has recently been issued. The first volume from the beginnings to the age of Henry VIII. is by Mr. Garnett. The second volume, covering the period from Henry VIII. to Milton, is by Mr. Garnett down thru the discussion of Shakspere, and by Mr. Gosse from there on. The third volume, from Milton to Johnson, and the fourth, from Johnson to the time of Queen Victoria, are also by Mr. Gosse. The publisher says:

The design of this work has been to produce a book which shall stimulate and gratify curiosity concerning the leading authors of our country and the evolution of its literary history. This curiosity is not to be confined within the limits of an acquaintance with a few dry manuals. It appeals to the eye as well as to the ear, and as the reader becomes attracted to the writings of this or that writer, and feels his enthusiasm enkindled, he desires to know, and to know instantly and without disturbance, not only who the writer was and what he wrote, but what he looked like; perhaps at various ages; where he lived, what his handwriting was, and how he appeared in caricature to his contemporaries.

This design has been much more than met by the authors, without destroying the possible rapidity of the record with an endless burden of detail, giving the reader such an appreciation of English literature as to make perfectly clear the reasons why British literary people are so thoroly literary.

Wealth of Illustration.

One is amazed and delighted with the wealth of illustration in the four volumes, and it is not the delight merely that one gets from looking at interesting or curious pictures, but that which comes from pictures that shed light, invaluable light, upon the text. Pictures of places and things, scenes from ancient and later life revealing curious and striking customs and institutions, portraits of men of letters and of men who influenced men of letters, reproductions of manuscripts and of title pages, of letters and autographs, caricatures and much else—all are to be found and all have their story to tell.

Yet the illustrations are only one of many distinctive features in the work. The styles of the respective authors, their lucid and forceful and convincing way of putting things are characteristics quite usual in such a work. The method, also, of dealing with disputed points in literary history is for readers of general culture rather than for those of special attainment who want encyclopedic dissertations. The authors fearlessly express their opinions on points in dispute and give their reasons for their beliefs, but with judicial fairness, also, give the other side in each case, tho avoiding the intricacies of the problems. The reviews of the lives of the men who are given place in the book are brief and yet comprehensive and the reviews of their work are valuable essays in literary interpretation.

Bacon's Morals.

As an example of personal appreciation, the following of Beacon is excellent:

Upon his own plane he is omniscient, but there is a plane above his of which he has no perception. Rejecting the vexed question of his character, we may say at once that we find no symptom of moral obliquity in him; but we cannot help being conscious of a certain deadness towards exalted moral sentiment. No action in his life is incapable of defense, or at least of palliation; but whenever two courses of action are presented for his acceptance, he is almost sure to select the one which, whatever other reasons may be alleged in its favor, has least to recommend it upon the score of generosity.

The reader jumps from this at once to the question: Could such a man have written the works ascribed to William Shakspere? While the above extract is not a part of the author's discussion of that famous controversy, it may nevertheless be a part of Mr. Garnett's "foundation," as "legal lights" would call it.

New Word Against Bacon.

In Mr. Garnett's contribution to the Bacon-Shakspere debate, this, which Mr. Garnett believes is new, is brought forward:

Baconians talk as if Bacon had nothing to do but to write his play at his chambers and send it to his factotum, Shakspere, at the other end of the town; but nothing can be clearer than that points must have been continually arising requiring consultation with the author, that this author must have lived in a dramatic atmosphere, and been in constant communication with the theater. That this was really the case is proved by the directions to the players in Hamlet. No one, surely, can doubt that the writer of this scene had been in the constant habit of giving instructions to performers. If he were Shakspere, no question arises; but if he were Bacon? Did he go down to the theater for the purpose, taking boat or riding over old London bridge? or did he drill the players at his chambers? In either case the actors would speedily discover that they were being tutored by the author in person, and the secret would soon be all over the town. There is no escape from this unless by maintaining that, whereas all Hamlet's other speeches are by Bacon, this one is by Shakspere. Unfortunately, it contains five sentences that have become household words wherever English is spoken.

Shakspere's Contemporaries.

In connection with Shakspere still is the following, showing the curious attitude of his contemporaries toward him:

It seemed to his own friends that they appreciated his amiable, easy talent at its proper value; he was "gentle" Shakspere to them; and they loved the man and they were ready to borrow freely from his poetry. But that he excelled them all in every poetical artifice, soaring above them all like an elm in a coppice of hazels, this, had it been whispered at the Mermaid, would have aroused smiles of derision.

The authors are not without a sense of humor, which crops out here and there, as in Mr. Garnett's allusion to the miracle plays: "The representation of Paradise," he says, "naturally surpassed the powers of the scenic artists of that period, but they were perfectly at home in hell, and especial pains were taken with hell mouth, delineated as the literal mouth of an enormous monster, and with the pitchforks and clubs of the demons."

Perfection of the Work.

Thruout the work there prevails fine lucidity, a power to make the reader see and feel the life and the spirit of the times and to know the men who are its representatives. How quick one is, for example, to note the change in the essence of literature with the advent of Milton. There a spiritual peal was sounded whose echoes have been ringing ever since. Milton spoke from faith largely, no doubt, but he also spoke from deep experience. He was a man much given to that silent meditation in retirement by which the mind and the spirit are opened up to high influences, which, be the doubter steeped in his skepticism, cannot be denied, and which Wordsworth long afterward sought to grasp, if not to analyze.

The four volumes of this work, so full of value to the student of English literature who seeks a ready survey of the field, have been issued in worthy form, substantially bound, printed on excellent paper, and in fine, clear type. Altogether it is a work which no library worthy the name should be without.

The Macmillan Co., New York. $20.

NEW LINCOLN BIOGRAPHY PROMISED.—Now that the centenary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln is but three years distant, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. announce for publication about the middle of March a volume entitled **Lincoln, Master of Men**, which differs from any previous biography by aiming to concentrate the reader's attention on the one element in Lincoln's personality which continually grows in significance as time goes by. This is his mastery over different types of men as well as over himself. The author, Alonzo Rothschild, made a keen and brilliant study, with a surprising freshness of interest.

"TARBELL'S TEACHER'S GUIDE" is intended to be a helper to Sunday school teachers for the current year 1906. It is a study of the "International Sunday School Lessons" for the year. It has a well arranged table of contents, also a table of lesson thoughts and illustrations. The plan of the writer is to give the teacher "the geography of the lessons," an explanation of unusual or difficult words and phrases, suggestive thoughts from helpful writers, light from oriental life, the approach to the lesson, the lesson thoughts, making the Bible its own interpreter, the personal thought of the lesson and a summary of each lesson. It is an ambitious undertaking, and has been successfully carried out. As far as our reading goes, we are ready to indorse it as a good piece of work which will profit anyone who may use it; and if there be some things in it which all will not accept, still it is bright and earnest and will enforce attention and thought and will be a real help to every intelligent reader, whether teacher or not. The author is Martha Tarbell, Ph. D.

The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis.

NEW PLAN BY MESSRS. HOWELLS AND ALDEN.—A new phase in the publishing of modern fiction is to be inaugurated by W. D. Howells and H. M. Alden, editor of Harper's Magazine. Under this distinguished editorship has been planned a series of novelettes, which is to include only the best, the most interesting and to the judgment of the editors, the most lasting work of our leading American writers. It is intended to make this series the most masterful interpretation of life that is being written today; the live, forceful expression of the modern point of view in all its subtle differences. Each volume will present a single fundamental and interesting theme, as mirrored in the fiction of our best story-writers. The selections are not the ordinary short stories, however; each is a novelette, and the fact of its admission to the series is a guarantee of its vital truth, absorbing interest and artistic achievement. The first volume will appear some time in March. Harper & Brothers are to be the publishers. The title of the first volume is "Their Husband's Wives."

Literary Notes.

Owen Wister, who wrote that delightful book, "The Virginian," has preferred to leave his old field for an entirely new one. Instead of following up his great success with another story in the same field, he has chosen for his scene a historic city, and the life portrayed is that of the most refined and cultivated society. "Lady Baltimore," his new novel, is announced by The Macmillan company for issue in April.

General Horace Porter has prepared an account of the search for and final discovery of the body of Paul Jones, and this will be included in a new edition of A. C. Buell's "Paul Jones: Founder of the American Navy." (Charles Scribner's Sons). This new edition will probably be published early this spring.

The first book that gives a popular account of what progress is being made in the education of the Filipinos by American methods will be brought out this spring. It is called "The Philippine Experience of an American Teacher; a narrative of work and travel in connection with the organization and development of the public schools in the Philippine Islands," and is written by William B. Freer, who spent three years in the Philippines as teacher and division superintendent of schools in various parts of the island of Luzon. Scribners will publish the book.

It is nearly four years since Frederick Upham Adams began work on "The Bottom of the Well," which will appear in May from the press of the G. W. Dillingham company. His successful golf novel, "John Henry Smith," was written in six weeks. Nothing could better illustrate the range of effort required by authors who perform consistent work. The publishers were satisfied with "The Bottom of the Well" two years ago. But Mr. Adams would not release it until recently. The scenes of action are Jamaica, England and New York city, and the time is the approximate present.

THE MAGAZINES.

Schurz, the Revolutionist.—Carl Schurz' "Reminiscences of a Long Life," in **McClure's**, gathers importance with each issue. Pending the installments that deal with his active career in our own country, there is interest and excitement in plenty in the series of adventures which led him here. In the February number, Mr. Schurz tells of his experiences at the commencement of the revolution of '48 and of his fight after the failure of the attempt on the armory at Siegburg.

Awaited Death Cheerfully.—Gertrude Atherton, in a recently published open letter, has told William Sharp's American readers of the fact that Sharp lived and worked always in the expectation that death would come to him suddenly before he finished his fiftieth year, as it did. Yet he was always a cheerful and tireless worker. Among his last writings was the sympathetic account of Sicily and the delights of travel there, which will be published in **The Century**, beginning in the March issue, under the title, "The Garden of the Sun."

Review Clear Thru.—**Current Literature** is pure review and of the highest quality. One finds between its covers each month in condensed but comprehensive form a digest of the life of the time. All the great fields are covered—current affairs, literature and art, religion and ethics, science and discovery, music and drama, important persons of the hour, recent poetry and recent fiction in the hands of the critics. In the February number the magazine has reached, as they say on 'change, "a new high point." An interesting item in this number is from Brush and Pencil, a discussion of the Greek spirit in art by William Ordway Partridge, sculptor, in which Mr. Partridge says that the dominant note in Greek art was the recognition of the near presence of death—a recognition that was never absent in any of their moments of pagan joy.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

Sermon Briefs. By Henry Ward Beecher. Transcribed from the author's manuscript notes of unpublished discourses, and edited by John R. Howard and Truman J. Ellinwood. Boston: The Pilgrim Press.

Digest of Laws Relating to Trust Companies of the United States. Prepared by Benjamin J. Downer of the New York bar, and published by George W. Young & Co., Mutual Life building, New York.