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BISMARCK'S LITERARY TASTES.

Although Bismarck is old and becoming less strong, he still finds pleasure in his library. He is a fluent French and German scholar, and although he hates the French people with an intensity that can hardly be emphasized in cold type, he is an admirer of the realistic school of fiction writers. Of these he prefers Zola, but he is often engrossed in the feuilleton of one of the French dailies, as he is with a new book from the master's hands. He has a small and valuable library. That portion of it devoted to political history and state-craft, is as valuable as any in Europe. The Iron Chancellor is quite a connoisseur in books, and has added, without very much expense, at any time, to the small library that he began to gather when a student. He is a good Greek and Latin scholar also, and often amuses himself by translating from the original. He is not nearly so voluminous a reader as Mr. Gladstone, and is not always looking for a gem or something that will repay the perusal of a stupid chapter. He once explained to a friend that a book must interest him at the beginning, or he would have nothing to do with it. He pays little or no attention to English or American literature, and although many of the English and American men of letters have been presented to him, he is not well acquainted with their work. He possesses a well-thumbed copy of Whittier's poems, and likes to spend an hour or so occasionally with the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table." When some great work has appeared in England or America, and is translated into German, Bismarck reads it, but it must be of surpassing interest to engage his attention. Of the English and American magazines and newspapers he knows but little. The various representatives of Germany in Great Britain and the United States send to the German War Office translations of everything bearing on German affairs, and these are filed and properly indexed for reference with copies of the original, but only occasionally does Bismarck feel sufficient interest in them to devote his own time to reading and studying the subject. He prefers German literature and German music, and he can not be blamed, perhaps, for not patronizing letters, when he is such an ardent believer in state-craft and warfare. He is a profound student of sociology and a philosopher as well, and one of the rules of his life has been not to undertake what he could not accomplish. He unhesitatingly pleads ignorance of American men of letters, but he is willing to learn.—Edward W. Bok, in *Ladies' Home Journal*.

HE SLAPPED JOHN'S FACE.

"It makes me tired," remarked a palefaced, diminutive man, "to hear people talk of being afraid of Sullivan, the fighter. Lots of people begin to tremble as soon as they see the big fellow, and don't dare to say a word while he's around. They don't know how to handle him. I tell you John doesn't monkey with me."
 Chorus of voice—What ye givin' us?
 "That's straight. The last time he was in Detroit I slapped his face a dozen times, and he never opened his mouth."
 Voices—Come off.
 Little Man—I kin prove it.
 Voices—Where did it happen?
 Little Man—Down in Striker's barber shop, where I work. I shaved Sullivan when he was here last, and when I got through shaving I took a handful of bay rum and slapped it all over his face, and—
 But the disgusted crowd had fled.—
Detroit Free Press.

"NO," SAID THE BOODLE ALDERMAN.

"No," said the boodle Alderman, "I shall not lend my vote to such a thieving scheme." And he didn't lend it. He sold it.

CAPE A. A. DENNIE, OF MILWAUKEE.

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WHERE IS ALD. RYAN?

Here is Carl Pretzel Abusing the Ryan Plank Road.

Carl Pretzel must have a grudge against Alderman Ryan. In the last issue of the *National Weekly* Pretzel says:
 "Riding in a Milwaukee avenue street car is a luxury, with several attendant inconveniences, the principal of which is dirt. There is enough mother earth in any one of the cars to start a mine with, and enough tobacco juice, etc., to run the mill with water-power. There is dirt on the seats, on the floor, and on the windows. It would be nothing more than thoughtfulness on the part of the companies to raise a clover-bed on the bottom, and would also afford the expectorating individual an opportunity to more agreeably contribute his quota of moisture than is his present custom. A pair of chickens kept pecking our legs so persistently the other day that we looked under the seat, and behold there lay a broom—a dejected broom—out of countenance with itself, and conscious that it occupied the wrong niche in the world. Time, however, had gently hidden it with the accumulated and undisturbed dust of some three hundred and sixty-nine days, and we did not disturb its position. Perhaps it is just as well. If a man did by any chance stray into a clean car he might take cold, get the putrid sore throat and die. Perhaps a dirty car is an improvement on a putrid sore throat."

SOME of the natives of India speak a very bizarre English. One man during an examination was told to write an essay upon the horse, which he did in the following brief item:
 "The horse is a very noble animal, but when irritated he ceases to do so." Another had to write upon the difference between riches and poverty, and he ended by saying: "In short, the rich man welters in crimson and velvet, while the poor man sports on flint." From Judge Cunningham, a well-known Anglo-Indian, came the following story in illustration of Indian politeness: "A Judge, who was a very bad shot, had been out for a day's sport and on his return the man who went with him was asked: 'Well, how did the Judge shoot to-day?' 'Oh,' he replied, 'the Judge shot beautifully, but heaven was very merciful to the birds!'"

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