

NEW VIRGINIA TALE. Side-Lights on the Writing of "Eastover Courthouse."

A LETTER FROM MR. BROWN. Brief, Breezy Autobiographical Sketch of the Authors.

THREATEN TO WRITE A SEQUEL.

The Story of "Eastover" Didn't Turn

Out According to Programme, the

Villain Usurping the Places of the

Hero, in Spite of the Writers.

When it comes to producing books of fiction it may be insisted that the proverb holds true—that "Old Virginia never tires." Book after book has been written within the past five years, and success after success has been recorded until it were anything else but fiction that has come in such a flow, the announcement of another number would scarcely be considered a novelty.

The book "Eastover Courthouse," which has just come from the press of one of the old-line publishing houses, is the latest Virginia novel. It is written by two young gentlemen of Charlottesville, Va.—men of vigor, whose lives up to this time have been "full of the juice of living," and whose careers, as they hope, are yet before them.

"Eastover Courthouse" proves the success that Miss Wilkins' latest and Miss Glasgow's latest have done, it shows anything approaching the tremendous sales of Dr. Page's books, or the successes of Miss Mary Johnston's twisters, the future of Henry Burnham Boone and Kenneth Brown is assured.

The book is a story of contemporary Virginia, and is full of the life of the South to-day. It depicts the latter-day conditions of the Old Dominion life, and is the tale of a young man who turns from the love of a married woman and eventually wins the affection of a young southern girl.

The book is the first of a series of twelve typical American novels to appear this

according to all formulae, I ought to have been the pride and joy of the faculty. Since leaving college—Boone graduated in '93; my classes at different times, were '91, '92, and '93—we have spent most of the time in Virginia. I came here to University of Virginia law school. At odd times I did a bit of newspaper work in Boston, New York, and Baltimore, and then turned farmer for a couple of years, married my sister—having been to Florida and run in the big freeze—and then took to the farm (and practicing law), while I went to Chicago on the Interstate. There I worked seven days a week for two years, till the paper changed hands, and I happened to have a rencontre—what is called a personal encounter in Virginia—with the meanest man, barring one, in the newspaper business, who was a friend of the new city editor. My services were no longer required.

I returned to Virginia the wreck newspaper work will make a man. Boone all this time had been farming and raising thoroughbreds—thoroughbreds I had started. We both worked better now, though we have to work hard to keep practicing from the door as a consequence. Six months later I went to New York and wrote editorials for the Commercial Advertiser for nearly two years, wrote a column and a half a day, till my brain was sucked dry as a load of shucks, and I hadn't an idea; then I was changed from salary to space—you know how they do those things. One day I borrowed \$25 from a classmate and some more from my landlady, walked out of the office, and came home.

BEGINNING OF THE STORY. Boone, meanwhile, at the urgent pushing of my sister, had begun Eastover Courthouse. He wrote the first part without an idea as to what should come on the second. It had, however, grown to six chapters, in a rather chaotic condition, when I came home; and the hero—by the way, he was intended for the villain, was to lose the girl, and generally to be done up a tree, and all the rest were up a tree. Boone had no faith in the novel; but writing had been my trade, and I knew there was good stuff in it. I proposed that we collaborate, and from that time, April, 1900, till October 23, one or other of us was at work on it most of the time. Three weeks after we mailed it, the publisher practically accepted it, subject to certain changes.

Villain, as I have said, behaved so decently on one or two occasions, that he gradually usurped the place of the hero, and made him take second place. Then the girl got kind of taken with him—you know the way girls act in their love affairs, anyway—and in the end he actually got her, in spite of all we could do. You will excuse the length of this. I have been fighting a forest fire all day, with nothing to eat for eleven and one-half hours, till I can't sit down without rams, and I feel kind of loquacious. This is all, except that we're planning the continuation of E. C. H., which is to mock the spots out of it. Very truly yours,

KENNETH BROWN. Charlottesville, Va., March 23, 1901. P. S.—I happen to be president of the University of Virginia Golf Club at present, and if your town has a golf club that thinks it can lick ours, we should be pleased to have it come up and try.

Both Rooms at the Jefferson. Forty-five additional bath-rooms have just been completed in the Jefferson Hotel. A current rumor affecting the



AUTHORS OF "EASTOVER COURTHOUSE." Messrs. Henry Burnham Boone and Kenneth Brown, of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Year. Whether or not the book possesses intrinsic merit and a permanent literary value only the better book-reading public can say; but whether the book will be read by the public in general, and the Virginia public in particular, is no longer a question.

In response to letters addressed by the Dispatch to each of the two authors, the pictures are produced herewith. Mr. Kenneth Brown, one of the distinguished young writers, has sent for both a remarkably interesting reply. If the letter is an example of the life and literary vim of the authors, it may well be expected that not only "Eastover Courthouse," but its continuation, "which is to knock the spots out of it," will entitle them to a permanent place in American fiction.

MR. BROWN'S LETTER.

The letter is as follows: Editor of the Dispatch:—Your letter asking for data about Mr. Boone's and my "careers" came this afternoon, and I will tell you all I know. Our lives have been full of the juice of living, but, as to careers, they are, I believe, before us. Boone was born in Fall River, Mass. I regret to be unable to say that his parents were poor, but honest. Indeed, both of us feel tremors to death as to our futures, because all of our parents were well enough off to handicap us severely in competition with the regulation barefoot boys with cheeks of tan and eyes on the presidential chair. As a boy, I understand Boone gave great promise; at least, numbers of persons who knew him when he was "so high," have written to him lately and assured him that they always felt sure they should be proud of him. For myself, I must have been a singularly unpromising kid. The only sentiment the public and spending of Eastover Courthouse has aroused in my old friends has been surprising.

Boone went to Williams stood well in his class, was rewarded with about all the honors his classmates could shower on him, ran several publications and the Glee Club, and used to stretch his legs in the quarter mile, wherefore, he now wears a W on his sweater. I went to Harvard a year or two before him; what I honestly believe, the most unpopular man in my class—and, looking back at myself as I was then, I admire the good sense of my classmates—not no honors whatever, and finished without a degree, in spite of coming back and spending an extra year trying for it. The only humorous element in the sad tale is that the single course—a little half course—standing between me and my degree, was in English composition, a course I tried three consecutive years and always failed on. The sole thing I did at that time—besides a little athletics and writing—was fulfilling the prophecy of the principal of my school in Chicago, who forgot to say I was born in Chicago. He wrote me a letter I still treasure, and in which he said: "You will drop to the bottom of your class the first half year, and get it all the second, as regards I did and did it, not by leading a wild and abortive life, but in spite of being rather good—good and decidedly a prig. Ac-

artesian well supply was denied by Manchester last night, and, as he well says, is working splendidly, and all give an abundant quantity.

THE VALLEY CITY.

A Most Enjoyable Musical Event—The Programme.

STANTON, VA., March 23.—(Special.) The annual "Evening of Song" at the Mary Baldwin Seminary last night attracted an audience that packed the seminary chapel to the very doors, and went away delighted.

Miss E. Louise Hopkins, under whose direction the young artists were trained, had arranged an admirable programme wide and varied in its range, which served to exhibit the versatility of talent of the forty members of the Seminary Glee Club, and the individual excellence of vocal soloists. The musical menu was timely and topical, as when Miss Daisy Mann sang, and adorned the verses of the late Eugene Field's "Little Boy Blue," its intrinsic melody was even further embellished by the musical adaptation of Ethelbert Nevin. Miss Ella Smith, of Clifton Forge, interpreted Nevin's "My Rosary."

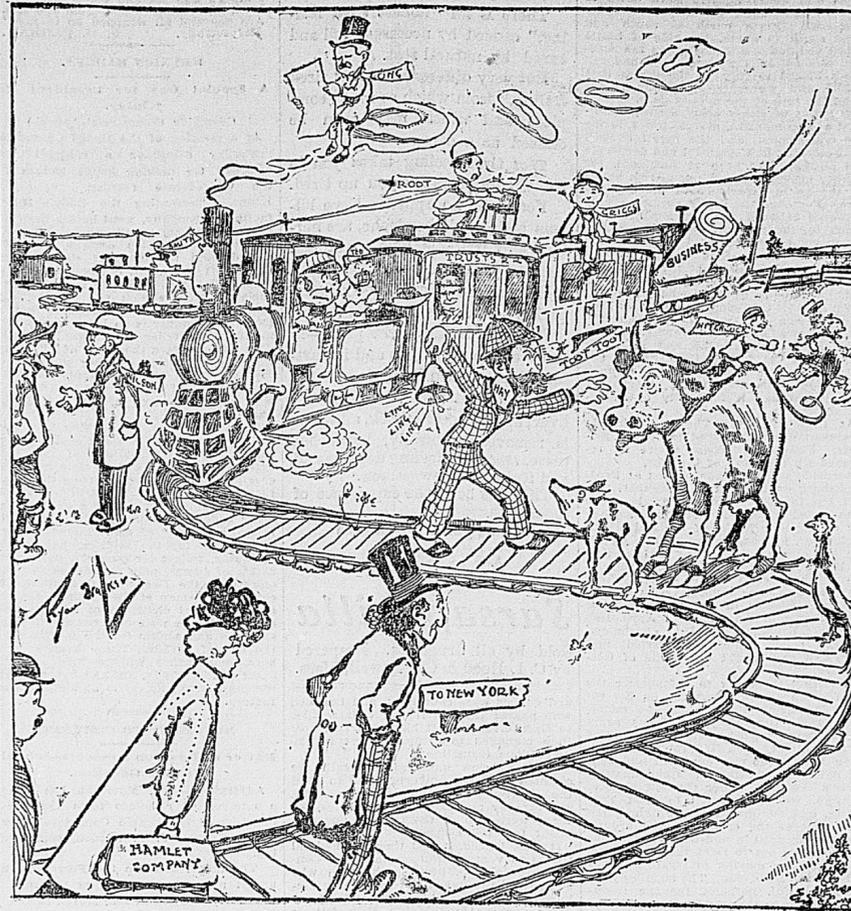
Verdi and "Our Nevin," twin stars of the music world, the one of the Italian school, the other an illustrious exemplar of American expression, were the subjects of a handsome memorial written by Miss Hopkins and read by Miss Addie Horton.

Both Verdi and Nevin died a few days ago, but their deeds live after them, and "Rigoletto" and "My Rosary" run on mingling with the music of the spheres. The honors of the evening went easily to Miss Stella McGinnity, of Stanton, who was justly applauded at her excellent renderings.

Princess Troubetskoy Recovering.

(New York Journal.) WASHINGTON, March 22.—Princess Troubetskoy (Annie Rives) is now in a sanitarium in New York, where she has been for several months, progressing so steadily toward regaining her health as to be pronounced by the attending physician as almost entirely well at the present time. The Princess, who is now looking the picture of health, will leave New York shortly and return to her father's home at Castle Hill, Va. Her family says that the reports concerning the Princess Troubetskoy's health have been greatly exaggerated, and that at no time has she been affected as reported. Her ailment has been acute gastritis, which, from negligence of the physician's orders from time to time, has assumed a chronic

WHEN THE PRESIDENT TAKES HIS CABINET WITH HIM.



The President has asked his official family to make all arrangements to accompany him on his trip across the continent in May.—News Item.—St. Louis Republic.

ITS WHEELS TO MOVE

OPERATION OF NEW POWER-HOUSE BEGINS THIS WEEK.

IMPORTANT CONTRACTS SECURED.

Will Supply Power for Trigg Yard, Locomotive-Works, Electric Road to Petersburg, Traction Company, and Other Constructions.

TROOPS FOR PHILIPPINES.

Fewer Will Be Needed, if Present Conditions Continue. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—It was stated at the War Department today that if the gratifying conditions of the past month continue, the number of troops necessary in the Philippines will not be as great as anticipated. This view of the case will not cause any cessation of enlistments, however, nor will any determination be reached until full and accurate information has been received from Manila.

MRS. SAVAGE DOING NICELY.

Taken Ill in Washington While on the Way to Buffalo. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—(Special.)—Mrs. T. Savage, of Richmond, who was on her way to Buffalo, N. Y., and was taken suddenly ill at the corner of New York avenue and Fourteenth street, northwest, here to-day, and conveyed to the Emergency Hospital, is reported tonight as doing very nicely.

Torpedo-Boats Awaiting Manoeuvres

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—Six torpedo-boats, the Cushing, Edison, Dupont, Foot, Porter, and Stockton, are lying in reserve at the Norfolk yard, awaiting the spring manoeuvres of the torpedo-boat flotilla. The Winslow, now repairing at the Delaware Breakwater, and the Rogers, which is completing repairs at the Brooklyn yard, will join them upon the completion of the work.

OF CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION.

The entire plant of the Virginia Electrical Railway and Development Com-

ITS WHEELS TO MOVE

pany is an admirable example of the extensive use of concrete.

In this work a dam of concrete 1,700 feet in length has been thrown across the James, and concrete canals 2,300 feet long serve to deliver the water to the turbines. In addition, the entire power-house, capable of housing eleven 1,000-horse power units, together with an auxiliary steam plant for driving pumps in dry seasons, is built entirely of concrete. This, unlike the canal and dam work, is not built up in solid monolithic work, but of moulded blocks of Portland concrete. The walls of the concrete, containing only concrete, steel beams, and tiling. Even the stacks, of which there are two, 175 feet high, are also built of concrete. The walls of the building, including the partition walls, are constructed of these moulded blocks of Portland cement, laid together with a pointing of Rosendale. The stack flue is a concrete structure, except about 25 feet at the bottom, which is lined with fire-brick, while the shell of the stack is built up of a solid monolithic block of concrete to a height of 175 feet.

PROTECTION FROM FLOODS.

Another unique feature of this plant is the concrete dam and the provision made for its protection against floods. It has an average height along its 1,700 feet of only 5 feet, with a maximum height of 8 feet. At the top it is 7-1/2 feet wide. The up-stream face is vertical, and the down-stream face has a batter of 7 inches to the foot. On top of this concrete breast are timber sections intended to maintain the water level 4 feet above it, and so arranged as to be lifted to pass floods. These sections are 35 feet long, of cylindrical surface. They are hinged at the center of the curvature of this surface so that they may be swung up to allow the flood waters to pass under it. The sections are made of heavy pine timber and planks, faced with cotton duck laid on with several coats of tar. Elaborate provision has been made to handle these sections in flood time. To do this a bridge has been built high above the dam along its entire length, which carries a track and suitable truck equipped with electric motors for lifting the various sections. A trolley wire stretched above the bridge foundations furnishes power for

OPERATION OF NEW POWER-HOUSE BEGINS THIS WEEK.

Will Supply Power for Trigg Yard, Locomotive-Works, Electric Road to Petersburg, Traction Company, and Other Constructions.

TROOPS FOR PHILIPPINES.

Fewer Will Be Needed, if Present Conditions Continue. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—It was stated at the War Department today that if the gratifying conditions of the past month continue, the number of troops necessary in the Philippines will not be as great as anticipated. This view of the case will not cause any cessation of enlistments, however, nor will any determination be reached until full and accurate information has been received from Manila.

MRS. SAVAGE DOING NICELY.

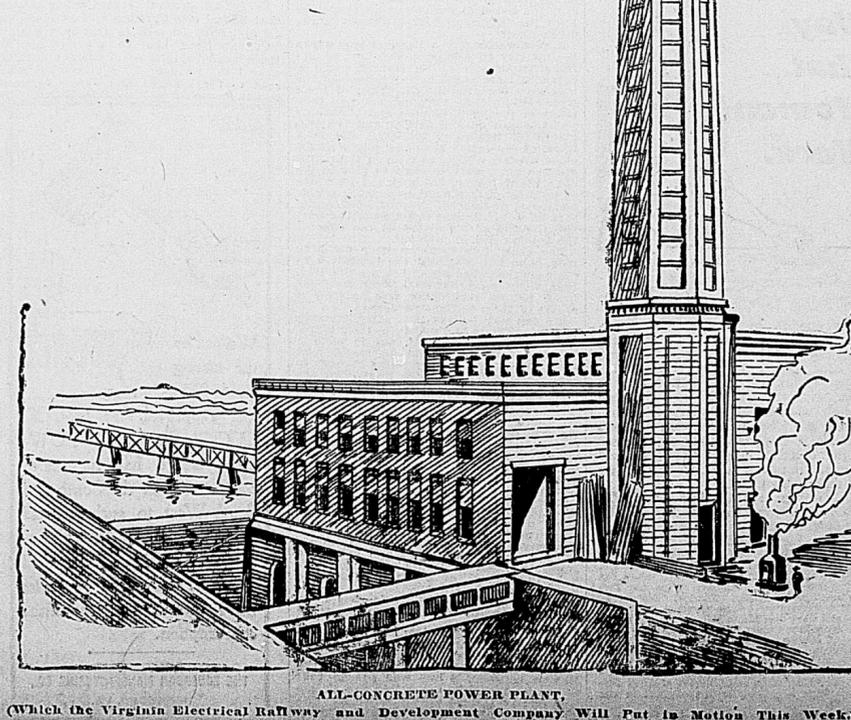
Taken Ill in Washington While on the Way to Buffalo. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—(Special.)—Mrs. T. Savage, of Richmond, who was on her way to Buffalo, N. Y., and was taken suddenly ill at the corner of New York avenue and Fourteenth street, northwest, here to-day, and conveyed to the Emergency Hospital, is reported tonight as doing very nicely.

Torpedo-Boats Awaiting Manoeuvres

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—Six torpedo-boats, the Cushing, Edison, Dupont, Foot, Porter, and Stockton, are lying in reserve at the Norfolk yard, awaiting the spring manoeuvres of the torpedo-boat flotilla. The Winslow, now repairing at the Delaware Breakwater, and the Rogers, which is completing repairs at the Brooklyn yard, will join them upon the completion of the work.

OF CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION.

The entire plant of the Virginia Electrical Railway and Development Com-



ALL-CONCRETE POWER PLANT. (Which the Virginia Electrical Railway and Development Company Will Put in Motion This Week.)

FINAL SPANISH CESSION.

We Get More Islands, and Pay for Them \$100,000. WASHINGTON, March 23.—The Spanish Minister, the Duke de Arcos, to-day received from Secretary Hay a Treasury warrant for \$100,000, and the United States received the official cession of "any and all islands of the Philippine archipelago lying outside of the line described in Article III. of the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States, of December 10, 1898."

At the same time, a protocol was signed by Mr. Hay and the Duke de Arcos, exchanging ratifications of the treaty of cession. The specific purpose of the transaction is to add the islands of Cagayan, Sulu, and Sibutu to the possessions of the United States. INTERESTING CEREMONY. The ceremony attending the exchange of ratifications, and the payment of the \$100,000 warrant, was an interesting one. The Duke de Arcos arrived at the State Department, by appointment, at 10 o'clock. He had with him the Spanish version of the treaty, handsomely encased, and bearing the signature of the Queen Regent of Spain and the Spanish royal seal. Mr. Hay joined the minister in the diplomatic room. The officials long in charge in the execution of treaties and ratifications were called in. The American text of the treaty, bearing the signature of President McKinley to the ratification, already had been prepared. The Queen Regent's ratification was handed to Mr. Hay, and he in turn presented to the Duke de Arcos the ratification executed by President McKinley.

HANDSOME BINDINGS. The treaties in each case were handsomely bound, that of Spain being in red, with the words "Spain in gold," while America's was bound in dark blue, bearing the national coat of arms.

A brief protocol was then signed. It recited the formalities of ratification of the treaty signed at Washington, November 7, 1900, providing for the cession of any and all islands of the Philippine archipelago. The Treasury warrant for \$100,000 had been prepared in advance, and was handed to the Spanish Minister. There was an exchange of congratulations over the close of the transaction, and the Duke de Arcos departed with his \$100,000 warrant and the ratified treaty.

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL.

Strong Speeches Made for Both Sides. RALEIGH, N. C., March 23.—(Special.)—J. L. Patterson spoke for the defence this morning in the impeachment trial. His argument was to show that White's claim, for which the judges issued a mandamus, was not a claim against the State; that the Supreme Court, instead of nullifying an act of the Legislature and encroaching on its prerogative, really enlarged its power and strengthened its power. He forcibly argued that if these two judges were impeachable all were so, including Superior-Court-Judge Starbuck, who decided the original case.

The defence, P. Davidson made a strong argument at the afternoon session of the prosecution, on the encroachments for the past twenty years by the State

SPARROW MUST GO.

Virginia Sportsmen Propose to Exterminate the English Pest. TARGET FOR TRAP-SHOOTERS. The New Departure Promises to Spread Over the State.

TAKE THE PLACE OF THE PIGEON. Arguments Advanced in Favor of the Slaughter of the Species. Passer Domesticus—Introduction into America.

If the interest which at the present time is shown in the use of the English sparrow for trap-shooting purposes increases at the rate which experts promise to do, we may reasonably expect this exhilarating sport to become a factor in the extermination of this, the worst bird pest of America. For some years sportsmen of the larger cities and sporting centres have been experimenting with the English sparrow with a view to the use of him in traps in the place of the pigeon, and so successful has the venture proved that now almost all the leading clubs in the country are taking the matter up and earnestly seeking to make sparrow-shooting a permanent institution in the field of sport. The arguments for the new departure are strong.

The sport itself, considering the small size of the sparrow and the peculiarity of its flight from the traps, make the shooting a most fascinating pastime. In the second place, the sparrow is plentiful, and if some means can be devised by which the bird may be easily and safely captured, the use of it in the place of the live pigeon would be attended with comparatively little cost. And then again—and this is one of the greatest reasons—the sportsmen urge that in using the sparrow in great numbers for sporting purposes the number of the bird, which is a recognized pest, cannot but be materially lessened in all those centres where trap-shooting is indulged in to a considerable extent.

THE INTEREST HERE. Interest in the trap-shooting of spar-

A LITTLE FEATHERED PEST.

(Whose Days May Be Numbered Since Virginia Trap-Shooters Have Become His Executioners.)

MR. WILLET'S NOW HAS THE FEVER.

Young Mr. and Mrs. Reynal Are Getting Well. (New York Tribune.)

Howard Willetts, who turned his handsome country home of Gedgey farm into an emergency hospital when Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Reynal, nee Fitzgerald, were stricken with scarlet-fever while his guests, was taken ill with the same disease at his home yesterday. Mr. Willetts was out driving Thursday in company with Mrs. Fitzgerald, who still remains at the house. He sat up till midnight entertaining his guests and appeared in the best of health. He expressed himself yesterday as not feeling well and Dr. Schmid diagnosed his sickness as scarlet-fever. Mr. Willetts was then placed in quarantine in the south end of the house near Mr. and Mrs. Reynal.

There are still a number of guests at Mr. Willetts' home, who have been kept there under quarantine. Among them are Mrs. Louis Fitzgerald, mother of the bride; Mrs. Jules Reynal, young Mr. Reynal's mother; Nathaniel Reynal, the well-known polo player, and Mrs. E. C. Rutter. It was the opinion of Dr. Schmid, Dr. Curtis, and Dr. Knapp at the Willetts' home that none of the remaining guests will have the disease, so that they will be subjected to it at all. Dr. Knapp remained there last night to give Mr. Willetts any medical attention that he might require. Eugene Reynal is now able to get up and move about his room, and his young bride is almost entirely well.

Death in Frederick.

WINCHESTER, Va., March 23.—(Special.)—Mr. Joseph Hackney, a resident of White Hall in this county, died yesterday, aged 80 years.

WHY THEY WERE IMPORTED.

It may seem strange to many that the bird should have been brought here at all, but yet the explanation is simple. Many of the American people are of English or German or French extraction, and they simply brought in the bird to make their new homes a reminder of their stie-domestic. It was not until between 1830 and 1831 additional sparrows were brought from England and turned loose in sixteen other American cities, and from these cities the bird was carried to more than a hundred other places in about twenty-five of the States of the Union. It was not until after a few years had become hopelessly settled in his new home that the importers saw what a gigantic mistake had been made.

THE RAPIDITY OF INCREASE.

The increase of the sparrow in America is so rapid that it is now being exterminated in many places. (CONCLUDED ON PAGE 11.)

SPARROW MUST GO.

Virginia Sportsmen Propose to Exterminate the English Pest. TARGET FOR TRAP-SHOOTERS. The New Departure Promises to Spread Over the State.

TAKE THE PLACE OF THE PIGEON. Arguments Advanced in Favor of the Slaughter of the Species. Passer Domesticus—Introduction into America.

If the interest which at the present time is shown in the use of the English sparrow for trap-shooting purposes increases at the rate which experts promise to do, we may reasonably expect this exhilarating sport to become a factor in the extermination of this, the worst bird pest of America. For some years sportsmen of the larger cities and sporting centres have been experimenting with the English sparrow with a view to the use of him in traps in the place of the pigeon, and so successful has the venture proved that now almost all the leading clubs in the country are taking the matter up and earnestly seeking to make sparrow-shooting a permanent institution in the field of sport. The arguments for the new departure are strong.

The sport itself, considering the small size of the sparrow and the peculiarity of its flight from the traps, make the shooting a most fascinating pastime. In the second place, the sparrow is plentiful, and if some means can be devised by which the bird may be easily and safely captured, the use of it in the place of the live pigeon would be attended with comparatively little cost. And then again—and this is one of the greatest reasons—the sportsmen urge that in using the sparrow in great numbers for sporting purposes the number of the bird, which is a recognized pest, cannot but be materially lessened in all those centres where trap-shooting is indulged in to a considerable extent.

THE INTEREST HERE. Interest in the trap-shooting of spar-

A LITTLE FEATHERED PEST.

(Whose Days May Be Numbered Since Virginia Trap-Shooters Have Become His Executioners.)

MR. WILLET'S NOW HAS THE FEVER.

Young Mr. and Mrs. Reynal Are Getting Well. (New York Tribune.)

Howard Willetts, who turned his handsome country home of Gedgey farm into an emergency hospital when Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Reynal, nee Fitzgerald, were stricken with scarlet-fever while his guests, was taken ill with the same disease at his home yesterday. Mr. Willetts was out driving Thursday in company with Mrs. Fitzgerald, who still remains at the house. He sat up till midnight entertaining his guests and appeared in the best of health. He expressed himself yesterday as not feeling well and Dr. Schmid diagnosed his sickness as scarlet-fever. Mr. Willetts was then placed in quarantine in the south end of the house near Mr. and Mrs. Reynal.

There are still a number of guests at Mr. Willetts' home, who have been kept there under quarantine. Among them are Mrs. Louis Fitzgerald, mother of the bride; Mrs. Jules Reynal, young Mr. Reynal's mother; Nathaniel Reynal, the well-known polo player, and Mrs. E. C. Rutter. It was the opinion of Dr. Schmid, Dr. Curtis, and Dr. Knapp at the Willetts' home that none of the remaining guests will have the disease, so that they will be subjected to it at all. Dr. Knapp remained there last night to give Mr. Willetts any medical attention that he might require. Eugene Reynal is now able to get up and move about his room, and his young bride is almost entirely well.

Death in Frederick.

WINCHESTER, Va., March 23.—(Special.)—Mr. Joseph Hackney, a resident of White Hall in this county, died yesterday, aged 80 years.

WHY THEY WERE IMPORTED.

It may seem strange to many that the bird should have been brought here at all, but yet the explanation is simple. Many of the American people are of English or German or French extraction, and they simply brought in the bird to make their new homes a reminder of their stie-domestic. It was not until between 1830 and 1831 additional sparrows were brought from England and turned loose in sixteen other American cities, and from these cities the bird was carried to more than a hundred other places in about twenty-five of the States of the Union. It was not until after a few years had become hopelessly settled in his new home that the importers saw what a gigantic mistake had been made.

THE RAPIDITY OF INCREASE.

The increase of the sparrow in America is so rapid that it is now being exterminated in many places. (CONCLUDED ON PAGE 11.)