WAS IT A NEW EXPERIENCE?

Tale of a Strange Happening to Party of Literary Men.

Sir Wemyss Reid's new biography on William Black, the novelist, recalls an amusing story of Black's visit to America which has never before appeared in print. It concerns Mr. Black and three literary men, who, as they are still living, we shall designate as Messrs. A., B. and C. It seems that Black and this interesting trio were having a quiet afternoon at poker, into the mysteries of which Black desired to be initiated. An accompaniment to the game, merely for purposes of accuracy in local color, was a bottle of fine old whisky, which Black had provided, with pride in its high merit. This bottle now becomes at once the hero and villian of the story; for it was so old, and had so long been undisturbed that the fusel-oil had collected at the top in deadly strength. All of the party drank lightly, but the consequences were so unfortunate that one of the literary gentlemen retired and went to bed, and another, a very abstemious man, ascended the staircase of his own home on his hands and knees, and when his astounded wife inquired what was the matter, amiably replied, "M'dear, I wish they wouldn't take the banisters off the stairs. Why do they do it, m'dear?" When the four friends met later and compared notes, their experiences were found to be singularly alike, and, the trouble being explained, Black laughingly apologized for his unintentionally dangerous hospitality.

Paquin, the leading man milliner of Paris, was a clerk on the bourse a few years ago, with no knowledge of dressmaking. He is a very handsome man and when he met a pretty dressmaker who had a small shop he married her. Gradually the two extended their establishment until to-day they are the joint aristocrats of fashion, standing easily at the head of all dressmakers in the French capital. Once thoroughly established in a prominent way, the clever and ornamental young couple inaugurated a new regime. No haughty seclusion, no barred doors at the Maison Pequin. Madame was met at the door by monsieur himself, and to be met by Pequin was a treat. The most beautiful of Parisian elegantes and the homeliest old dowager received the same flattering welcome, the same tender interest. The charming woman, the handsome man, both so deeply interested, both so deferential, both so intelligent. This was a new experience and the Parisienne smiled and purred, bought more than she intended and came again.

A Kaiser Anecdote.

The kaiser is fond of children, and likes them to answer frankly the questions he asks them. While visiting the Syrian orphanage at Jerusalem—one of the institutions that owes its existence to the German Protestant Mission—the emperor examined the little native scholars in geography. He asked one boy what those African states were called that were not under the sway of native rulers. "German colonies," was the prompt reply, which elicited from William II. the following laughing observation: "If I were to carry out this boy's dangerous policy of annexation it would plunge me at once into a war with England and France!"

Crematories for the destruction of the bodies of animals which have died from infectious diseases are to be erected at several centres in Silesia.

A man may pocket his pride, but a woman hasn't any pockets.

The photographer who doesn't wish to be a flat failure must flatter.

When a fool is the victim of hereditary influences he is a chip of the old blockhead.

Some people would rather lose their characters than their money.

NEWS OF LOUISIANA

Cream of Late News Gleaned From Specials.

A NEW RAILROAD

May Enter the Rice Belt--Site Purchased for a Brewery--Bit By Rattlesnake.

Diamond.—John Tobins, a swamper employed in getting out cypress lumber and crossties, was bitten on the leg by a rattlesnake, and his condition is such that he is hardly expected to recover. Interest in swamp lands continue. A New Orleans land company has asked for options on 10,000 acres for three months. These lands are mostly adapted for fishery purposes.

Diamond.—Charbon is increasing amongst live stock, and many deaths are reported. Mr. Isaac Segloe, a farmer here, lost two head of his finest oxen with the disease.

IN NEW QUARTERS.

Lafayette.—The work of installing local exchanges of the Cumberland Telephone Company in the Lacoste building has been completed. The new exchange is fitted up with modern apparatus and a large office force is employed.

FIFTH DISTRICT REPUBLICANS.

Monroe.—Fifth district Republicans met Monday and decided to call a convention to meet September 16 to nominate a canandidae for congress. Captain W. T. Insley of Richland presided at the meeting. The Lily Whites' work was endorsed.

RICE CROP ESTIMATE.

Lake Charles.—In an interview Monday Prof. Knapp said: "From the information now at hand I should estimate the rice crop of the United States this year, including the Carolinas, at 3,100,000 sacks, or less than last year's crop.

MACHINE SHOP.

Lake Charles.—Messrs. Van Vleck and Shillinglaw have made a proposition to the board of trade of Lake Charles to locate a machine shop and car works in this city, employing 1,000 if the city will furnish a satisfatcory site.

RICE MILL NEARLY READY.

Rayne.—The Rayne Rice Milling Company has nearly completed its mill, and the plant will be ready to run by September 1.

Rice farmers have begun to harvest ther crops, and wagon loads of rice are being hauled to town daily.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING.

Covington.—The new public school building, which has been in course of construction here for some time, has been completed and approved and accepted by the town's building committee. It is now ready for transfer to the school board.

BLACKSMITHS STRIKE.

Monroe. — Monday morning the blacksmiths employed at the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific shops, in this city, quit work and it is reported they will not resume work unless their demand for higher wages is granted by the railroad company.

NEW BUILDINGS GOING UP.

Washington.—New buildings are rapidly replacing those burned here recently. The last to burn and first to rebuild was Patrick Scern. Building lots in the burned district command fine prices.

Gins have begun their season's run. Cotton is opening rapidly.

TRAMP DIES IN BOX CAR.

Lake Charles—The Watkins freight, No 2, brought to Lake Charles Monday the body of a tramp who died in a box car between Oberlin and Kinder. The man who was with the unfortunate man, said he was deaf, and could talk but little. The dead man was a cripple, having both legs off at the knee. His name was not known. The Lake Charles Development Company has been organized. The company will be incorporated in a few days. Its purpose is to aid in the development of the mineral resources of Calcasieu parish.

BRIGANDS AT PORT ARTHUR.

Bands of Hunguzs Raid, Plunder and Murder.

Odessa.—A message from Port Arthur declares that brigandage near Port Arthur and elsewhere is becoming frequent. Bands of Hunguz continually raid, plunder and murder, and are increasing in boldness. An effort is being made to counterac the influence of the British and German traders in Manchuria.

PANAMA AFRAID.

Panama.—The government authorities dread a sudden attack by the rebels who have many partisans in Panama, while the government garrison is too weak for effectual resistance. The merchants and wealthy residents generally are hiding their money and valuables as they expect to be plundered by one party or the other and also dread the sacking of the city by the revolutionists

CADDO REPUBLICANS.

Shreveport.—The Republicans organized Monday and talk of cutting out a parish ticket. Postmaster Leon Carter was made chairman and Alex. Bernstein was made secretary, and both were chosen members of the congressional executive committee. The McKinley and Roosevelt administration was indorsed and the Williams Lilly White committee recognized.

RESIDENCE BURNED.

Jackson.—The residence of I. M. Palmer was burned Sunday. The family succeeded in saving nothing but themselves. Loss $1,200.

The first bale of new cotton has arrived. It was raised by R. B. McQueen and sold to W. R. McKowen & Co.

RUST DAMAGING COTTON.

Alma.—The rain continues in this section, and cotton is rusting very fast. It is damaged fully 40 per cent from rust alone. The first bale of the season was brought in Monday. It was raised by Wilson Willie, and was bought by Fenuloson Bros., at 9 cents, and a barrel of best flour as a premium.

SITE FOR A BREWERY.

Shreveport.—A sale of valuable property on Spring street, near the new ice plant, was arranged Monday and a big brewery, it is said, will be established on the site. Northern beer people with $300,000 capital are said to be behind the enterprise.

W. H. Huston, a horse trader, reached the city Sunday from Coushatta with a bullet wound in the left side, and a cut, said to have been made with a hatchet, in his back. It is stated that he attempted to marry a young lady at Coushatta, and the father's objection went to the extent of violence. Huston is said to have a wife living. He is not fatally hurt.

Crowley.—Mayor Frank M. Welsh of Alexandria, was in this city Monday and held a private conference with a number of the leading citizens with regard to how a proposition for a railroad to connect this city with Alexandria would be received. Mayor Welsh refused to divulge any of the plans further than to say that the railroad could be secured if his proposition met with the approbation of Crowley and Acadia parish. Mr. Welsh intimated that the 'Frisco line, which is now building into Alexandria, was the company desiring to touch this city with a view to handling some of the enormous consignments of rice that are shipped out of this city every year.

J. W. Smith, one of the largest rice planters of Canal Switch, was in Crowley Monday and brought with him anything but encouraging reports concerning the outlook for rice in the great rice section surrounding that point.

Donaldsonville.—The Burnside and Donaldsonville Packet Company's swift little sternwheel steamer Gracie Kent, which has been used for several years past to make daily connection between this town and the trains of the Mississippi Valley Railway at Burnside, was sold Monday to the Lee Line, with headquarters at Memphis. The Ascension Coal Company's tug Henen Barton will fill the Kent's place temporarily in the Burnside passage trade, and it is the intention of the Burnside and Donaldsonville Packet Company to build a new boat specially designed for their business.

The weather has been intensely hot for the past few days, and rice planters are rejoicing over the cessation of the daily rains that were impeding their harvest work.

SCHOOL TEACHERS ELECTED.

Abbeville.—The board of trustees of the Abbeville high school met Monday for the election of teachers. Prof. J. R. Holmes of this place was chosen principal and Mrs. Annie Kitchell Norman, first assisatnt. The school board fixed the salary of the principal at $100 per month and the first assistant at $50.

The building of the high school, which is to cost $16,400, is progressing rapidly, and it is expected to be completed by Oct. 1

SENATOR M'MILLAN'S FUNERAL

Detroit, Mich.—Extreme simplicity marked the funeral services over Senator James McMillan, who died suddenly at his summer home in Manchester, Mass. The services were as the dead man would have wished—without ostentation or display. Both branches of congress, the state legislature and all departments of the state and city governments were represented at the services.

MEXICO'S GRAIN SHORTAGE.

Mexico City.—There is a belief in some circles that corn and wheat will have to be imported in Mexico from the United States next winter, although in smaller quantities than in previous years. The corn crop in some states is good but the general average is not satisfactory. Some experts point out that the central tablelands cannot be depended on for crops sufficient to sustain the great population.

GOV. GAGE ARRESTED.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Gov. Henry T. Gage was placed under arrest Monday by a detective of San Francisco, who served a warrant charging him with criminal libel, the warrant having been sworn to by the proprietor of the San Francisco Call. The governor was immediately afterwards released on a writ of habeas corpus.

BRADSTREET BUOYANT

In Anticipation of Largest Harvest in Our History.

FEAR A CAR FAMINE

Large Sum of Money Required to Move the Crops--Cotton Retains its Strength.

New York.—Bradstreet's says:

Weather conditions have been favorable and the country is a week nearer to realizing the largest harvest in its history. The need of larger than usual quantities of money to move the ocrops as appreciated, and confidence in the work of handling the crops with a minimum of friction is widely expressed, though a further seasonable tightening of the situation is looked for. The physical handling of the crops by the railroads presents a problem which must also be met, and the possibility of a car famine looms up second only to the necessary financing of the movement itself. The favorable trade features noted are the expansion in the fall demand for dry goods, hardware, groceries, shoes and millinery at leading markets north, west, east and south; the more optimistic views expressed as to the large size of the Southern cotton crop and its effect on future business; the strength of iron and steel caused by the curtailment of production in July as a result of shortages in fuel supplies due to strikes and car shortages; the firmness in lumber, and the continuance of the improved export demand for cereals, particularly wheat.

The less favorable features noted are the restrictions of trade in summer goods, caused by the cool weather; the continuance of the deadlock at the anthracite coal mines, with the growing nervousness as to supplies and prices if the strike continues until cool weather" and the unfavorable figures of July export trade, caused by the projection of last year's conditions into the present season. Collections as a whole are classed as seasonable.

Pig iron production is still restricted by scarcity of cars affecting coke supplies, and the anthracite strike. The demand is no less active, southern pig selling heavily. Foundry iron is active for near-by and next year deliveries at $1 advance on Bessemer iron.

Cotton retains all the strength noted toward the close of last week. Some cotton goods are rather easy in tone. Print cloths, while held at Fall River at 3 cents, are offered at 2 7-8 cents at other markets. Ginghams, however, are strong and some advances are announced.

Woolen goods for men's wear (spring) are steady at the advance of 4 and 10 cents noted. Wool is firm, as is also raw silk.

Boots and shoes show more activity at eastern manufacturing centers, and shipments for the week are 6 per cent larger than last week.

Sugar is firm, and a large business is in progress.

Produce is lower on larger receipts. Canned goods are firm, despite bountiful crops.

Business failures for the week ending August 14 number 151 as against 169 last week and 178 in this week last year.

FRENCH SISTERS

Clamoring to Come to the United States.

Rome.—Members of the religious orders expelled from France, especially sisters, are applying to the vatican authorities for permisssion to settle in the United States. Several of them have come to Rome personally for the purpose of urging their request A reply has been sent to them pointing out that there are no vacancies in the United States and, besides, calling attention to the difficulty arising from the fact that the expelled sisters do not speak the English language. Canada has been suggested as a better field, as sisters are comparatively scarce there and because French is spoken in a large area of the dominion. The applicants, however, did not take kindly to the suggestion and persist in their requests to go to the United States.

PREPARING FOR THE PRIMARY

Birmingham.—Chairman Lowe, of the state Democratic executive committee, has sent out 50,000 ballots to each of the nine districts of the state for the state primaries to be held on August 25. It is not believed any county will hold the primaries not in strict accord with the plans as prescribed by the state committee. Both Gov. Jelks and former Gov. Johnson are confident of being victorious in the campaign.

President Palma and his Ministry has never felt such confidence in the future of Cuba as they do now.

Mexican troops have executed thirty Yaqui Indian prisoners. The Yaquis were placed one by one against a wall and shot. It has been determined to exterminate the race.

New York dealers believe that anthracite coal will reach $11 per ton.

The Whit Owens murder case will be tried at Oxford, Miss., this week