

## WRITES SWEET SONGS

### LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON'S GREAT FAME.

#### No Other American Woman Has Attained Such a High Degree of International Success—Was a Child of Connecticut.

Every reader of the best magazines and every lover of real poetry must be familiar with the name of Louise Chandler Moulton, a Boston writer who has won for herself a high place in American literature. Although it is as a poet that Mrs. Moulton has won the highest distinction, her prose writings have had many admirers, her letters of travel being particularly good. Mrs. Moulton is of eastern birth, having been born in Promfret, Conn., in 1835. Hers was a home in which the theology and traditions of the Puritans survived, and her childhood was not like the childhood of the children of today. Some very innocent amusements were strictly prohibited and her childish companions were few. Happily for her one had a highly imaginative nature that helped her to people her little world with agreeable companions and she was not unhappy. Like most poets, Mrs. Moulton began to write when she was very young, and she was but 18 years of age when she wrote for a composition in school a poem that her teacher could hardly believe



LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON.

was original, and he detained her after school to ask if she had really written the poem. When 14 years old she sent a little poem to a local newspaper and for the first time saw her own lines in print. No lines of hers that appeared in after years in the great magazines and that brought her praise from Longfellow and Holmes and Browning and Matthew Arnold ever gave Mrs. Moulton the peculiar thrill of delight she felt on seeing her first lines in that little village newspaper. Only once in a lifetime can one experience the delight of seeing one's first literary effort in print.

When 18 years old the young Connecticut poet brought out a small volume of the stories, poems and sketches she had had published in various periodicals up to that time. Some of these poems and stories had appeared in the Boston True Flag, then edited by William V. Moulton, who had become greatly interested in his young contributor, and they were married in 1855. From that time until now Mrs. Moulton has lived in Boston, with the exception of many summers spent abroad.

It is doubtful if any other American woman ever attained the prestige in literary circles attained by Mrs. Moulton in both America and Europe. A woman of a kindly and sympathetic nature, fond of social pleasures, and eager to give pleasure to others, she has made friends everywhere. One of the memorable events in the literary history of London was a breakfast given for Mrs. Moulton by Lord Houghton (Richard Monckton Milnes) some years ago. The most noted poets, novelists, actors and artists have attended Mrs. Moulton's London "at homes." Her Friday afternoon receptions at her home in Boston partake more of the nature of the salon than any other social gathering in the city. The writer remembers seeing at Mrs. Moulton's at one of these receptions Oliver Wendell Holmes, Julia Ward Howe, Sarah Orne Jewett, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Julia Marlowe, and a host of artists, writers, college professors, and men and women of distinction in the higher walks of life. No other woman in Boston has entertained so many men and women of the highest distinction, and no other woman has been kinder or more helpful to struggling young writers and artists. She has encouraged when others have ridiculed and has helped when others have hindered. Her sonnets have been unsurpassed by any American poet, and all of her work bears the imprint of a master hand.

MORRIS WADE.

## COMMON NAMES.

### Would Furnish the Subject for Some Interesting Statistics.

Speaking of names, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat, there is really a demand in this country for new names, and no man knows this better than the fellow whose business forces him to study the directories of the large cities of the country. Of course, the trouble is with the more common names, but when you come to think of it these common names make up at least 90 per cent. of the population of the larger cities. Really, what a void there would be in some of the largest places of the country if there should be a sudden exodus of the families bearing common names! Suppose the Smiths, and the Joneses, and the Browns should suddenly decide to eat peacefully over the corporate line of any one of the big cities of the United States; think of the number of houses that would be left vacant, the amount of money that would be pulled out of the banks and out of circulation, and the enormous amount of labor that would be withdrawn, and the value of the trade that would go with them in their sudden flight. But cities could not stand the shock, so deeply have these families become entrenched in the industrial, commercial and financial institutions of the modern municipality. There are many other names, which, while probably less common, still carry with them a heavy per cent. of city population. The Johnsons play some part, but the name is variously spelled. Black, too, is a common name. Washington has become very common since the legend of the cherry tree and the hatchet. Miller is a popular name, and there are many others that might be included in the classification. The directories are full of them. There is a chance for some statistical fiend to make an interesting and instructive compilation along this line. What per cent., for instance, of the American population will the Smiths represent? Or the Joneses? Or the Browns? Or the Johnsons, and Blacks, and Whites, and Millers, and Washingtons, and other familiar names? There is a chance for some figuring. These names not only represent a heavy per cent. of the American population, but they own a heavy per cent. of American values. So the fellow who undertakes it might find a lifetime task if he traced the names in all their bearings and in all their infinite ramifications. The social and business fabric is literally threaded with these names. But I had in mind the confusion frequently resulting in sending letters through the mails, and in sending telegraphic communications. These messages frequently get mixed on account of the vast number of persons bearing the same name, and not infrequently the same initials.

## A BIT OF REALISM.

### The Great Emotional Actress Back to Her Childhood Home.

"Back again to the old home," cried the great emotional actress, as she stepped through the wings and stood for a moment until the calcium man got the right focus.

"Back again," she continued, going up stage, so that her Parisian costume would get all there was in the calcium tank.

"Back to the scenes of my childhood, after all these long, long y'ars." Be it known that when an actor lady says "y'ars" she shows that she loves her art.

With trembling hand she searched the room, saying: "It must be here! It must be here! I left it here long, long y'ars ago."

The audience held its breath and swallowed cloves and allspice in its intense excitement.

"Yes, yes," she exclaimed, "I have found it! I knew it was here. Ah, those happy childhood days!"

And she brought to view the piece of chewing gum she had concealed under the chair that happy day, long, long y'ars ago, when Gerald Mortimer had asked her to be his'n.

Realism is all there is to it nowadays.—Baltimore American.

## HOW IBSEN GOT HIS START

### First Drama Produced When He Was Fifteen Years of Age.

According to W. E. Curtis, writing to the Chicago Record-Herald from Scandinavia, Ibsen is supposed to be a rich man, although he is said to be very penurious and never contributes money to any cause. He receives a large income from his plays and saves the most of it. His only extravagance is pictures. He has a fine taste for art, and has one of the best private collections of paintings in Norway. In his early school days he took several prizes for drawing, and his boyish ambition was to be a painter, but his family could not afford to pay for instruction. He had a desperate struggle to sustain himself during the first half of his life.

His father was formerly a merchant of great wealth at the city of Skien, in southern Norway, but failed disastrously and died, leaving a large family entirely destitute. Henrik was compelled to earn his own living from childhood, and was never able to enjoy the sports and pleasures of other children. He has said of himself that he "was never a child," and his whole career as well as his disposition has been clouded and soured by his early poverty and privations. His natural literary abilities asserted themselves in childhood. His first poems were written at the age of 11, and at 15, while he was a clerk in a village drug store and studying medicine, he wrote his first drama, entitled "Katalina," which was published over the nom de plume of Brynjolf Bjorne. Although it attracted general attention, it was not approved by the public. Prof. Monrad, of the Royal university, one of the foremost critics of Norway, saw merit in the work of the unknown new author, and wrote a review, in which he predicted that the pen which framed those lines would some time be famous. He encouraged him to write again and again and to develop what he perceived to be genius.

This single friendly encouragement from a stranger seems to have been the turning point of Ibsen's career, for he continued his literary work under his nom de plume with greater success and popularity. At the same time he continued his medical studies and at the age of 20 appeared in Christiania for the first time in his life to take his preliminary examinations at the university. He failed to pass in Greek and mathematics, and was so mortified that he abandoned his plan of becoming a physician, and for several years lived a precarious life in the garrets of the Norwegian capital, writing for the newspapers and magazines and composing plays which attracted no attention, but he finally succeeded in having one of them accepted at a theater in Bergen, where he lived six years and made his first reputation under his true name. He became the director of the Bergen theater. At the same time that his rival, Bjornson, was director of the National theater at Christiania.

In 1864 Ibsen succeeded in securing from the government a pension of 100 kroner a year, about \$200 in our money, upon which he went to Germany.

Besides about 1,000,000 cycles, there are no fewer than 6,000 motor cars in use in France at present. There are 1,436 in the Seine department, and the rest are scattered about the country. The figures show an increase of 41 per cent. in 12 months.

## A Light That Is Seen

If a man has a light heart the reflection will light up his countenance.—Chicago Daily News.

**A Musical Doorcraper.**  
The late Sir Frederick Gore-Ouseley, professor of music at Oxford, was once going to call on a friend in London and asked a fellow musician the number in which he lived in a certain street. "I don't know the number," answered the other, "but the note of his doorcraper is C." Sir Frederick went off, and he kicked the doorcrapers all the way down the street until he came to the right one, when he rang the bell and went in.



**Polar Records of Noted Explorers.**  
In attaining the latitude of 86 degrees 33 minutes the sledge party of the Duke of Abruzzi of Italy advanced within about 239 statute miles of the North Pole. The sledging party under command of Capt. Cagni attained a point 21.85 statute miles nearer the pole than that reached by Nansen on April 7, 1895, who surpassed Lockwood's record of May, 1882, by 55.50 statute miles. The four highest records, all made within the past eighteen years, are: The Duke of Abruzzi, 1900, 239.15 statute miles from the pole; Nansen, 1895, 261 miles; the Fram, 1895 (during her drift after Nansen left her), 280.55 miles; Lockwood, 1882, 456.50 miles.—Army and Navy Journal.

**Sankey Thinks London Improved.**  
Ira D. Sankey is distinctly of opinion that the spiritual life of London is on the upgrade. Indeed, he has confided to the British Weekly that "as regards my special work I have been much gratified to note the earnest Christian tone that prevails among the religious community. As compared with 1873 there are even a deeper earnestness and a warmer spiritual glow. I have an impression that a great revival is impending."

**WAS LEFT-HANDED.**  
An Art Connoisseur's Discovery Concerning One Old Master.

What old master among the Dutch painters was left-handed?

This knowledge is a very valuable asset to a connoisseur in art. Few experts know, and those who do are particular to keep the information to themselves. It enables them to detect a spurious painting ascribed to this artist at a glance.

Mr. George H. Story, of the Metropolitan museum, says, according to the New York World, that he discovered the fact for himself in a curious way. Mr. Story is the highest authority in this country upon old masters, and is especially familiar with those of the Dutch school. He gained his prestige by years of the minutest study in the galleries of Europe. One of his methods of study was to copy masterpieces for the sake of dissecting a painter's style. One day he set his easel down before a famous painting at The Hague.

"Now I'll get your stroke," reflected upon the artist. He found that he could not get the stroke. There was something about it quite out of the ordinary. Then he noticed the same oddity in the way that the original varnishing had been done. Suddenly he worked out the problem like a flash. The brush had been brought always from left to right instead of from right to left. It was easy to verify the discovery, once made.

When a World reporter asked Mr. Story to name the painter he found:

"Oh, no," he said; "I can't attempt to part with that bit of knowledge."

**China's Kerosene Imports.**  
Before 1880 little was known in China of kerosene. In 1890 more than 100,000,000 gallons were imported.

**SENATOR PLATT.**  
Is No Nature Lover—Has Seen Adirondacks Only Once.

Senator Thomas C. Platt has never been counted as a nature lover. His dealings are with politicians and business men, and his expressions of fondness for the picturesque in nature are few and far between. The mountains have no attraction for the republican leader, and his friends were surprised last week when Senator Platt made a journey to the Adirondacks. His sons talked for hours to induce him to take the trip. The stay lasted three days, and when Senator Platt arrived back in the Fifth Avenue hotel he said to a friend:

"It is the first time I have seen the Adirondack mountains, although I have lived within a short distance of them for years. Go back to the mountains? No, I never expect to see them again. The sea breezes of Joney island suit me."

One of the tender spots in Senator Platt's nature is his desire to have rare cut flowers in his rooms. He delights to push a comfortable armchair close to a large vase of American beauty roses and enjoy their fragrance.—N. Y. Times.

**Light-Weights.**  
Don't ignore a man because he is in the light weight class. It is easier to throw a cannon ball a mile than to throw a feather ten feet.—Chicago Daily News.

# INSOMNIA

"I have been using CASCARET for Insomnia, with which I have been afflicted for over twenty years, and I can say that Cascaret has given me more relief than any other remedy I have ever tried. I shall certainly recommend them to my friends as being all they are represented." THOS. GILLARD, Elgin, Ill.



Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good. Good Never Sickens, Weakens, or Grips. No. 1. CURE CONSTIPATION. Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago, Montreal, New York. NO-TO-BAC Sold and guaranteed by all druggists to CURE Tobacco Habit.

## WANTED INVENTORS

To write for our confidential letter before applying for patent; it may be worth money. We promptly obtain U. S. and Foreign

**PATENTS** and TRADE MARKS or return ENTIRE attorney's fee. Send model, sketch or photo and we send an IMMEDIATE FREE report on patentability. We give the best legal service and advice, and our charges are moderate. Try us.

**SWIFT & CO.,** Patent Lawyers, Opp. U. S. Patent Office, Washington, D. C.



"THE BEST IS THE CHEAPEST." Not how cheap, but how good, is the question.

The TWO-EA-WEEK REPUBLIC is not as cheap as are some so-called newspapers. But it is as cheap as it is possible to sell a first class newspaper. Its price is all the news that is worth reading. If you read it all the year round, you are posted on all the important and interesting affairs of the world. It is the best and most profitable newspaper that money and brains can produce. It should be the distinguishing traits of the newspaper designer to be readily a members of the family use.

Subscription price, \$1 a year. An occasional newspaper or postmaster will receive your subscription, or you may mail it direct to

THE REPUBLIC, St. Louis, Mo.

Free-Care Files! Money returned if it ever fails.

## NEW METHODIST BISHOP.

Bishop-Elect John W. Hamilton, secretary of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Educational society, was one of the first candidates mentioned for election, and before the conference met his name was most talked of. Dr. Hamilton's home is in New York. There the offices of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Educational society are. Dr. Hamilton was born in Weston, Va., on March 3, 1845. He was graduated from Mount Union college in 1865, and from Boston university in 1871. He commenced to preach in the Pittsburg conference in 1866. In 1868 he was transferred to the New England conference and was assigned to Malde. He became prominent a few years later as the founder of the People's church in Boston, which he served for nine years. He was elected to his present office by the conference of 1892. He was supported in the election for bishop by all the colored delegates, who, it is said, were anxious to have



**BISHOP HAMILTON.**  
C. B. Mason, their representative, is the office of secretary of the Freedmen's Aid society. Dr. Hamilton has published a history of the Episcopal board, entitled "Lives of the Methodist Bishops." He has had much experience in parliamentary bodies, having been a member of five general conferences, and is in other ways considered well qualified for the position of bishop to which the conference has elevated him.