

TWO NEW AMERICAN STORIES

Western Novel by Vischer and Southern Story by Opie Read.

LITERATURE IN SCHOOL READERS

Completion of a Notable Series of Supplementary Readers—The North American and the Forum—Art and the Art Amateur.

Whether it is true that Opie Read and W. L. Vischer have formed a little mutual admiration society for the purpose of helping the sale of their literary out, it is a fact that one may read as an introduction to the latest book by the latter what the former thinks of him as a writer of stories. The editor of the present issue of one of the cheaper magazines one may read what Vischer thinks of Read as a writer of stories. The coincidence of these mutual compliments is made further striking by the extravagance of the praise given. Of Vischer's other gentleman says that he is a story teller of the rank of writing a distinctly western novel by "his long training as a writer, his fervid fancy, his insight into character, his warm imagination."

Vischer refers to Read's "close observation and deep reading" of the high and low intelligences. Judged by their latest productions Read is far more deserving of praise for his work than Vischer. It is interesting only as an oddity that they should have fallen upon each other's necks to make a dramatic scene for the use of their advertising managers. "Way Out Yonder" by William Lightfoot Vischer, makes use of subjects and scenes which in the hands of an artist would have been good for a splendid story. The scene is a quiet scene in the mountains, naturally picturesque, the presence of the pioneer trapper, the coming of the typical western "boomer," the founding of a paper city, the advent of the newspaper and the dance hall and all the signs of an advanced civilization, rapidly growing and spreading, throwing together men of widely differing tastes, the rise and fall of fortunes, the triumph of virtue even in a community not apt to inquire into past antecedents, and the final ruin of the city from causes not altogether plain. The author's choice of subjects and the subjects for the typical western novel, but he has simply made it lead up to an argument in favor of certain political views and spoiled the whole by bending the story to fit his prearranged purpose. Aside from this Vischer has nothing to offer of any pretentiousness. He drags the slang and conventionalities of the men who loaf around the corner grocery into his work and uses them with the air of one displaying great learning. He affects the realistic without being anything more than a realist. Here and there he shows touches of genius in the treatment of special subjects but this strength is not maintained evenly through his work. Laird & Lee, Chicago.

"The Waters of Caney Park" is one of the stories of Opie Read that is least like his other works. Indeed, but for the fact that it is distinctly a southern novel, one might refuse to believe that it was written by him. Read has polish and artistic ability, although he does not make pretensions to either. His finish of other great writers were talked about but whose works are less read. This story is a psychological romance, a study of insanity under most peculiar conditions. The hero falls in love with a young girl who makes her betrothal to him when she was nine years old. It was evident her mind had been turned by some great shock. He is a doctor and becomes interested in her. She is merely mildly insane and the doctor watches her and studies her as she rambles on in her raptures and delirium. One day while being from a fire the doctor and his patient jump themselves over a cliff and into the waters of Caney Park and the fall restores the reason to the girl. But this psychological thread running through the story is only a means to an end. He presents many pretty pictures of Tennessee life and makes the story thoroughly enjoyable by his easy treatment of the lives of the people with whom he is familiar. Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago. \$1.

Two notable new school text books have just been issued, completing the series of supplementary readers known as "Stepping Stones to Literature." The reader for seventh grade is devoted to American literature. Early events in American history are introduced by extracts from Francis Parkman's admirable histories of the English and French wars and settlements. Hawthorne's "Chambers" and the story "Henry's eloquent" "Army to Arms" present pre-revolutionary aspirations and struggles on the part of the American colonists. Read's stirring poem "The Rising in 1772" finds a place here. So much of the best American literature has to do with the American history that the book is an excellent supplementary history book. The tale of Arnold's treason and Andre's capture as related by Bancroft is given. The contrast between the last days of Arnold and the last days of Andre, as depicted by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, adds to this part of American history. But the whole book is filled with excellent selections from the best American authors and it could not be improved. The reader for higher grades is devoted to English literature exclusively. While it was impossible to cover so wide a field, the book provides a choice assemblage of standard English writers and their representative works. Adam Sedgwick, Byron, Campbell, Dickens, Mrs. Gaskell, Goldsmith, Keats, Lamb, Ossian, the Proctors, Ruskin, Scott, Shakespeare, Shelley, Foubey and Tennyson are among the names that appear. The work is forming a charming variety of thought and expression. The whole series of supplementary readers is on a plan that commends itself to every educator. The selections are sufficiently long to make them valuable for the information they contain and the editor has taken evident pains to get out of the old and too well worn ruts of the past. The books are handsomely illustrated and altogether the best thing in the way of school text books that has appeared recently. Edited by Sarah Louise Arnold and Charles B. Gilbert. Silver, Burdett & Co., Boston. 60 cents each.

In the current number of the Forum, Senator Stephen A. Miller in a paper on "Our Inadequate Consular Service," deprecates the present system of removing consuls to make room for novices as political reward. As he says, it is only after a certain tenure of office that a consul can claim that degree of usefulness and capability which is essential to the safeguarding of our commercial interests abroad. Moreover, as the pay is not sufficient, the knowledge that dismissal is probable within a few months is an incentive to the eligible young men to enter the service as a life career. The paper by L. O. Howard, chief entomologist of the United States Department of Agriculture, entitled "International Relations Disturbed by an Insect," describes the spread of the insect known as the San Jose scale, which led to the prohibition of the entry into Germany of fruits and living plants from America. Miss Adelaide H. Hesse pleads for a proper systematization and the suitable custody of "The Nation's Records." The other papers are: "The Depression in the Cotton Industry," A. Kennedy; "By Luther F. McKinley," "Australia-Hawaii Under the Sign of Franco Joseph," by his excellency, Albert von Schafer; "The Evolution of the German Drama" (second paper), by Dr. Ernst von Willdenbruch; and "Indian Superstitions and Legends," by Simon Pokagon, the last chief of the Pottawatamie Pokagon band.

IN CAMP AT CHICKAMAUGA

Word from the Second Nebraska and Colonel Grigsby's Cowboys.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM THE RENDEZVOUS

Forces Fully Armed and Equipped and Anxious to Go to the Front and Engage in the Fighting.

CHICKAMAUGA, Ga., July 2.—(Special Correspondence)—Lieutenant Colonel Olson of the Second Nebraska has added much to the comfort of his headquarters by moving his tent back several feet and providing it with a fly. The pay and muster rolls of this regiment have been submitted to the paymasters and it is expected that the regiment will be paid next Monday. Fifteen recruits arrived yesterday from Omaha, thirteen for Company G and two for Company H. Corporal Charles T. Leigh, Company C, left yesterday for his home in Nebraska City on a furlough. He is seriously ill. Second Lieutenant Henry Allen, son of Senator Allen, has been off on sick leave for several days, having spent the time on Walden's ridge. He is expected to resume his duties. James H. Collins, dubbed "General" by members of his company, L, is the historian of the regiment. He is writing a history of Company L and the clerk of the company records his stories in the company's journal. A matter is to be used as the basis for a play of the company.

The woman's relief corps of Norfolk, Neb., has sent Company L a box of household necessities in the way of carrying provisions from the good women of Chadron. Major Mages returned to camp yesterday much refreshed after spending a day and night on Lookout mountain. Returns for ten days were issued to the regiment yesterday. Lieutenant Colonel Olson had the regiment on dress parade yesterday evening. The men made a splendid showing. The Second Nebraska has received additional equipment in the way of cartridge belts, knapsacks and canteens. This regiment was mustered in yesterday morning, a matter very essential with the government paymasters encamped near with \$2,000,000 in gold cash. Only eleven recruits for the regiment have arrived within the last two days. There are yet lacking about 200 men to complete the complement of the regiment. The command will participate in a division drill on Saturday. The regiment has received permission to participate in target practice and is now making the necessary arrangements for the same. Company C, commanded by Captain Hayward, has received a ton of grit and fifty boxes of serviceable articles from friends and relatives in Nebraska City. Captain Don M. Dodge of Duluth, Minn., has relieved Lieutenant Siedenham of Company A, who was acting brigade commissary. The Second Nebraska regiment had covered itself with glory in playing for the democratic state convention in several places. The band rendered music for the convention during the entire day and was given an ovation by the convention. The officers of the Second Nebraska had the honor of attending the tin wedding anniversary of Colonel and Mrs. Burdett of St. Louis at brigade headquarters. The Second Nebraska has received seventeen cases containing 340 rifles. This completes the number necessary to equip the regiment and its recruits. Lieutenant Goodell of Company K received a telegram announcing the serious illness of his wife. He left for his home in Chadron, Neb. Lieutenant Colonel Olson, who was in command of the brigade temporarily, was relieved yesterday by the return of Colonel Betts from Lookout mountain. Major Mages was in turn relieved of the temporary command of the regiment. The members of the Second Nebraska regiment were very disappointed because this command was not included in the orders to go to the front.

Grigsby's Cowboys. The only incident of the day in camp was a game of base ball between Rough Riders and a team from the First Illinois. The game resulted in a score of 14 to 9 in favor of the Rough Riders. The cowboys are now considered the champions of the park. Colonel Grigsby, Lieutenant Colonel Lyon, Major French, Major Monteth and Lieutenants McMichael and Reid visited Chattanooga and Lookout mountain yesterday. Quartermaster Parliaman, Adjutant Sues and Colonel Grigsby have their headquarters taken in a group and the picture will be preserved as a memento of the war. Private Baylor of Troop D, who has been quite sick with a beautiful fever for several days, improving rapidly, was performed upon him and watery substance removed from his spinal column. Colonel Melvin Grigsby, the popular commander of the Rough Riders, was yesterday presented with a beautiful saber by the officers of the regiment. The saber is a gem, the scabbard being mounted in gold. On the scabbard is inscribed "Presented to Colonel Melvin Grigsby by the officers of the Cowboy Regiment." Col. of the saddles and Krag-Jorgensen carbines have been received and distributed. All of the horses are being shot and the regiment will begin drill next at once. Chaplain Cleveland has secured a number of copies of Colonel Grigsby's book, "The Smoked Yank." They will be distributed among the boys in the regimental hospital. Sergeant John W. Butcher, whose time has just expired in the United States Cavalry, arrived at the camp yesterday and enlisted with Troop H of the regiment. Major Stewart has returned from a trip to Cincinnati. The colors for Colonel Grigsby's regiment will arrive in a few days. The different troop commanders were busy yesterday making out the pay rolls for the regiment. The regiment has received all the sabers necessary to equip the entire command. The officers of the cowboy regiment will receive the 10 per cent increase longevity pay for service rendered in the United States army. The officers are: Colonel Grigsby, Lieutenant Colonel Lyon, Adjutant Sues, Captain J. B. Hinder, Captain John E. Hanson, Lieutenant D. F. Connor, Lieutenant Way, Lieutenant Wedekind, Lieutenant Fuller, Captain Nugent and Captain Culver. A regimental riding school has been established and the men are taught every point in riding. The veterinary dispensary is now well stocked with drugs and the horses are re-

ceiving careful attention from W. L. Hager, the regimental veterinary surgeon. The health of the regiment is very good. There has not been a case of typhoid fever in the command and, with the exception of some arms, resulting from vaccination, the sick rate is very low. One Result of a Dispute About the War Revenue Tax Law. STAMPS ON THE EXPRESS RECEIPTS. Companies Still Refuse to Pay for Them and the Shippers Send Goods by Fast Freight in Preference. The controversy over the payment for the war revenue stamps necessary for the shipment of express packages is still on, and the situation is unchanged. The Pacific Express company has been whipped into line by the other companies and demands that the other express companies pay for the stamps. The Kansas City office of Wells, Fargo & Co. has also given up the payment for the stamps, and has joined the other express companies in standing pat on the agreement not to pay for the stamps unless compelled to by the courts. The only western line over which express packages may now be sent without the sender paying for the stamp is the Deaver & Rio Grande in Colorado. The fight against the express companies is extremely bitter. The Omaha and Great Smelters works leading the movement. The express business among all the companies has fallen off in the past few days, and the fast freight business of the railroad companies has been correspondingly increased. Now the express companies have forced the Pacific into line it is predicted by the express officials that every express package sent out of Omaha will have a stamped paper paid for by the sender until the courts rule otherwise. The merchants and other big shippers are awaiting the decision in the New York test case with much impatience as they confidently expect that the courts will order the express companies to pay for the stamps. The Omaha & Great Smelters company is allowing some of its shipments usually made by express to accumulate at the smelters here, the express companies declining to take them unless the war revenue stamps are paid for by the company, and the smelters are waiting for the decision of the courts. Should the courts decide that the express companies must pay for the stamps, as the smelting company anticipates, the latter corporation will bring suit against the express companies for the delay occasioned by their refusal to take the express packages.

Local Office of Internal Revenue Has No Two-Cent Stickers. United States Internal Revenue Collector J. E. Houtz and his clerks are busy now with the new revenue tax law just put into effect. The collector has made a number of points of people, and as one of the clerks said, "it would bother a Philadelphia lawyer to answer some of the questions which they propound to us." At 10 o'clock this morning the office is opened to the public. Long before this time the corridors of the building are filled with all sorts and conditions of men who want to buy stamps or ask questions relative to their business interests. "I want a two-cent stamp in the office," said a man who had just come in. "I have to go to the bank," is the invariable response made to inquiries. When Mr. Houtz was asked how the law was working, he said: "Yes, it is working, but slowly, and I and my men are also waiting for the extent of fourteen to eighteen hours a day. I am now so hoarse from talking over the telephone that I can hardly speak. There is no telling how long it will take to improve matters. We have our own work in Washington, but the sudden enforcement of the law has made it impossible for the government to do any better. Since Monday I have received this package of telegrams from different parts of the district. There must be over 200 of them. I can only read out a circular and tell the people to continue business and be patient. To show the difference in the business done during the fiscal year and the one just preceding it let me quote a few figures. Last year, from July 1 to July 1, the income received over the fiscal year immediately before it was \$175,000. This does not include the receipts from the new tax. This sum is approximately within \$150,000 of the total amount received in the fiscal year just preceding and is almost twice as much as the receipts of the fiscal year two years ago. This makes it easy to understand why we are so busy. The government has allowed us no increase of force and from present appearances we will undoubtedly have to continue doing business with our limited corps of clerks. No doubt many wonder why their stamps have not arrived, but we have to file them in the order of the date received and send them out in the same order." In reply to a question as to whether or not about stamps and the new law, Mr. Houtz sent the following circular letter: To Bank and Bankers: Owing to delay in receiving documentary and proprietary revenue stamps it has become impossible to fill orders promptly. It is held that the law does not require impossible things to be done, and when for the reason above given it is not possible to procure the stamps, it is not insisted that business shall stop and vendors shall by themselves without the aid of the market, but that legitimate business may be transacted and the stamps required on goods disposed of under such circumstances may be affixed by the owners thereof or parties interested therein, and in cases of consumption the retail vendor shall make up the amount of the stamps in the form of internal revenue, who shall assess the amount due and collect the same under the rules and regulations provided under the law. Taxpayers are admonished that this urgency regulation does not in any way excuse them from the duties imposed upon them by the statute with reference to procuring stamps for all instruments and things required to be stamped under schedule A and B of the War Revenue Law of 1898 and neglect to perform any of the requirements thereof except for unavoidable reasons above stated, will render the taxpayer liable for the penalty provided in the act and they will be strictly enforced. Respectfully, J. E. HOUTZ, Collector.

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EXPOSITION AND EDUCATION.

In viewing the intermediate and primary exhibit of the Omaha public schools from the first or "baby" grade to the sixth inclusive, perhaps the third year's work attracts most general attention by its uniform excellence and it is especially true as regards the drawing.

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REPUBLICAN LEAGUE PLANS

Secretary Stone Tells about the Omaha Convention's Outlook.

GETS VERY FAVORABLE RAILROAD RATES

Western Passenger Association Grants a Notable Reduction—Some of the General Features of the League's Program.

Secretary D. H. Stone of the National Republican league has returned from Chicago whither he had been to secure reduction of the rates for delegates to the Iowa and Nebraska State league conventions, which are to be held at Council Bluffs and Omaha respectively on the 12th. This little matter had reflected to attend to and Stone went to Chicago to help them out. With some difficulty he succeeded in obtaining from the Western Passenger association on Saturday, after a great deal of telephoning among the members, a one-fare rate for all railway east of the two cities, and to within 100 miles of the two cities, and a one-fare rate plus \$2 for all territory outside of that. What made Mr. Stone all the more anxious to have such a rate made was that the need of some reduction was being felt by the delegates to the Iowa and Nebraska State league conventions, which are to be held at Council Bluffs and Omaha respectively on the 12th. 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