Latest Literary News

Lafcadio Hearn is without a peer as a writer on Japan. He has a style of subtle delicacy and distinction which makes the reading of his pages a delight, and possesses knowledge of his adopted country born of unusual powers of observation. No one of the Occidental origin is more fitted than Professor Hearn to appreciate the meaning of Japanese life, in its social, artistic and religious phases.

His latest volume, entitled "Kotto," is a collection of curious old tales and other equally fascinating matter. The tales have been most charmingly adapted by Professor Hearn, so as to give the Western reader the full relish of their magic. The nine tales are all illustrative of some strange belief, and are taken from rare Japanese manuscripts.

Of the papers and essays that follow one must mention that on "Fireflies," telling of the various uses to which they are put in Japanese civilization, the fancies that cluster about them, the poems that have been written on them by native poets; that on the Buddhistic symbolism of "A Drop of Dew"; that on "Gaki" or "Hungry Ghosts," full of interesting research into Japanese supernaturalism.

The volume is illustrated with sympathetic beauty by the well-known Japanese artist, Genjiro Yeto. (The Macmillan company, New York. Cushing.)

In the Realm of Imagination.

The Henry Altemus company, Philadelphia, has just published an attractive book of fairy tales by Carolyn Wells, entitled "Folly in the Forest." In Miss Wells' books there is always "something going on" from start to finish, and for this reason they are interesting to young people.

It certainly requires mental adroitness to evolve a "forest of the past" and people it with the creatures of mythology, history and literature, but when the perennially interesting "Folly" is introduced the whole becomes little short of inspiration.

Miss Wells' treatment of her characters is consistent. She has a genius for humorous exaggeration, and this, with her play of imagination, leaves with the reader a charm of quaint suggestion and flavor that is alluring to a degree.

No child can resist this charm, and, better yet, can fail to acquire a taste for the literature from which the author has taken Jegasus, the Sphinx, the geese that saved Rome, Crusoe's goat, Poe's raven and other famous denizens of this famous forest.

LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

The publishers of Mrs. Burnham's latest story, "The Right Princess," report that their presses can hardly keep up with the demand for this novel. Orders for over 2,100 copies came in last Thursday and Friday. Seven editions have been sold in six weeks.

Miss Mary Johnston, author of "To Have and to Hold," has written a romance entitled "Sir Mortimer," which will begin publication in Harper's Magazine next May, following Mrs. Ward's "Lady Rose's Daughter." The new story is a romance of the period of Queen Elizabeth, at whose court the heroine is a lady-in-waiting.

In a few days R. H. Russell, New York, will publish "Old Plantation Days," by Martha S. Gielow, a book of original negro tales and recitations, copiously illustrated with sketches from living types.

The latter part of this month is set by the Century company for the publication of President Krueger's "Memoirs." The volume will be issued simultaneously in England, Germany, Holland and France.

The indefatigable Andrew Lang has turned for a moment from the sterner paths of serious literature and has dashed off in one of his leisure hours a romance which he calls "The Disentanglers." It has been running serially in one of the recent English magazines, and is now to come in book form from the press of Longmans, Green & Co.

"With Force and Arms," by Howard R. Garis (T. S. Ogilvie Publishing company), is a rather interesting mixture of Colonial (Massachusetts), romance and 19th century idioms. Witchcraft is still a thrilling theme.

A clever little volume is "Ping Pong Verse," from Dana Estes & Co. It contains not only a group of lively poems of the game, but also full instructions for playing this popular table tennis.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale's "Memoirs of a Hundred Years" will be published this month by the Macmillans in two volumes with many portraits and fac-similes of interesting letters, and other illustrations.

"Incaland" is the inviting title of a book of adventure in Peru toward the close of the war with Chili. It is a boys' book. Its heroes are smart and interesting lads, and the book is well illustrated. It is published in Boston by the W. A. Wilde company.

Criticisms by Saintsbury.

Dodd, Mead & Co. will soon issue the second volume of George Saintsbury's "Criticism and Literary Taste in Europe From the Earliest Texts to the Present Day." It deals with the period of the Renaissance to the death of eighteenth-century classicism.

There are said to be in existence only two other works attempting to consider the whole subject, and Prof. Saintsbury has been for nearly 30 years occupied in picking up for himself and piecing together the greater and lesser classics of the subject.

The first volume is, he says, "an attempt to supply for others on the basis of these years of reading, the atlas of which the writer himself so sorely felt the need." The third volume will be on "Modern Criticism."

The Conquest of Rome.

Matilde Serao's novel, "The Conquest of Rome," is the story of a young provincial lawyer who was elected deputy to the Italian legislature and went up to Rome with the ambitious projects of conquering Rome as a brilliant statesman. He entered with zest upon his doctrine.

He saw the Rome of today as it is, its politics and its society, and the reader sees it through his eyes. Then he became entangled in a liason with the young wife of an old cabinet minister, but before it reached a crisis she took alarm, confessed to her husband, and at his suggestion the young deputy resigned his position and left Rome, his career suddenly ended. He went to conquer Rome and Rome had conquered him.—Harper & Brothers, New York; the Burrows Brothers Co.

Another Japanese Romance.

After the delicious love story, "A Japanese Nightingale," one has the right to expect certain things of Miss Watanna. One opens, therefore, "The Wooing of Wistaria," published by Harper & Bros., with confidence; nor is one disappointed as one begins to read. He finds at once the same dainty externals—borders, lettering, quaint designs—to charm the eye; the same delightful Japanese background and Japanese coloring; the same exquisite love scenes, humor, fancy, poetry; the same lightness of touch and mastery of that subtle art that has but one adjective Japanese.

While Wistaria, the coy little maiden who has seen nothing of the world, is being wooed so ardently, yet so delicately, even artistically, by her disguised royal lover all is well; but suddenly in the very center of the book she weds her lover, and all at once is wrong. Her husband, for a reason which the story sets forth clearly, at once flies from his wife in disgust, almost madness. The maiden becomes the wooer, following him, in disguise as a page, through incredible hardships and danger to a happy ending.

Historical Tales for Children.

"A Little Captive Lad," by Beulah Marie Dix, is the chronicles of the adventures of a small English boy during the troublesome period of the Cromwell wars. His father was a colonel in the army of the king, and had been banished to Holland after the defeat of his monarch.

The father died and left him in the care of one of his troopers, whose character fits his name—Capt. John Careless. Captain Careless fell into hard times during the father's banishment, but did the best could for his charge. The boy, however, had an elder brother, who was in favor with the Roundheads, and had possession of his father's English estates.

Force of circumstances caused Captain Careless to relinquish the care of the child to his relative. The latter, a good man, but seemingly cold and austere, got along poorly with the boy, but matters righted themselves in the end.

It is an engrossing story, as adaptable for general reading as it is for a juvenile. —The Macmillan Co., New York.

Poet Romancer in Story.

"Tom Moore," a romance, by Theodore Burt Sayre, is a beautiful book to look at, to say nothing of its contents. St. Louisans ought to appreciate this book after having seen Andrew Mack in the play of the same name, founded on this romance, for he gave a striking characterization of Ireland's favorite bard.

The author has not confined himself strictly to history in writing this novel, but he has not violated it. Most of the incidents actually had to do with the life of Tom Moore.

Mr. Sayre has made his hero a rollicking, charming Irishman, who wins the hearts of all by his humor and genial qualities. A feature of the book is the half-tone engravings, made from photographs of the play by Marceau & Byron.—The Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York, $1.50.

"The Needle's Eye."

A clever story is "The Needle's Eye," by Florence Morse Kingsley. It is in line with that special fad of the day which leads the rich to take up slum work and find a new sensation in a wholly new career. The hero is an altruistic character filled with the spirit of Christ.

His outcast mother died leaving him an infant to be brought up by a farmer's wife. Harshly treated by the husband, the boy eventually runs away and falls in with a hermit, who has fled to the wilderness to escape a burden of riches. It comes to light that the boy is the real heir.

The hermit does not tell the boy this, but constantly holds up to him the ideal of Christ. Later, when the youth learns of his riches and that they were ill-gotten, he determines to use them in a way that will uplift the degraded. The innocent young man has some rude encounters with the world as he tries to carry out his ideas.

A clever girl of the "smart set," who wants to get possession of his money, almost carries her point by assuming a tender sympathy for the poor. Finally he is deceived into marrying a humble country girl, who is artful enough to play the part of sweet simplicity. The story is well told and is well worth reading.—Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York.

Another Anonymous Excitement.

No literary question of the day is attracting so much attention as the much-discussed authorship of "The Confessions of a Wife," which appeared serially in the Century under the pen name of Mary Adams. Current reports suggest many well-known authors, among whom are Harry Thurston Peck and Josephine Dodge Daskma, but as yet the question remains shrouded in mystery.

The fact that all the negotiations with the publishers are carried on through the medium of a lawyer would seem to discourage authentic information from that source, so that the matter at present is wholly conjecture. The public are becoming quite generally convinced, however, that it is the work of an American woman, and that it comes from the pen of a trained writer is evident.

If it is true, as many have supposed, that it is written from personal experience, the fact of authorship may never be divulged. At any rate, leaving out the fact of authorship, the book is one of the most discussed of new publications, and of any that has appeared for a long time. It is a powerful story of life told in a frank and fearless manner and with much originality.

"Sweetbrier and Thistledown."

James Newton Baskett, who has written a novel called "Sweetbrier and Thistledown," is a naturalist. He wrote "The Story of the Birds," "The Story of the Fishes, and a book called "At Your-all's House." In his last story Mr. Baskett has reintroduced Shan McBride, a character that won fame for a former story.

"Sweetbrier and Thistledown" is a Missouri story. The field is one that the author knows well. Though he is writing a novel, Mr. Baskett can never get away from nature. The man who reads his stories must perforce occasionally turn aside into the fields to learn the ways of the birds, the bees and the butterflies, and pleasant trips does Mr. Baskett make of these little side journeyings. "Sweetbrier and Thistledown" is a pretty love story in a setting of the fields. It ends well for Elsie, the heart-winning little heroine, and for "Papa Shan" and the rest. The book has a distinct charm.

("Sweetbrier and Thistledown," by James Newton Baskett. Illustrated. W. A. Wilde Company, Boston and Chicago. $1.50.)

Anglo-Saxon Poems.

Silver, Burdette & Co., New York, have just published "Judith, Phoenix and Other Anglo-Saxon Poems," translated from the Grein-Wulker text by J. Leslie Hall, Ph. D., professor of English in the College of William and Mary. In 1892 Professor Hall published his translation of the old Anglo-Saxon poem "Beowulf," the oldest epic of Teutonic literature. The success of this book led him to continue his work of interpreting the poetry of the Anglo-Saxons to those who are not able to read it for themselves.

The present volume contains "Judith," "Phoenix," "Maldon," "Brunnanburh" and "Andrew," five of the most famous monuments of our primal poetry. It is a companion to to the "Beowulf" volume. The author uses the same metrical movement, with the changes in the way of improvement. The marginalia, as in "Beowulf," furnishes a running commentary on the text and helps the non-technical reader to grasp the details of the story, myth, homily or allegory. The footnotes give variant readings and renderings of the text.

Literary Rivalry.

Louisville and Indianapolis are carrying on a merry war of words over the question of which city shall bear off the bays of literary fame. Indianapolis has George Ade, James Whitcomb Riley, Lew Wallace, Mrs. Catherwood, Booth Tarkington and G. B. McCutcheon, to say nothing of Maurice Thompson and the "Indiana Poet," besides others too numerous to mention.

But Louisville points to Alice Hegan, Mrs. Martin of "Emmy Lou" fame, James Lane Allen, Joseph Altsheler, Madison Cawein and Annie Fellows Johnston. Commenting on the impossibility of any parallel between Indiana and Kentucky, a writer in the Louisville Courier-Journal, who signs her name "Estabel," says, with true Kentucky spirit, that "it is impossible for anything 'bred in Old Kentucky,' to acquire the Indiana tone."

And Henry Watterson implies that it would be equally impossible for a true Kentuckian to ever acquire the tone of a true New Yorker. Altogether, Kentucky seems to be a kind of lone star state, or at least able to hitch its wagon to a star. Anything that can be hitched up and go always appeals to the Kentuckian, even if it kicks over the traces —merely through pleasantry.

"Sucess" for December.

The December (Christmas) number of "Success" seems to anticipate and meet the wants of a large number of readers. No one who has followed "Success" closely for the past year can fail to have noticed the progressive appearance of the periodical, from a literary as well as a pictorial point of view, and now it seems to be worthy of claim to the "first home publication in America. The current issue contains six really good stories.

The Right Hon. James Bryce, M. P., in an interesting paper, tells Americans how they may avoid the mistakes that European monarchies have made. Lilian Whiting tells of the achievements in painting, astronomy, medicine and music, made by four young women from California—the Klumpke sisters. "Chemistry in Modern Business" is a timely paper by Howard C. Parmlee. In "How to Get the Best Out of Books" Richard Le Gallienne presents some instructive and hitherto unknown methods, useful to all readers.

Henry van Dyke, Susie M. Best, Roy Farrell Greene, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Christine Terhune Herrick, Henry Wallace Philips, William J. Lampton and Joseph Blethen are among the other contributors. Two important features are, "A Memory of the Boer War," by the late Adolph DeWet, and the first of the "Success" series of a college course at home, entitled, "If You Can't Go to College."

Clever Take-Off by nAstey.

"A Bayard From Bengal" is written in F. Anstey's most mirthful vein. Hurry Bungsho Jabberjee of Calcutta university, incensed that certain eminent authors have gulled the English-speaking public with the inferior rubbish they have palmed off as reliable descriptions of Indian, English or Scotch episodes, reveals the true situation of affairs by dint of his imaginary powers and slavish fidelity to nature.

The result is an imposing society novel in which the theme is the adventures of a typically splendid representative of young India on British soil. The merits cannot be questioned, since the author before publication submitted his manuscript to his mothers-in-law, his wives and their respective progenies, all of whom received it with tears of admiration. At the close of the story some 20 pages of humorous parables, proverbs and fables are added. Eight illustrations by Bernard Partridge add to the humor of the book. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

"A Woman Ventures" is the latest novel of David Graham Phillips, author of "The Great God Success" and "Her Serene Highness," the second of which was a rather clever romance of the Zenda period, and the first written under the nom de plume of "John Graham," a story of newspaper offices. It is one of the mysteries of fiction that so few graduates of journalism can write a readable story of a newspaper office. Mr. Phillips assuredly is not one of them. It is not necessary to go back to his early sins to prove that. There is abundant proof in the fresh production.

This, however, is not the worst fault of the book. It is tainted all the way through with unpleasant suggestions. The heroine falls in love with four different men in the course of the story, and two of them are already married. Her first love affair begins with a determination to marry for money, and ends in her being discarded by her lover because he believes that she is too good for him.

Her second includes a secret marriage and a quick diorce. Her third does not come to anything except a somewhat embarrassing complication. (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

LITERARY SMALL TALK.

George Cabot Lodge, son of the junior senator from Massachusetts, has written a volume of sentimental verses, which will be published by Cameron, Blake & Co. of New York. Mr. Lodge has also written a modern novel entitled "Mediocrity," which is to be published shortly.

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The Bowen-Merrill company will have four book plays on the stage this season Effie Ellsler succeeds Miss Marlowe in "Knighthood," and Gertrude Coghlan takes Miss Harned's place in "Alice of "Lazarre" and Cecil Spooner will make her debut as a star in "My Lady Peggy," opening at Brooklyn, December 1.

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The demand for Mrs. Clara Louise Burnham's new story, "The Right Princess," has already exhausted four editions and the book has been out only five weeks.

Mary Johnston's new story is to be called "Sir Mortimer." It will begin a serial run in Harper's Magazine next spring.

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Robert W. Chambers' new novel, "The Maid-at-Arms," issued on this side by Harper & Bros., will be published in London by Archibald Constable & Co.

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J. M. Barrie's novel, "The Little White Bird," now running serially in Scribner's Magazine, will be published in book form this month.

He Shot His Pilot.

San Juan, P. R., Nov. 26.—Captain John I. Stephens of the American steamer John I. Snow, which arrived at Port Fajaride on Saturday, shot a pilot named Frank Stoddart, who died Monday from his wounds. It is alleged the shooting was accidental.

They Received Duse.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Eleanora Duse, the Italian actress, was received by the president and Mrs. and Miss Roosevelt yesterday at the White house. The call lasted about a half hour, the time being occupied in chat on various matters of personal interest.

SICK MAN OF TURKEY IS REPLENISHING ARTILLERY

They Say the Old Boy Is Getting Ready for the Trouble That Is Brewing for Him on All Sides.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Constantinople, Nov. 26.—Sixteen batteries of quick-firing guns, numbering 96 guns in all, have been ordered from the Krupp works as the commencement of the rearrangement of the Turkish artillery. The war ministry also is authorized to purchase 220,000 small caliber Mausers to complete the present establishment. With wagons and ammunition for the artillery the orders entail an outlay of $3,960,000.

The purchases apparently were accelerated because of the recent developments in the situation in Macedonia and the Balkans, and the impression prevailing in many quarters here that a serious outbreak, possibly leading to widespread complications may be expected in the shipping