

# LITERATURE

## POEMS EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW.

"Current Literature" reprints in a recent issue a lyric, of which the greatest living poet, Algernon Charles Swinburne, has said that: "A more perfect piece of writing no man alive has ever turned out." The author of this poem is, however, not as we should imagine, one of the great lyrists of the age, but a man whose reputation was acquired in the field of the novel.—George Meredith.

We saw the swallows gathering in the sky,  
And in the osier-leaf we heard their noise.  
We had not to look back on summer joys,  
Or forward to a summer of bright dye:  
But in the largeness of the evening earth  
Our spirits grew as we went side by side.  
The hour became her husband and my bride,  
Love that had robbed us, so, thus blessed our death:  
The pilgrims of the year waxed very loud  
In multitudinous chattering, as the flood,  
Full brown, came from the West, and like pale blood  
Expanded to the upper crimson cloud.  
Love that had robbed us of immortal things,  
This little moment mercifully gave.  
Where I had seen across the twilight wave  
The swan sail with her young beneath her wings.

## NOTES.

The English Bookman is in the habit of offering each month a prize for the best quotation from Shakespeare applicable to any review or the name of any author or book appearing in that month's issue of the magazine. September the book was "The Jungle." The prize was won by the following:

Titania. Say, sweet love, what thou

First to eat—

Bottom. I had rather have a handful

Or two of dried peas.

—Midsummer Night's Dream.

"The Jungle" suggested many quotations.

For instance:

And now about the cauldron sing.

Enchanting all that you put in.

—Macbeth.

And again:

Sit. I will eat no meat.

—Anthony and Cleopatra.

Also:

By my troth, I cannot abide the smell

Of meat since—Merry Wives of Windsor.

Perhaps more than any writer of today—certainly far more than most—Robert Hichens makes a point of studying closely and for a long time the scenes where he is to locate his stories.

London for his earlier work, the Sahara for his Garden of Allah, and afterwards Sicily in preparation for what has proved to be his greatest success, "The Call of the Blood," were in turn lengthily studied in their every aspect.

All of which made it very amusing to him to meet, in an Italian railway car recently, a man who, having no suspicion of Hichens' identity, began speaking with admiration of his Sicilian novel, but then said:

"But, you know this blood, were these places he writes about. He just stays at home and imagines it all!"

Arthur E. Bostwick, Ph. D., chief of the circulation department of the New York public library, writes for one of the periodicals on the subject of the "best novels of the year," and among the very few which he admits to this distinction he places prominently "The Awakening of Helena Richie" and "The Call of the Blood."

Speaking of the latter, he refers to "the intimate skill" of Robert Hichens "in the drawing of native and of human passion."

Mrs. Deland he compares with another author of the Harpers, Mrs. Humphrey Ward, and declares that both display "sanity, seriousness of purpose, lucidity, and clear-cut definition of character."

Harold MacGrath, whose new story, "Half a Rogue," is being generally read, gives the following description of the way he writes his novels:

"I map out the first two or three chapters in my mind and then the ending of the story. I don't bother with what is in between until I go to work on the story itself. I write it out first in lead pencil on cheap paper—any old paper will do—and then in ink on the story map notes about it on backs of envelopes that I happen to have handy."

Her method is a very simple one, and I tried carrying around a formal note book once, but found that by the time I got that out and ready to use my precious thoughts of the moment had been frightened away."

Afterward I typewrote the manuscript and corrected it some more. I find that I can not do as well by letting some one else copy it on the machine as by doing it myself, because so many new ideas come to me in that part of the work. With Half a Rogue it was entirely impossible for a time to do any typewriting, and some of my manuscripts must have given the printers a bad quarter of an hour."

An announcement of much interest is that Mark Twain's book on Christian Science is to be published by the Harpers early in February. He has been busy during the past month in thoroughly revising this great work, which is the result of years of labor.

It has often been said that Ben Hur was among the books which found their way to the publisher with great difficulty and only after the manuscript had been submitted to many different houses, and this supposition has been frequently been

used in proof of the fallibility of publishers.

In fact, however, as is told in General Wallace's Autobiography, the book was promptly accepted by the first house to which the author submitted it, that of Harpers.

As a matter of curiosity, too, the original records were recently looked up, at the office of the Harpers, and it was found that all of their literary staff who read the manuscript were unanimous in advising that it be accepted.

It was his first sight of the Pyramids on a trip to Egypt for his health, three years ago, that inspired Robert Hichens with that profound love for the regions of the Mediterranean that transformed him from the clever writer of tales of London society into the novelist who, after locating one really great story in the African desert, has recently located a still greater one, "The Call of the Blood," in the fascinating environment of Sicily.

Without that fortunate sight of the Pyramids, with its profound impression of the south, it is possible that Hichens would never have attained such greatness, but would have continued to write along lines in which there would have been less development of what was really best in him.

The Story of the Other Wise Man was first published more than 10 years ago, but, so far from being forgotten, it is in persistently recent demand with every Christmas season, and it has been translated into many a foreign language, including even the Armenian and the Turkish.

So unique was the idea of the story as to puzzle even the author himself, Dr. Henry van Dyke.

"I do not know where it came from—out of the air, perhaps," he writes.

The entire story came to him in the course of a long and lonely night.

"I had studied and loved the curious tales of the Three Wise Men of the East as they are told in the Golden Legend of Jacobus de Voragine and other medieval books, but of the Fourth Wise Man I had never heard until that night. Then I saw him distinctly, moving through the shadows in a little circle of light. His countenance was clear. The narrative of his journey and trials and disappointments ran without a break through certain sentences came to me complete and unforgettable, clear-cut like a cameo. All that I had to do was to follow Arabian step by step, as the tale went on, from the beginning to the end of his pilgrimage."

## BOOKS.

Frances Charles, whose second Arizona novel, "Pardner of Blossom Range," has just been published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston, jumped into literary fame with "The Country God Forgot," in which she struck a distinct note of individuality. That virile story of the hatred of a rich old Arizona rancher for his only son was written in a style that attracted instant attention, and the book was widely read and discussed. Miss Charles is a Californian by birth, and has always lived on the Pacific coast. Her present home is in San Francisco, and as she lives away from the center of that city, she escaped the earthquake and fire. Miss Charles' familiarity with Arizona life and character is again displayed in her new story, "Pardner of Blossom Range." It is one of the sweetest and wholesomest stories ever written of western life. Its pages palpitate with the atmosphere of the plains, and the characters are all strongly convincing, the chief ones original enough to suggest a real individuality and to hold one to its vibrations throughout the book. The hero and heroine are new personalities in fiction, and the incidents in their careers so refreshingly removed from commonplace while never bordering on the unreal as to suggest actual life studies, a favor which always lends interest to people, incidents or localities. It is a pleasing panel of life pictures set into the great vague walls of the plains and is full of interest from beginning to end.

"The Pilgrim and the Pioneer" is constructed on lines of its own, by John C. Bell, for four years a district judge and for ten years a member of Congress, on the frontier in western Colorado. The pioneer—the teacher, and the pilgrim—the taught, appear in a long journey over mountain and plain in the heart of the Rocky mountains, and the stirring incidents along the way are related in such a manner as to give a fair idea of the trapper, pioneer, and settled social, moral and material developments of this marvelous portion of our country.

Much adventure and short stories are indulged in for the purpose of holding the reader, and filtering through this ballast enough of the everyday philosophy of life and enough of the triumphs of virtue, it is hoped, to cause some readers at least to seek her rewards, and all to be benefited.

A strong hereditary lesson is drawn from the Pioneer's tale, and an Indian princess whose children bear no impress of Caucasian blood. This so disapproves the brilliant and optimistic Pioneer, and he is constantly humiliated by finding, not only peers but superiors, and that the western civilization was so far in advance of the east-

## COLLEGE PRESIDENT FOR THE SENATE.

What is believed by many students of political economy to be an indication that the voters of the United States want to see a radical change in the character of the men who sit in the national senate is the fact that at the present time three college presidents are being talked of as candidates for this important political office in their respective states.

Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton university, is mentioned as a possible candidate in opposition to Senator Dryden, of New Jersey. Nicholas Murray Butler, head of Columbia university, is one of the men spoken of as a possible successor to Senator Platt in New York, and James B. Angell, president of the University of Michigan, has many supporters for a seat in the United States senate, representing Michigan.

ern civilization, in many particulars, that it became a subject of many humiliating escapades.

The book is handsomely illustrated and is cast on a high moral plane and is permeated with important descriptions and history of the chile and with much of the everyday philosophies of life.

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## A Famed French Writer

### Who Was Once a "Clacquer."

#### Our Paris Literary Letter.

#### Special Correspondence.

PARIS, Dec. 25.—It is not generally known that M. Ferdinand Brunetiere, editor of the "Revue des Deux Mondes," who died the other day, was the well-known negotiator of being one of the most erudite and accomplished of French writers and critics, was at one time a "clacquer." That was in the early days of his struggles against poverty when he dreamed that he would become one of the most influential of the immortals. He loved the drama, but he could not afford to pay the price of a good seat. At the Theater Francaise he made friend of the "chef de claque," the influential functionary whose business it is to lead the artificial applause. He used to let M. Brunetiere a seat in the pit for one franc for which he would have had to pay two and a half francs at the box office. But there is little doubt that his contributions to the applause were inspired by genuine enthusiasm, for the plays which he attended were by his favorite seventeenth-century authors and were rendered by an admirable cast.

M. Brunetiere was a shining example of the valuelessness of pedagogic examinations as a test of genuine intellectual ability. Born at Toulon in 1849, the son of a poor naval officer, he went to Paris when 18 to prepare for admission to the Ecole Normale—the great training school for French teachers and schoolmasters. But he failed two years later to pass the entrance examination which many other young men of mediocre ability passed with ease. The trouble with young Brunetiere was that he was afflicted with an insatiable intellectual hunger which refused to be satisfied with the accumulations of bald facts with which the examination papers were concerned. He read Darwin and Comte, and drank deep at the well springs of contemporary thought and philosophy. This live knowledge crowded out the dry-as-dust stuff with which candidates for the Ecole were crammed. In consequence he was "blacked," and found himself at 20 stranded and alone in Paris. Time brought him a fine revenge. Seventeen years later he became professor of the French language and literature at the Institut National. Within its pages he had a long and hard fight to lift himself out of the slough of poverty. For a time he managed to keep the wolf from the door by giving lessons. Then came the war with Germany, and he abandoned teaching for fighting. Throughout the siege of Paris he served as a soldier in the ranks, and the declaration of peace brought him only a renewal of his fight with poverty. He took up teaching again and just managed to support himself by the practice of the severest economy. It was through his old school mate, Paul Bourget, that he first got his foot on the ladder of fame and prosperity. Bourget introduced him to the editor of the Revue des Deux Mondes. The editor told him to write something and he would "consider it." The usual thing which so often leads to nothing. But in this case it led to prompt publication and a request for more, which proved even more satisfactory.

The New Year number of the Youth's Companion comes with a special cover design in the way of a picture representing an old-fashioned sleigh filled with a crowd of young people greeting the year with trumpets, shouts and songs, the coloring of cloaks and caps and the very finest of the golden and white drifts of snow. Within its pages Hamlin Garland's story, "The Long Trail," is continued, and a half dozen short stories, with the usual denardments and poetry, with a special article on the "The Future of the Book." Other poems are by Florence Earle Coates, Charlotte Wilson, S. H. Kemper and Samuel McCoy. The cover design is by Harrison Fisher, the well known artist.

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