

is due to the public that the author should be just as painstaking in pre-paring his books."

"Would you care to let me tell your American readers just how you set to work to build the super structure of your books," I asked. "For in-stance, what was the book architecture of "The Masqueraders?"

"It is not easy to describe how the plan took shape. You have perhaps teen something of our London fogs. It was one of them that suggested to me the thought of how easy it would be to mistake the personality of a man in such a surrounding.

"When once the primary idea, the dramatic center you might say, of the story has occurred to me it often lies in my mind for weeks and months before a word is written before a word is written. It grows and develops, characters and incidents are added and the balance of things is aded out before the paper is touched."

FOUNDATION FIRST.

"I infer that you build your foundation and then complete your frame work, just as an architect does before begins the actual work on the super structure ?!

That is just it," said Mrs. Thurston, "the framework is all complete and the whole story is in my mind al-most to the smallest detail before I

"You see," she added, "I have so many social and other engagements, that unless I worked systematically I would never get anywhere at all, but having it all in mind before I begin, I am ready to go on with the story whenever the opportunity offers, with-out causing any break in its continui-ty."

It is not to be thought from Mrs. Thurston's business-like way of doing blings that she is in the slightest un-teminine. Rather, the system that she makes use of enables her to preserve her home life almost intact.

I do not believe in letting the work interfere with the duties which woman owes to her home," sat every woman owes to her home," said she. "I start early every morning, and keep at my work until poor and the at my work until noon, and that fin-ishes the writing for the day, the rest of the time belongs to my husband and

Mrs. Thurston is now engaged in writing a new novel. She is not pre-pared yet to say just what its characbe, although she has already detail, thought out the book in

DELINQUENT CHARACTERS.

"But I will tell you something about t: I am trying to work out in it the character of a man, as I attempted to delineate in 'The Gambler' the character of a woman; the scene of the story in London, and it will not be a fociety novel."

When do you expect to have it fin-

"I can hardly say. I am just start-ing to write it out now, and it will be probably a year or more before I am "atisfied to give it to the public." "The wide sale of "The Masquerad-ers' and "The Gambler" must have brought you interesting experiences, have they not?"

"Yes, One of the most interesting "Yes, One of the most interesting has been the oddly diverse criticisms of The Masqueraders' that appeared in the United States and in England. I have received a great many letters ask-ing me why the book ended as it did. The English critics have even taken ing me why the book ended as it did. The English critics have even taken me a good deal to task for allowing Loder to take advantage of the situa-tion ip which he finally found himself. But the American critics said that it But the American critics said that it would have done no good to any one, and would only have caused much suf-fering for him to have followed any other course. I must say that my sympathy is with America in this reREMARKABLE LITERARY CA-REER.

Mrs. Thruston's literary career in many respects has been a remarkable one. Until five years ago she had never thought of doing any wrifing. "You see," she said, "in Ireland, "You see," she said, "in Ireland, where I was living as a girl it is very different from in London. There, it is not usual for women who are interested in social matters to do regular work of any kind. It was not till I became acquainted with Mr. Thurston, who has always been greatly interested in literature, that the thought first oc-curred to me Finally after coming to

curred to me. Finally, after coming to London, about four and a half years ago, I wrote a short story, and it was almost immediately accepted for publi-cation. After that I wrote a few more cation. After that I wrote a lew more stortes, and then I was advised by an editor friend to undertake my first book, "The Circle." My second was "The Masqueraders,' or 'John Chilcote, M. P.,' and the third "The Gambler,' just

now appearing." In her literary work Mrs. Thurston In her interary work wirs, induston enjoys the sympathy of her. husband, E. Temple Thurston, himself an author of proved ability. It was he who dram-atized "The Masqueraders," and the success of his first novel, "The Apple of Eden," has induced him to undertake second new practically completed. If

a second, now practically completed. It is said by critics who have read the manuscript to be of unusual power. HUGHES MASSIE.

A JOLLY MONARCH.

King Carlos of Portugal, who last year paid a visit to Paris and thence to London, has the reputation of being 'a jolly good fellow." During his visit to the French capital King Carlos was entertained by Count Boni de Castel-



lane and his wife, who was the American Anna Gould. The king was once a model of physical perfection, slender, graceful and an athlete. Nowadays, he is known as the royal good liver of Europe, "always hungry and seldom free from thirst."

BEGGING LETTER FACTORY.

A man named Kamansky, formerly an officer in the Russian service, and three accomplices have been tried in Berlin for carrying on an elaborately conducted factory for the manufacture of begging letters. About forty models of letters were discovered by the police, most of them skillfully worded appeals to the hearts of the benevolent. They did a very large business.



Success is Crowning the Efforts of Comptesse Di Brazza, Formerly Clara Slecum of

New Orleans, in Bringing Prosperity to the Peasants of Italy by Reviving the

Ancient Industry of Making Lace.

Special Correspondence. R OME, March 1.--Great as always has been the courage and initia-tive of American women, and sin-cerely as they have identified cerely as they have identified themselves with their husbands' inter-

ests where they have married foreigners, no one of them has ever attempted so great a work under apparently hopeless conditions as the Comtesse Slocumb of New Orleans. Her ambition was nothing less than to raise the moral and intellectual level of the Italian race by teaching the peasants to make lace and by guaranteeing the sale of the products; and so successful has been

her attempt that not only vast sections of Italy formerly in a half-ruined condition are today self-supporting, thanks to the revived lace industry, but the re-generating effect has been shown even

among the young people starting out as emigrants for the United States. The countess does not deny that this latter attainment, of improving the con-tributions made to the population of her native country, is as gratifying to her as the good which she has been able to do in Italy; for she has remained a very patriotic American. Belong-ing to one of the illustrious Louisiana families, she married the brother of the famous explorer Savorgnan di Brazza, of an ancient family which has lived for more than 1,000 years in the historic Castello di Brazza, in Briuli, northern Italy, now the countess' home. And the explorer Di Brazza having married the sister of the Comte de Chambrun, whose wife was Miss Longworth, the Contesse Cora di Brazza will thus be connected in a way with Alice Roose-velt through the latter's marriage with Representative Longworth.

SUCCESS CAME QUIETLY.

So quietly has the Comtesse di Brazza worked that few heard of her labors until they had already proved their usefulness. Upon going to her hus-band's home she closely studied the peasants of the region and became persuaded that the level of the entire race could be raised by wholesome occupa-tion for the women and children, together with educative and physical as-sistance. Since it is from Friuli that most of the emigrants for the United States start out, the countess saw a double motive for making her utmost endeavor. Beginning with individual endeavor. Beginning with individual experiments, she gradually got an or-ganization started; and today she is president of a great society of which Queen Helens, Queen Margarita, the Duchess d'Aosta and most of the la-

dies of the Italian nobility are mem-bers, while its moralizing effects and financial benefits extend over 24 regions of Italy, each of which has been made a working center, and affect thousands of Italian women and girls.

TO MAKE GOOD CITIZENS.

When I saw the Comtesse di Brazza to question her about her work, I found

represented her as saying she was in-different to the fate of the girls she has been protecting and educating as soon as they leave her charge to go to

America. "It is to lay the foundation for their citizens" active life and make useful citizeus of them, either for their country or for my own, that I work most zealously." the countess said. "But somehow people find it so hard to understand the true object of the Industrie Feminille Ita!-

"Perhaps, like me, they don't know
Italian," I suggested. "Will you
please translate?",
"Better still, I will explain. I teach
them to make lace."
"You cater to frills and fashions-
and you call that regeneration?" I
asked, semewhat surprised.
DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

"There you are!" exclaimed the countess. "We are talking good Eng-lish, and you don't understand yet! I feach the women and children to make lace such as the old Italians used to make, such as the ord lumans used to make, such as contributed to the fame of Italy, like the great paintings and sculptures and buildings of the past. This face making supplies women and children with gentle and remunerative employment, sparing them hard and unhealthy work in factories, and they are thus enabled to attend to their home duties. Then there is moral example and restraint." The wome come to us, as a rule, incapable of self support; after a short time they are useful to themselves and to others. I must say that I have absolute confidence in the lower classes; their in-stincts are good, and the only trouble with them comes when they are misled. Lack of development makes them easy victims to self-aggrandizing la-bor agitators and leaders of Socialism

-people who are always preaching the rights of man, but never have a wor to say about the dutles. Perhaps i is this reflection which has made m an apostle of works and example rathe than of theory and doctrine; and that is why, before talking about my amis why, before taking about my an-bitions. I applied them in a modest way. In 1851 the first local agronom-ical exposition for emulation among peasants was held at the Castello di Brazza, and attention was centered on six little girls with lace on their knees and spindles in their hands, working with exemplary care. In two weeks I had prepared these children, and their success encouraged me to begin my efforts seriously."

AMBITION TO DO SOMETHING.

"You had then already thought of your plan for regeneration?" "The ambition to do something of the sort came to me when I was myself a countess said. been seeking means. On a battlefield of the Confederacy my father, viewing the frightful carnage, wished that he might save as many lives as had been sacrificed there. He wiled to this end until he himself met his death in saving

her rather indignant over a report re- men at a mine disaster in Louisiana; and, cently circulated in America, which young as I was at the time, my father's example and pacific precepts inspired me to carry on a work which necessarily has discouraging sides. I knew that the suffering class must be surrounded by love from those who enjoy; that assistance must be offered spontaneously or even imposed instead of being held back until it is implored; and that the form taken must be that of some insti-tution providing for self-support and not of mere alms. But all this was theory; and I was still seeking means for applying it when I was impressed with the decline of lacemaking in Italy and at the same time with the danger to the peasant population from ignor-ance, from neglect, and from a loosen, ing of the home ties through the labors equired of the women in factories. So experimented with the little girls then I went on to older children, and finally to women. I chose rare and ancient models, to give character to our products. Gradually our work becam known, until today we find markets th world over, and my greatest satisfac-tion was when I found that there was a demand in the United States, also,

of the industrie Feminil' Italiane." "But who profits by these sales? Do you find thus the funds to extend the movement?" I asked.

THE WORKERS ALL BENEFITTED.

"Oh. no! The workers themselve benefit by nearly everything. an interest of 4 per cent. on our capl-tal stock; we pay our employes; we put aside 20 per cent for emergencies and ulterior expenses, and then we divide 60 per cent entirely among those whose work has been sold. During the first nine months of 1905 we made \$11,000; so you will see how much remained for our women." "They must have felt like capitalists,"

I commented, and the countess smiller, "Some did," she said, "and others thought they had been robbed. That's thought they nature, you know. We only human nature, you know. We now have two women suing us be-cause they claim that we have been unfair to them. They came to us un-able to support themselves, and we taught them a profession, thanks to they have prospered; now they think that we have been exploiting them. But I take such experiences as inevitable, and they do not decrease my confidence either in mankind or in the eventual elevating effect of my work. Of course, we stand the best chance with those whom we train from childhood. The age for recruits in our work rooms is from 7 to 15, though exceptions are made for deformed chil-dren or little ones able to learn the first points at home. They work with the mothers under our supervision and we have a system of rewards alming first at moral development, since we seek to form character as well as to relieve immediate needs.

"Therefore, our first prize is for kindness toward one another and obedience to superiors; the second prize is for those who have shown them-selves most willing in teaching to oth-

We have ters were there ready to act eserve funds ready to assist the population; and we even provide loans for those who wish to set themselves up again in addition to what we ourselves do to build up life in the re

"Are you doing anything for Calabria now

CENTERS HER ENERGY.

"That is where all my energies are "That is where all my energies are centered!" the countess said, her eyes brightening. "We have wonderful op-portunities here. For while help was sent, and with particular generosity from America, it was applied only to the immediate needs of the population. What impressed me was the necessity of providing for the future of these peo-ple whose homes had been destroyed ple, whose homes had been destroyed whose business had been ruined, whe have been building refuges down there homes, workshops and relief funds com bined; and I have found that for eac refuge, sheltering and employing women with their infants and 50 chi dren, a credit of \$3,000 sufficed, of whic \$1,200 were for the cost of erecting, and the remainder sufficed to run the refuge at a dead loss for four months, after which it could not only support itself but could start branching out in othe refuges near by. At the start we were held tack from lack of funds; but contributions have flowed in from Italy from France, from England, from Hairy gium, in all of which countries I trav-eled for the cause; and today they are progressing in a most encouraging way

"And do you devote all your time to this?" I asked.

"I have no time for anything else," the countess said, but with such ener-gy that one would have credited her with enough courage and ability to cope with problems even more time-absorb-ing. "Many unmentioned difficulties ing. make the task one of constant vigi lance and a march by closed ways. Still, the march is forward, and in the name of peace and humanity instead of against it: and since the only blood shed is that of feet wounded by ob-stacles, it is a glorious and satisfying

career FRANCIS WARRINGTON DAWSON.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST BOOK. The atlas herewith pictured is the world's largest bound volume. It is five feet ten inches in length and was presented to King Charles II. of Eng-





land just before he left Holland to take the British crown. The book is bound in red leather and has three massive gilt clasps. The king kept it in his private collection of curiosities, and there it was seen and described by John Evelyn in 1660.

utterly selfish, she soon tired of a humdrum domestic life on a moderate in-come. She left her husband to try what her beauty could win from the world. He, poor fellow, took to drink, and drifted no one knows where. At the Carlton she made the ecquaintance of the blue-blooded young man who afterwards wedded one of Columbia's daughters. He installed her in a hand flat and surrounded her with all

the luxuries she craved. The time came when the blue-blooded young man found a chance to make what is called a brilliant marriage-brilliant meaning, in this instance, a big pile of American dollars. The other woman had no objections, pro-vided she received a pecuniary soliat-um for her wounded feelings. "Pooh, pooh!" said the blue-blooded young man, "you couldn't sue for breach of promise. You have no case." "True," she answered, "but I could see that American girl, and if I did, I rather block amount of the second second second think she would marry somebody else." The upshot of the matter was that the blue-blooded young man's family lawyer was called in and a settlement effected in accordance with several well established though not publicly recorded precedents.

A BLUE-BLOODED FRIEND.

Before she was discarded she had made the acquaintance of a friend of the blue-blooded young man-Prince Francis of Teck, who, as everybody knows, is a brother of the Princess of Wales. He occasionally partook of the dainty little banquets she used to serve in her bandaeme dat in her handsome flat. One day recently, driving in Picadil-

by she espied the prince and promptly ordered the coachman to stop. The prince fought shy of speaking to her, but she refused to be ignored. "Come and drive home with me," she

said.

said. "Well." he replied, after casting a hasty glance around, "I will if you will wager 10 pounds that I wont." "Not likely," she replied. "I'd see you in a much warmer place, first." She drove off without his serene high-ness, who thus lost the \$50 he would not have scrupid to accent from a me not have scrupled to accept from a no-torious woman. The Tecks are dread-fully hard up, but there are limits which honor imposes even on impecunious royalty. How did the incident leak out? That's

nteresting, too. Had the other woman old it no one would have believed her. But caught in the jam of vehicles while crossing Picadilly, a well-known club man sought refuge behind the carriage that had halted, and overheard the brief and tart conversation.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.

There would not have been such a runnpus made over the capture of Lord de Clifford by Miss Carrington, the "Gibson girl," in the "Catch of the Season," had it been generally known that his income is well under \$10,000 a year. On that account it was general-ly supposed that he was on the lookly supposed that he was on the look-out for an American heiress, who would be willing to pay a good price for an ancient title. Matchmaking Brittsh matrons, who esteem money much more highly than they do patents of nobil-ity, are well aware of his pecuniary circumstances, and have fought shy of him in consequence. As a small boy he developed an unfortunate habit of bit-ing his nails, and all the efforts of his relations falled to cure him of it. He still sticks to it though he has hardly still sticks to it though he has hardly a vestige of nail left. Yet it can harda vestige of nail left. Yet it can hard-ly be regarded as evidence of weak-ness of character on his part, for he is a daring sportsman, and no one in the hunting field rides straighter to hounds. But that sort of thing doesn't bring in any money. True, it is not his fault that he is hard up for a peer. His 13,000 Irish acrés came to him heav-tily encumbered. An old title a costla ily encumbered. An old title, a castle,

(Continued on page 18.)