

LITERATURE

"FIN DE SIECLE."

This life's a hollow bubble
Don't you know?
Just a pointed piece of trouble,
Don't you know?
We come to earth to cwy,
We grow olden and we sigh,
Olden still, and then we die,
Don't you know?
It is all a howwid mix,
Don't you know?
Business, love, and politics,
Don't you know?
Clubs and parties, cliques and sets,
Fashions, follies, sins, wewgrets,
Swaggles, stiffs, and cigawettes,
Don't you know?
And we wowwy through each day,
Don't you know?
Is a sort of, kind of, way,
Don't you know?
We are hungwy, we are fed,
Some few things are done aud said,
We are tired, we go to bed,
Don't you know?
Business! O, that's beastly twade,
Don't you know?
Something's lost, or something's made,
Don't you know?
And you wowwy, and you mope,
And you hang youah highest hope,
On the twice, pehaps, of soap!
Don't you know?
Politics! O, just a lawk,
Don't you know?
Just a nightmach in the dawk,
Don't you know?
You pepiash all day and night,
And aitch all the fight,
Why pehaps the w'ong man's wight,
Don't you know?
Society! Is dwess,
Don't you know?
And a souce of much distwess,
Don't you know?
To detehmine what to weah,
When to go and likewise weah,
And how to pawt youah haih,
Don't you know?
Love! O, yes! You meet some g'il,
Don't you know?
And you get in such a wh'il,
Don't you know?
Then you kneel down on the floah,
And implaah and adoaah—
And it's all a beastly boah!
Don't you know?
So theah's weally nothing in it,
Don't you know?
And we live just by the minute,
Don't you know?
For when you've seen and felt,
Dwank and eaten, heahd and smelt,
Why all the cawds are deah,
Don't you know?
You've one conscioussness, that's all,
Don't you know?
And one stomach, and it's small,
Don't you know?
You can only weah one tie,
One eye-glass in youh eye,
And one coffin when you die,
Don't you know?
—Edmund Vance Cooke.

NOTES.

Which is the most stolen American poem?
There are several which have been marked for the pirates, but "Fin de siecle" written by Edmund Vance Cooke, has a record peculiarly its own. Ten years ago, in 1895, Mr. Cooke wrote this poem and it was published in "Truth" which was then a leading humorous magazine. It was called "Fin de siecle" as that phrase was very much in vogue and the character of the poem expressed the world-weary sentiments of the "end of the century" type.
In 1897 Mr. Cooke reprinted the poem in the first edition of his book "Rimes to be Read," and shortly after that he began to be "thriftless prey" for every one on the outlook for clever things and without brains enough to produce them, and also of some cleverer people as well.
Charles Hoyt, the well known playwright, saw it and put it into his play "A Stranger in New York" and at the same time printing on his play-bills "The words of this piece, songs included, are original and protected by copyright and the prison case yawns for him who dares to pirate them." This line made such a hit that Mr. Hoyt

THE COLD DAYS

Are very trying on one whose system is run down, bowels constipated and blood impure. No wonder you take cold so easily. Build up and fortify the system by taking
HOMETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS
You'll find it splendid for preventing Chills, Colds and Pneumonia, also for curing Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Headache and Malaria. Try it today, also get a free copy of our 1906 Almanac from your druggist.

put it in a second play "A Day and Night," where it repeated its previous success.
It was sung by all the Hoyt forces and also by Dan Daly in "The Belle of New York," during its celebrated run in London. It also got into vaudeville, where it was murdered to the queen's taste. Feldon was the author given credit for it, but, instead, usually the playwright, or the singer.
Not long ago the London "Tid Bits" printed it as original with them in a very marvellous version entitled "The Masher's Soliloquy." The Memphis "Commercial Appeal" also claimed it as coming from a contributor called "Amie O'Neil," just as the Dallas "Star-Morning" and a number of other papers did, printing it as original.
But a very humorous instance was the reprinting by a Colorado magazine called "Clay's Review" under the title "An English Gentleman's Idea of Life" and the illustration of the editor when a Kansas City paper copied "Our poem," as he termed it, without giving him credit.
There are still probably several other countries which have claimants for Mr. Cooke's verses. Here are the original verses as they appear in the new edition of "Rimes to be Read" first issued by the Dodge Publishing Company, New York.

Judging by the amount of what he has visibly accomplished, Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill must be a very unusual attainment, and more unusual industry. His service in the English army and in parliament would have quite absorbed the time of almost any one during recent years; and the first announcement of his forthcoming biography in two volumes of his father, Lord Randolph Churchill, was greeted by the amazed exclamation, "How did he ever find time to write it?" He is one of the rising young men in English political life, and a typical instance of how English men in public life combine political interests and literature. Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bryce and Mr. Morley are other examples of the same practice.

Mrs. C. N. Williamson has finished her short visit to this country and has sailed for England. Shortly after her arrival there she will start with her husband in their motor-car for their villa at Cap St. Martin in the Riviera, where she will set to work on the book which she has been conferring with her publishers. The object of her trip to this country was twofold: most of her time she spent in Cleveland seeing her mother again after a long absence; but during the few days she was in New York she attended her engagement by handing to her publishers not only the complete manuscript of the story "Lady Betty," which is running in a condensed form in the Ladies Home Journal, but also a good part of the Motor Boat novel on which she and her husband are now engaged.

The immense proportions of the mail order side of the book publishing business is not so often brought to the attention of the public as the large sales through the book stores. Nevertheless it is one of the most important parts of the publishing business. For example, on the Friday and Saturday preceding Christmas the Funk & Wagnalls company shipped out by mail and express, to fill retail mail orders alone, 75,000 books.

"The Breath of the Gods," the notable novel with a Japanese setting by Sidney McCall, author of "Truth Dextera" is attracting widespread attention in England. The London publishers have just called for another edition, and the critics are bestowing high praise on the book. Douglas Sladen, in a lengthy review in the Queen, says: "The Breath of the Gods" is one of the most remarkable novels of the year. Not only has the writer an intimate knowledge of Japan, but he has continued to breathe it into his pages till the book has become a book of Japan. It is not too much to say that 'The Breath of the Gods' is one of the most brilliant romances ever written about Japan. Little Yuki herself is a masterpiece."

Mrs. Mary Austin, the author of "Idaho," was born at Carlinville, Ill. After finishing a university course a serious illness drove her to California and a friendly destiny provided that she should settle in the new and untamed

lands about the Sierra Nevada and the desert edges. All of her writing, like her life, deals with out-of-door things—nights under the pines, breaking trail up new slopes, heat, cloud bursts, wild beasts, sheep, and mountain bloom, all equally delightful because unmastered. Her home is at Independence, Cal., where her husband is a government land agent. She has made a careful study of the Mission days in writing "Idaho," and believes it to be in his toriously accurate and fair picture of the times. It aroused much favorable comment during its serial publication in the Atlantic and with the spirited illustrations and appropriate decorations by Eric Pape, is likely to be one of the popular books of the season.

Genady Wassilyewitch Judin owns one of the largest libraries in Russia. It consists of more than 100,000 volumes, and, strange to relate, is situated in one of the most inaccessible Siberian towns, Krasnojarsk.

The book publishing societies of the United States draw their membership largely from men of wealth. Of 436 members of one notable society it has been demonstrated that 291 are bona fide millionaires.

Mark Twain is out in a scathing pamphlet denouncing King Leopold of Belgium for his Congo Free States atrocities. Mark doesn't need his advertising, but his literary liver may need the exercise—Atlanta Constitution.

The "paternal" character of the Russian government may be seen in the sentence of Stenikiewicz, the Polish novelist, to imprisonment in his own house. It is like sending a child to bed in the daytime.

A novelist who has written on the subject of woman's infinite variety has been nominated for the mayoralty of the city of Toledo. He will be able to tell something about a man's infinite variety if he gets the office.

Henry George, Jr., will give us "The Menace of Privilege" to occupy our fire-side hours this winter. But we are so surfeited with sentences now that even Progress and Poverty might fall flat; it seems we think less and less.

The Empress Eugenie is still engaged on her memoirs, to the completion of which she devotes most of her leisure moments. As soon as a page is written it is placed under lock and key and not even her most intimate friends are allowed to see it. The work is not to be published until twenty-five years after her death.

When Dan Beard, the famous author and illustrator of "Moonlight," a romance of the coal regions, was about to begin the illustration of "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," he went to Mr. Clemens for suggestions. "Look here, Dan," said Mr. Clemens, "if an editor should come to me to write him a story, and should then sit down and tell me how to write it, I'd say, 'Go darn yer go and hire a type-writer.' Now, Dan, it's your business to illustrate that book, not mine."

After a few moments of reflection, however, he looked up and said with an affection of great solemnity: "Dan, I don't want to inflict any mental suffering on your part or subject you to any undue agony, but I do wish that you'd read the book before you make the pictures."

How well the artist acquitted himself on his friend's book is now a matter of literary history, but it is only fair to state that Mr. Clemens recognized the merit of the work instantly, for he wrote Mr. Beard:

"What a lucky day it was when I went netting for lightning-bugs and caught a meteor. Live forever! S. L. Clemens."

BOOKS.

Mr. Opie Read, the well known author of "An American in New York," is called America's greatest story-teller. He has given not a little of his time to the platform work where he takes a chair and sits down among his listeners. He says: "Abroad, lecturers and public speakers sit down before their audiences, and why should not be put his audience at ease. They get tired seeing him stand, and hope he won't wear himself out, and then there is a closer bond of sympathy and confidence between them."

For many years past there has been a great many stories told of Mr. Read, and here are a few of them.
"Last winter I was lecturing out in Iowa and one miserably cold day as I sat beside the stove the door opened and a farmer came in pulling a large bag of something behind him. 'Well,' he said, 'I've been a reading your books and I promised myself if you ever came to this here town I'd bring you a bushel and a half of the finest wine sap apples on the place.'"
"Another time I was down in the country where the scene in one of my



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Coughs, Colds, Croup and Whooping Cough

This remedy is famous for its cures over a large part of the civilized world. It can be used in all cases of cough, cold, croup, or whooping cough, and may be used by the mother for her child. Price 25 cts; Large Size, 50 cts.

books is laid. Sitting idly by a little creaky old house a man called to another who was passing by, "Read the book I loaned you." "Oh,"—(mentioning one of my stories)—"Why, that ain't no book at all. I've heard lots of folks talk that way." Well, that is about the best compliment I ever received."

Probably no living writer has contributed so much of helpful, uplifting literature as Orison Swett Marden, author of "Pushing to the Front," "Risks in the World," etc., and editor of the Success magazine. His latest work, "Choosing a Career," has just been published by the Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis. As its title indicates, the work is intended as a practical aid to young men and young women in choosing a life vocation, for which they are adapted, which will be congenial to their tastes and fitted for the full development of their talents, and in which they may become efficient to command remuneration for their services. The author believes that the greatest success can be attained only by those engaged in that calling whom brings into exercise their strongest faculties, or in other words, where they are working at that which they can do best. For contra, he attributes failures largely to mistakes made in choosing a profession and working in the wrong place, ill adapted to one's temperament and inclination, where personal desire and the forces of nature run counter to each other.

Besides giving wholesome suggestions to the ambitious boy and girl and incidentally to parents and teachers, the author offers in the second part of the book "Suggestions as to Possible Careers," giving an outline of the prerequisites to success in 25 or 26 of the leading professions and callings of life. Mr. Marden has the happy faculty of emphasizing his well taken deductions by apt illustrations from the lives of successful men of the day, and every chapter and page of the book is an inspiration to higher effort.

"Painter's Great Pedagogical Ex-

WHAT THE BEST MAGAZINES CONTAIN.

With the new year comes a new magazine decidedly different from anything in the past.

Only 10 pages a month, 26 a year, on the new-stands at 10c for six months, it is brimful of cleverness, criticism and good-tempered humorous suggestion.

It is put out by Mr. Sherwin Cody, so widely known for his books on English, his system in business letter writing, and his critical editions of the world's best. What the newspaper carries in its politics, the cartoons of the Touchstone are to be to the world of literature, art, drama, and society. Mr. Cody says he will have no "Weary Willie" step-mothers, "head-and-hee" inflators, gas-bags in his. Fun, amusement, cleverness, in plenty, but with some meaning back of it. Yet the Touchstone is to be no iconoclast or squawk, which he used for maturing of this kind in his own magazine, The Fly Leaf. Harte was a genuinely accomplished essayist and humorist of the reformed old Lamb and Goldsmith school, and it will be a delight to his friends all over the country to find his cleverest and best work thus brought to light again.

The final feature is entitled "Behind the Veil," the heading showing that the veil in question is that of a woman, and the secrets revealed are those of universal femininity. This short paper is written by a woman, and is exceedingly interesting and suggestive.

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Leston Taylor, old friend R. L. T. of the Billouste and the Water Wagon (formerly writer of the "Inquiries" or Two in the Chicago Tribune, now on

the staff of Puck), starts this number with a clever set of verses on "The Critics of Bernard Shaw," who, they say, is:

"Trenchant, brilliant, witty, wise,
Amusing, vivid, gay,
Scintillant and convincing—but
He cannot write a play."

There is an excellent caricature portrait of Robert Herrick "in the act of demonstrating his latest novel, 'Brain-works of an American,' by 'Clyde Newman, and a double page cartoon showing Jack London boxing with a stunning woman, who lands one from the left under the jaw."

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the thumbs and several fingers were removed to be kept as relics. What became of the other digits, no one seems to know, but the right hand thumb and finger—which have just turned up after being lost for so long—were taken charge of by Canon Vincenzo Capponi. The thumb of the left hand was removed by Fra Paolo, an antiquarian, who would it to an ecclesiastic, Canon Maria Zandini, but on his death it was not to be found. It was eventually discovered among some waste papers, however, and was at once put in safety in the Mediceo-Laurenziana library.

Meanwhile the other thumb and finger had disappeared. Canon Capponi, their original possessor, had entrusted them to his heirs who treasured them until 1845, when they were lost sight of. Writing from Paris, in October, 1899, however, the Marquis Pier Capponi said: "I remember to have heard in my youth of these precious relics, and believe them to exist." So the researches were not dropped, and it was vaguely said that the relics were in the possession of an old woman, who had been entrusted with documents of the Capponi family. In fact they were found in her house in Florence. They had been kept for 60 years by the old woman, now 84 years old. They were found under crystal lying on antique Florentine yellow satin, the frame heavily carved, and bearing an effigy of Galileo.

At her home in Stratford-on-Avon, Miss Marie Corelli is hard at work on her novel, of which an intimate friend of hers tells me the authoress has exceptionally high hopes. It is a love story and Miss Corelli has chosen for her hero a modern fiction. The theme is unique in modern fiction. The authoress has published one or two short stories recently, but does not expect to have her forthcoming book ready for several months to come.

Appropos of a new illustrated edition of "King Solomon's Mines," which has

Woodhull's Elementary Physical Science, for grammar schools, by John F. Woodhull, Ph. D., professor of physical science, Teachers' College, Columbia University—American Book company, New York.

This course has been prepared owing to the widespread demand that elementary physical science should be included in the grammar schools. The book, which is designed to be used by the pupil, aims, first, to give him accurate verbal concepts of ideas that have already entered his consciousness through his senses; second, to broaden his knowledge by calling his attention to practical applications of the principles that he has seen illustrated in the laboratory. From a study of this book many useful common facts, relating to mechanics, fluids and heat, are made clear to the pupil. He learns why earthenware, in order to hold water, must be glazed; why the brown-stone front of a building disintegrates; why edged tools must be tempered. City water and gas systems receive particular attention. The application of heat to thermometers and in propelling steamboats and railway trains, and the heating of buildings by the fireplace, stoves, hot-air furnaces, hot-water heating and steam heating, together with the construction of buildings are taken up in an interesting and instructive manner.

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