

LITERATURE



WHO IS THE OWNER?

Who owns this house, my lord or I?
Or I who keep it sweet and clean,
And open to the winds and sun?

He who is absent year by year,
On some far business of his own,
Or I who tend it, roof to all,
With fond ungrudging flesh and bone?

What if it prove a fable, all
This rumor of an absent lord,
And I should find myself in truth
Owner and master of the board!

O friends, no landlord in the world
Could love the place so well as I!
Love is the owner of the house
And all the lands of destiny.

—BLISS CARMAN,
In December Era.

BRILLIANTS

The baby has no skies
But mother's eyes,
Nor any God above
But mother's love.
His angel sees the Father's face,
But he the mother's, full of grace;
And yet the heavenly kingdom is
Of such as this.

—JOHN R. TARD.

GALUMNY.

A whisper woke the air,
A soft, light tone, and low,
Yet barbed with shame and woe,
Ah! might it only perish there,
Nor further go!

But no! a quick and eager ear
Caught up the little, meaning sound,
And so it wandered round
From ear to lip, from lip to ear,
Until it reached a gentle heart
That throbbled from all the world apart,
And that—broke!

—FRANCES SARGENT OSGOOD.

NOTES.

The first Canadian edition of *Lazarus* was sold the day of publication. And a second impression is announced by the publishers. Mrs. Cathwood's novel deserves the great success it is gaining, for it is a fine story, told in a delicious style.

Miss Frances Aymar Matthews, author of the entertaining story, "My Lady Peggy Goes to Town," just published, has for some time been favorably known for her literary work. She has been a contributor to the leading magazines, and among other things wrote a pretty series of short plays for *Harper's Bazar*. Miss Mat-

thews has shown a special predilection for dramatic writing, and has done some interesting work in this line. "My Lady Peggy Goes to Town" has been spoken of by a number of reviewers as a companion piece to "Monseigneur Beaucaire." This is a fair exchange of compliments and both Miss Matthews and Mr. Tarkington should feel duly flattered.

The historic little Indiana city, Vincennes, is having a "boom" which is directly ascribed to the wide publicity given it by Maurice Thompson's novel, "Alice of Old Vincennes." At least the editor of the local paper credits the town's awakening to the advertising it received by the publication and popularity of the book.

"Every day or two," he says, "some one stops off between trains to see the old town and to visit the places made famous in the book and play. People are writing from many different parts of the country and from abroad, asking about the places of historical interest spoken of in the story. Recently a club man of New Orleans wrote asking me to decide an argument as to the way the name of the town is pronounced."

After two years of silence Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett again appears in print to delight her many admiring readers. And her readers certainly will be delighted in this, her latest work, "The Making of a Marchioness."

The scene of this charming novelette is laid in an English country home. The story is thoroughly conventional, and the plot is almost as old as human experience, but none the less it possesses a fresh and fascinating interest. Emily Fox-Seton, a poor girl, of sterling qualities, is invited from her humble London lodgings to assist at a fashionable country house party. The conspicuous members of this party are an elderly marquis and three belles of the day, each skillfully embodying all the traditional arts in order to become the successful sharer in Lord Walderhurst's title and wealth.

The story is short, the characters are few, and the theme is slight, but all is deftly treated. The character of Emily is drawn with such distinctness and appreciation, as to evoke one's sympathy from the outset. Her good nature is unflinching, and her altruism most refreshing. The contrast between her and the title-hunting dames is strongly drawn and most wholesome in effect. The admirable skill of the author is evidenced by the satisfaction that the reader experiences in reading the novel, who it is that receives the great ruby ring and is transformed into a marchioness.

Mrs. Burnett's manner is quiet, natural, effective. Her characters are types recognizable, real. She inculcates a timely moral lesson which in this particular instance is directed against the commercial marriages of aristocracy.

The mechanical execution of the book is in harmony with the unquestionable merit of its contents. The illustrations and decorations are beautiful both in design and effect.

The *Crisis* is now in its tenth edition, that is, says its publisher, it seems to be the most popular book on all the library and trade lists, and so far as records go, for those who are interested in them, it has outnumbered even "Fringed Carvel." In the number of copies that have been sold since its publication.

A Boston correspondent of the New York Times-Saturday Review sends a note to that paper which is worth repeating. He says: "Has anyone offered a suggestion that the author of 'The Benefactress' and its predecessors is Mrs. Richmond Thackeray Ritchie, Thackeray's eldest daughter? The style and the method of treatment of the *Benefactress* strongly resemble

those pursued in the short stories published under the title, 'Bluebeard's Keys,' and also in 'The Village on the Cliff,' and the atmosphere of the two books is the same. It will be remembered that Mrs. Ritchie's first heroine was an Elizabeth, and if this guess be wildly erring it will not be made to vain if it remind any Thackeray lover of the letter in which the novelist speaks so modestly and tenderly of his daughter's book in his very earliest days."

Lafcadia Hearn, author of "A Japanese Mystery," Little, Brown & Co., have just published, has had a most uncommon and romantic experience. His father was an Irish surgeon in the Seventy-sixth British Regiment, his mother a Greek lady from Corfu. He was born at Leucadia, Santa Maura, Ionian Islands. He was sent to France at 15 to be educated, came to America when 19 and found himself in New Orleans, where he had editorial work for ten years. In 1887 he visited the West Indies, with which he was charmed, went to Japan against his wish, but was quite reconciled to his fate, for he married a Japanese lady, studied the Japanese people with marvelous success and has produced books of rare charm and remarkable value. He is now lecturer on English literature in the Imperial University of Tokio.

The recent publication of Edwin Markham's second book of verse, "Lincoln, and Other Poems," recalls the tribute paid the poet by Dr. Max Norland. Says the author of "Degeneration": "Edwin Markham is a great poet. I place him higher than Walt Whitman, as his form is more artistic and beautiful. There is sometimes a 'roughness' in his verse and a Swinburnian richness in his rhymes and rhythms. And as to his philosophy and emotion, they are of the noblest kind. It honors Americans that Mr. Markham's poetry should have been able to create at once a sensation among them."

The Bronte society of England is to undertake the compilation of a Bronte dictionary, the contents of which will be borne by one of the members. There is, perhaps, just as good warrant for this elaborate indexing of standard novelists—Dickens and Balzac have already been so indexed—as there is for the numerous concordances of the great poets and the Bronte dictionary will undoubtedly be welcome to editors, professional writers and general readers.

All are familiar with lists of "best-selling" books, as also with triumphant references to volumes "most in demand" at public libraries. We are not so often put on the track of the books which do not sell and are not read. The public library of Lincoln, England, has now, however, says the New York Evening Post, entered upon the decided novelty of giving out lists of books that "have never left the shelves." It is not so long a list as one might imagine—only thirty-five out of the 13,335 volumes in the library can boast that the dust upon them has never been disturbed. Works on theology and history naturally lead all the rest in this unenviable distinction, and a treatise or two on sociology, on dyeing, and on the polarization of light have slept the sleep of the unread. Score one new triumph for fiction, however. Not a single novel, however bad, however stupid, however echoing an echo, but has found at least one happy, though possibly disappointed reader. All told, the showing speaks much for the omnivorous voracity of the reading public. It is but a small, a Spartan band, that has "never left the shelves." The inference is a fair one that but few moderns have attained to the large and careless neglect of a Dr. Johnson for whom there were whole masses of books which he said he would "rather praise than read."

Believing there is a demand for a periodical devoted largely to scientific bibliography and to news of interest to book collectors, Dodd, Mead & Co. have decided to carry out a long-cherished scheme of issuing such a journal. They will begin its publication early next year under the title of "The Bibliographer." As the only trustworthy description of a book, title page, or manuscript is a photographic fac-simile of it, such fac-similes will be freely used. In an early number it is planned to begin the issue of fac-similes of rare books, thus providing subscribers with reproductions of books that few can ever see them, much less own them, and so important that they are a necessity to every student of history, literature, and art. Many well-known collectors and students of bibliography will be contributors to its columns. Each number will contain an epitome of the various bibliographical journals of England and continental Europe. Advance news of some of the best book clubs, such as the Groucher club, the Caxton club, and the Rowfant club will be one of the features. There will be a department of notes and queries, accurate collations of rare books, and a series of bibliographies will appear from month to month. The magazine will be printed on a fine quality of paper and will be illustrated. It is the intention to issue "The Bibliographer" only nine months in the year, omitting its publication for the months of July, August and September.

A special holiday edition of "The Crisis" is in preparation by the Macmillan company. The frontispiece will consist of a portrait of the author never before published and reproduced in photogravure.

Rev. James Drummond's biography of James Marling, a large portion of which will consist of the great Unitarian's own letters, will be published in London next spring.

Miss Virginia Harned's recent appearance as Alice of Old Vincennes, English opera house in Indianapolis, calls to mind a sequence of coincidences.

On the very spot where the opera house now stands, once stood the old homestead of the Hon. William H.

English. In this house, Mr. English wrote "The Conquest of the Northwest" and from this book, Maurice Thompson, in an acknowledgement in his novel, says he secured the historical setting for his story "Alice of Old Vincennes." The house in which the author sits stands the theater where Miss Harned triumphed as the fascinating heroine of Mr. Thompson's beautiful story.

The authorship of the successful novel, "When a Witch is Young," remains a mystery still, despite the fact that many inquiries have been made at the office of the publishers, as well as through the columns of literary reviews. Unless there be some means of discovery through the cryptographic 4-19-63, there is nothing in the charming story to reveal even the sex of the author. The author is a native of some one's assertion that the novel was written by a personal friend of President McKinley, who is said to have had in some of the book's characters, an ancestor who was intimately connected with some of the story's stirring historical incidents.

Ward, Lock & Co., London, whose list of novels dealing with mystery and crime has probably been the most successful themselves with Burford's De'an's starting tale "£15,000." This author's story stands a reader on his feet. Moreover, a reader will stand up till he has finished the novel, and begins that way. He will not take time to sit down.

BOOKS.

"The Master Key," by Frank Baum, is a book to delight the hearts of the boys of this and every other land. It relates the adventures of a young electrician who, while manipulating a score of wires, gets them twisted into a combination which proves to be "The Master Key" opening the way to wonderful feats and adventures by means of electrical devices, in which the hero participates much to his own astonishment as well as others. The story is founded upon the possible and impossible wonders expected to be achieved through electricity, and while it reads like a fairy of Aladdin's tale, is not more seemingly preposterous than many of the wonders already achieved by that mighty force would have seemed to the people of past centuries. The tale is an ingenious invention, and is as clever in the telling as in conception. It is published by the Bowen-Merrill Co., Indianapolis, and is on sale at the Cannon Book Store.

One of the most widely talked of books of Harper Bros.' list of American novels, is "The Supreme Surrender" by A. Maurice Low. It is the story of the love of a young American girl for a man who is separated from her by marriage. The scene is laid in the national capital, and the chief figure in the tale is a senator who has won influence and renown through his strong character and gift of oratory, and the other personages are all political or diplomatic characters. The heroine, entranced by the eloquence and magnetism of the young political giant yields herself blindly to her infatuation and finally when the two are together, in a moment of mutual communion confesses her love. The man, bound to a woman for whom he has made an actual sacrifice, after weeks of struggle against his growing passion for the girl whom he is too honorable to betray, decides finally to seek release from his bonds in divorce and lead the woman of his choice. He is on the verge of a great political conquest, and to prevent the

Healthy Old Age

Nederland, Tenn., April 16, 1900.

I am 50 years old. My trouble was change of life. I truly sympathize with any woman who suffers as I have. After the torture and pain of two years I purchased two bottles of Wine of Cardui and took it according to directions. In a short time it began to relieve me. Now I feel like another woman. I cannot speak too highly of its merits. You may think I am exaggerating but I say I would not take \$1,000 for the good it has done me.

Mrs. M. E. MATTHEWS

Whether to live to a healthy old age, the mother of strong sons and fair daughters, or to go down to a premature grave after a life saddened by misery and barrenness, is the choice a woman may make for herself. Mrs. Matthews' statement shows how a suffering woman can clearly make the right choice with

WINE OF CARDUI

at hand to regulate the declining function and keep her in perfect health. If this important functional change finds a woman in poor health, serious circumstances invariably follow. The shock aggravates any existing disorder and old age is full of suffering. How many women fade quickly after prime because the change of life overtakes them in ill health? To a healthy woman the change need have no terrors. It is necessary to women wishing to enjoy old age, to take the Wine of Cardui treatment before it is too late, to eradicate every kind of "female diseases" from the system. You can secure a dollar bottle of Wine of Cardui from your druggist and take it in your own home.

Owensby, N. C., February 23, 1900.

I have used Wine of Cardui and Theodor's Black-Draught for the change of life and find them a great help to me. I thank you for your medicine and the good it has done me.

Mrs. M. E. OWENBY.

For advice and literature, address, giving symptoms, "The Ladies' Advisory Department," The Chattanooga Medicine Company, Chattanooga, Tenn.



ENGRAVERS FOR THE DESERT NEWS

Four Splendid New Books This Week

The remarkable book distribution under the auspices of the International Association of Newspapers and Authors has reached enormous proportions with the appearance of numbers 29 to 32 of the series of "40 IMMORTALS OF MODERN FICTION."

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29. "Active Service"

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30. "Mademoiselle de Berny"

By PAULINE BRADFORD MACKIE (author of a "A Georgian Actress.")—A romance of Valley Forge and Gay Philadelphia.—A Tory Girl and a Patriot Officer.

31. "Her Sailor"

By MARSHALL SAUNDERS, (author of "Beautiful Joe.")—The Love Affair of an American Girl and a Spanish Captain.—"She Fell in Love with Her Husband."

32. "The Continental Dragoon"

By R. N. STEPHENS, (author of "An Enemy to the King.")—Adventures in New York during the Revolutionary War.

Voucher for City Readers.

Present this voucher at our book counter with 25 cents for any of these books:

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- "A Partisan's Wife"—Ray Pennington
- "American Wives and English Husbands"—Atherton
- "Ionaventure"—Geo. W. Cable
- "The Kaidler Grangers Abroad"—Frank R. Stockton
- "I, Thos. and the Other One"—Amelia E. Barr
- "Tales of Our Coast"—R. Crockett
- "Driven Back to Eden"—E. P. Iton
- "Captain Shannon"—Coulton Kerrishan
- "Dr. Do-it's School"—Jas. E. Ford
- "A House in Bloombury"—Mrs. Oliphant
- "A Fair Barbarian"—Frances Hodgson Burnett
- "The Unsuspected"—Paul Laurence Dunbar
- "The Splendid South"—A. T. Quiller-Couch
- "Simon Dale"—Anthony Hope
- "Face to Face"—Robert Grant
- "The Heart of Toil"—Octave Thannet
- "Free Joe"—J. H. Chandler Harris
- "Across the Chasm"—Julia Magruder
- "Sevenoaks"—J. G. Holland
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