

LITERATURE

LEAVES FROM OLD ALBUMS.



DR. JOHN H. TAYLOR AND SPENCER SQUIRES IN COMIC OPERA.

The above cut shows a picture of Dr. John H. Taylor and Spencer Squires in comic opera, taken about 17 years ago in character parts sustained by them in the comic opera "Billie Taylor" given by a local juvenile company, among whom were Miss Edith Ellerbeck and Miss Della Daynes whose photographs were reproduced in The News last week. Mr. Squires was the heavy "villain in the play," and his fierce attitudes and appropriate scowls, to say nothing of his good singing are remembered as among the choice bits of the play. Dr. Taylor had the eccentric comedy role of Eliza and was also among the delectable bits. Mr. Squires is at present connected with the business department of The News, and Dr. Taylor is well known in the field of professional dentistry.

the old stage driver, and Marie L. Day as Aunt Miranda, Sam Colt as Simpson, and Harry C. Browne as Mr. Aladdin, all played their parts well.

Just before the first performance of "Rebecca," Kate Douglas Wiggin, the author, presented each of the members of the cast with a handsome gift. Little Violet Henry (Rebecca) received an exquisite coral necklace, which she wears in the final act.

The anonymous writer of the article in the Atlantic, "The Confessions of a Best Seller," which has set the writing and reading worlds to wondering, is now said to be Meredith Nicholson. One person who ought to be interested is O. Henry, whose latest book of stories, "Options," the Harpers have just announced. In a recent interview Mr. Nicholson is quoted as saying, "O. Henry has the truest eye for American life of any writer I know. I don't read much fiction any more except O. Henry and Balzac."

The Princess Troubetzkoy, Amelle River, who with her husband, the Prince Troubetzkoy, arrived in this country from Europe a few days ago, has gone to her Virginia home, Castle Hill, at Cobham, Albemarle county. The princess is said to be at work upon a new manuscript. Her latest story, "Trix and Over-the-Moon," was published by the Harpers less than a month ago.

Helen Keller's book, "The World I Live In," has been adopted by Wellesley College as a textbook in English for freshmen classes.

More of Maria Edgeworth the Traveler and student of foreign lands than of Maria Edgeworth the writer of novels appears in Constance Hill's volume, entitled "Maria Edgeworth and Her Circle in the Days of Bonaparte and Bourbon." It is a record of her journeyings through France and England rather than of her life at Edgeworthstown in Ireland, although in the course of all her wanderings she never forgot home and kindred. "How happy we are to be so fond of each other, how happy we are to be independent of all we see here! How happy that we have our dear home to return to at last!" The period of Miss Hill's volume is the first 20 years of the nineteenth century, and the incidents and characters are the most momentous hours of the French wars and the fearsome days when all England was trembling in the fear of a Bonaparte invasion.

Many doors were opened to Miss Edgeworth during her stay in Paris, and she wrote in enthusiastic terms of her liking for Parisian society and the French nobles, and the contrast with the life of the contrast with the nouveau riches. She met Mme. Recamier and was duly impressed by her, and at a dinner in her house, one room of which she mentions as having cost \$20,000, she found herself in company with tragic and comic poets, metaphysicians, bankers and the richest man in Paris. "I must further inform you," she wrote to her cousin at home, "that we have been at the opera with Mme. Recamier and at one of her balls. She is very pretty and graceful, but nothing marvelous—except what is marvelous in a beauty who has been born and bred in flattery, and nursed in the lap of luxury, she is good in every sense of the word. She is obliging in her manner and seems to think of others more than of herself. She produces a great sensation whenever she appears in public." Other pictures of the French nobles are given from the standpoint of numerous appreciative observers, and from chapter to chapter are chronicled Miss Edgeworth's views of and comment upon the varying aspects of French society and art. Eventually the growing political difficulties arising from Bonaparte's activities compelled a flight from Paris, and the spring of 1803 found Miss Edgeworth and her companions back in London.

The publishers of Gertrude Atherton's next novel are keeping secret both its nature and its name, telling us merely that it "will be largely cosmopolitan in tone," and that it will be ready for publication in February.

An adventure story of the Robert Louis Stevenson kind—a historical picture and a chronicle of thrilling incidents with some foundation of actual facts—will run through St. Nicholas during 1910, under the title of "The Refuge." The author is Capt. Charles Gilson of the English army.

BOOKS

The recent publication by Forbes & Company (Chicago) of a beautiful illustrated collection of Ben King's poems under the title "Jane Jones and Some Others," recalls the life of this many-talented genius and the history of his fame, unique in literary annals. When Ben King died suddenly in 1884 at the early age of 37 he was wholly unaware that he had left a single line which would be remembered. But soon afterward Nixon Waterman gathered King's work into a volume which the Press Club of Chicago (of which King was a member) published as a memorial in a limited edition for private circulation. This was immediately acquired by his friends in the club. During the four years ensuing King's

and efforts of the state authorities, by the high courage and skillful management of Blair and Lyon, backed by the splendid loyal Union element. At the presidential election of 1860 the great mass of the people of Missouri had voted for union candidates—Stephen A. Douglas and John Bell. This was also true of many other Southern states, the people of which were finally carried over to secession by the skillful and audacious maneuvers of the secession leaders. The radical abolitionists of consummate boldness and skill on the part of the Union leaders to prevent this being done with Missouri, and the history of how it was accomplished is more thrilling than any romance. Camp Jackson, Wilson Creek, Springfield and Pea Ridge were the great incidents in this mighty play for a state bigger and richer than some European kingdoms.

A careful analytical presentation—never before attempted—is made of the way the people, at first reluctant or indifferent, were finally arrayed into two great opposing camps.

There are vivid pen pictures of all the leading actors in this great drama, with fascinating descriptions of the eternal play of cross-purposes among the radical secessionists, the radical abolitionists, the conditional Union men, the unconditional Union men, the southern sympathizers, the States' rights men and the uncompromising Nationalists.

The story is told with the swiftness of narrative of a novel, with events big with the keenest human interest on every page.

John McElroy, the author, has a very high reputation all over the country for accuracy and impartiality in his specialty as a historian of the Civil war, and this work has received the strongest commendations from those who participated in the great struggle.

MAGAZINES

Almesco's for December will make the languid fiction reader pick up his wits with interest and gratitude. The installment of George Barr McCutcheon's serial, "The Last Days of Pompeii," a brilliant completion in a series of uncertainty. The novelette by P. G. Wodehouse, entitled "The Gem Collector," will give you as delightful a two hours of romance as you have had in many a day, and keep you guessing and smiling at the same time at the audacious escapade of a handsome young English baronet, whose post in America has been anything but rosy. Owen Olliver's story, "The Spirit," strikes the note of Christmas cheer in a lively story of loving hearts united through the timely hospitality of some literary elements. "The Dark Side of Duty," by H. P. P. Battersby, is a thrilling story of the Boer war and the dangerous love of a Boer girl for an English soldier. Outright has a charming bridge whist story, and Wolcott Beard tells another of his interesting stories of social wrongs righted by a fearless man in "The Mine-Field Plans." Allen Updegraff tells dramatically, in "The Man's Wife," of the irony of fate in the killing of a nobler and better man by the woman who loves him to save her married honor for a worthless husband.

All Thurston and Quentin M. Drake have strikingly original stories in "A Christmas Story" and "The Pearls of Miradores." "Ordered Up Into Nineveh," by W. L. Comfort, is a tremendous, strong story of a woman's vengeance turned to love and faith in the tracking down of a long-lost husband. Besides this score of remarkable stories, there are essays on music and bridge whist, articles on the contemporary stage and book criticism, besides poems by popular authors. Altogether it is a worthy issue.

Felice Ferrero writes in the November Survey about the new colony for Italian immigrants recently started in St. Helena, N. C. In the same issue Model Graham Taylor of Chicago has an article on the police and the vice situation in Chicago, in which he quotes Gypsy Smith for his sensational methods of parading through the "red light" districts with a band of young

people. V. G. Heiser of the United States public health and marine hospital service, writes on sanitation in the Philippines and tells of the reforms that have been instituted since the close of the war. A vivid description of the inspection of bakeries in Wisconsin is given by Don E. Mowry and Elias Tobenkin writes about the hardships of immigrant girls in Chicago. Edward T. Devine discusses the recent mayoralty election in New York, and Lawrence Veiller has an article on New York as a social worker in which he outlines what has been accomplished in the social reform in the metropolis through the recently appropriated city budget.

The spotlight of public interest has been swung from the jungle to the iceberg, and polar bears instead of elephants are the pawns of the game of today. The vicissitudes of the explorer in the long day and night at the top of the world have the charm of the unknown. N. C. Wyeth has recently painted a stirring picture of an incident in the far north. Around the sharp edges of an iceberg, glinting coldly white in the rays of the aurora, lunges the huge form of a savage polar bear. Braced to meet his charge the intrepid explorer crouches, every muscle taut, his ready rapier sledge. He sends home the paralyzing bullet at the propitious moment. His two trusty Eskimo guides, armed only with their rude spears and short knives, bravely stand guard over the pack sledges. The situation is dramatic, the treatment bold. Dauntless courage, ready for any emergency, radiates from the whole scene. And with its desire to meet every demand courageously, satisfactorily, adequately, the Popular Magazine—the big twice-a-month magazine—has chosen this painting as typical of its endeavor, and uses it on the cover of its first issue for December.

"Two years ago, I said that I was working on a plan by which I hoped to cast a house out of cement as a foundry-man casts a car from iron. I now feel safe in saying that I have solved the problem. All my preliminary experiments have proved successful, and in December or January, I expect to cast my first house. If I succeed, as I feel certain I shall, the cement house will be my greatest invention. It will solve the problem of housing. It will take from the city slums everybody who is worth taking. Why, I shall make it possible to build a house with a good garden, every room of 10 ordinary size rooms, and a bath, for twelve hundred dollars. Come out and see my model."

As Thomas A. Edison said this, he clapped a cap on his head, and led the way to his machine-shop. What he has accomplished is described in the December number of Munsey's Magazine.

In an open space, surrounded by planes and lathes, where what appeared to be the foundation walls and part of the first story of an iron house, a pen over the top showed that there were two iron houses, one set within the other, with an eight-inch space between. Into this space cement was poured; then the two iron houses were taken down, and the finished structure of artificial stone will be ready for occupancy.

"I'll dig the cellar of this house with a steam shovel," Mr. Edison continued, "and cast it in six hours. Two locomotive cranes will lift the 232 cubic yards of cement that the house will contain, and pour it into the openings at the top. The cement will pass through 12 sluice boxes, and as it is being poured, a number of men will churn it with iron bars, at the end of each of which will be a large ball. The churning will be for the purpose of sending waves through the cement, so that it shall fill every particle of the mold."

And it is a wonderful house that the famous wizard of science intends to build. There will not be enough wood to make a hundred dollar fire, even if all of it were to be consumed. Floors, mantels, picture moldings, and decorations—all will be of cement. The bath tub, washstand, and sink will be of the same material. Edison says he can make cement bath tubs that will be as smooth as highly polished glass. All that is required to do is to have highly polished molds. Wherever beauty is desired, an extra finish will be put on the casting forms.

How to Nip a Cold or Cough in the Bud

To let a cold or cough "wear itself out" is both needless and dangerous. If you will take five minutes and make up the simple remedy described below, you can wipe out a cold or cough as soon as it appears. Even deep-seated coughs yield to it very quickly. A whole pint of it costs only 54 cents, but there is no better remedy at any price.

Take a pint of Granulated Sugar, add 1/2 pint of warm water and stir for 2 minutes. Put 2 1/2 ounces of Pinex in a pint bottle and fill up with the Sugar Syrup. This keeps perfectly and lasts a family a long time. Take a teaspoonful every one, two or three hours. The taste is pleasing.

Use the ingredients as given here. Granulated sugar makes the best syrup. None of the weaker pine preparations will take the place of the real Pinex itself, which is the most valuable concentrated compound of Norway White Pine Extract. Four druggists has it or can easily order it for you.

This mixture is also excellent for whooping cough, bronchitis, chest pains, etc.

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The two poems below are the best known of the famous poems of Ben King whose volume of verse, "Jane Jones and Some Others," has mention in the book reviews in another part of this paper.

IF I SHOULD DIE TONIGHT.

If I should die tonight
And you should come to my cold corpse and say,
Weeping and heartsick o'er my lifeless clay—
If I should die tonight
And you should come in deepest grief and woe
And say, "Here's that ten dollars that I owe"—
I might arise in my large white cravat
And say "What's that?"

If I should die tonight
And you should come to my cold corpse and kneel,
Clasping my bier to show the grief you feel—
I say, if I should die tonight
And you should come to me, and there and then
Just even him 'bout payin' me that ten,
I might arise the while;
But I'd drop dead again.

THE PESSIMIST.

Nothing to do but work,
Nothing to eat but food,
Nothing to wear but clothes,
To keep one from going nude.

Nothing to sing but songs,
Ah, well, alas! alack!
Nowhere to go but out,
Nowhere to come but back.

Nothing to breathe but air,
Quick as a flash 't is gone;
Nowhere to fall but off,
Nowhere to stand but on.

Nothing to comb but hair,
Nowhere to sleep but in bed,
Nothing to weep but tears,
Nothing to bury but dead.

NOTES

Robert Hichens and Jules Gerin have been traveling and working together in Palestine. The Century company will put into book form next year the result of their labors. The book will be called "The Holy Land," and will contain a series of articles on that country by Mr. Hichens, with full-page reproductions in color of Mr. Gerin's pictures.

In his youth George Meredith was a fervent admirer of Tennyson, to whom he sent his first volume of poems in 1851. Tennyson answered in a complimentary letter that there was one poem in the book which he went about the house reciting and which he wished he had written himself. Dr. Warren, president of Magdalen, tells the story in his "Centenary of Tennyson," and it is reproduced in the Westminster Gazette. Meredith was thereupon invited to come to Twickenham. Next morning, as they walked towards the Thames, Tennyson began, "Apollodorus says I am not a great poet." Apollodorus was George Gillman, author of a "Gallery of Library Portraits," published in 1845, who Dr. Warren says, took himself, and was taken in those days, with a seriousness now forgotten. "I said," quoth Meredith, "why should you mind what such a man says?" To which Tennyson replied, "I mind what everybody says." Swinburne told him, Meredith went on, that Tennyson once said to him that a review in the half-penny newspaper had caused him a sleepless night.

Rutger B. Javelin, who is the business manager for the John Lane Company, has just completed an arrangement with Eden Phillips by which all future novels of this writer will bear the imprint of the John Lane company. The first book to be published under this arrangement was "The Haven," which appeared a week ago.

Sir Gilbert Parker's novels in America will hereafter bear the imprint of Harper & Brothers. The publishers

announce that seven titles have been acquired from the Macmillan company, Houghton Mifflin, and Doubleday Page, namely, "The Lane That Had No Turning," "The Battle of the Strong," "An Adventurer of the North," "A Lover's Diary," "Pierre and his People," "A Romance of the Snows," and "When Valmond Came to Pontiac." Harper & Brothers were already the publishers of "The Right Way," "A Ladder of Swords," and "The Weavers," and these, together with the collection of short stories by Sir Gilbert just published, "Northern Lights," make eleven of this author's books to bear imprint.

The library of Simon Newcomb, the astronomer, who died in Washington last summer, has been presented to the college of the City of New York by John Cladlin, who purchased it from the estate for about \$10,000. The library consists of 6,000 volumes and 2,000 pamphlets on scientific subjects. "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," a dramatization of Kate Douglas Wiggin's "Rebecca" books, had its first production on any stage at Springfield recently, and a large audience gave its unqualified approval of this sweet and wholesome play of child life. The critics described it as a modernized "Peter Pan," with all the sweet ingenuities of childhood transported to the stage and its atmosphere sweetened and purified by the acting of Violet Mearns and of the young girls. It is based on the two books, "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" and "The New Chronicles of Rebecca," and Mrs. Wiggin, in collaboration with Miss Charlotte Thompson, has written a play that combines the idealism of "Peter Pan" with the classic simplicity and wholesomeness of "The Old Homestead." It opens with the arrival of Rebecca at the Brick House in a real, old-time stage coach, and includes the episodes of soap-selling, flag-raising, and the wedding ring. There is plenty of gay comedy and touches of sentiment and pathos. The management has given the play a beautiful setting, and the cast is an unusually good one. Violet Mearns, who as Wenda in "Peter Pan" won her way into the affections of theater-goers, will have even a stronger hold upon them as Rebecca, and Archie Bold as

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