

LITERATURE



THE FOUR GUESTS.

A knock at the door—but he was dreaming a dream of fame, And the one who knocked drew softly back...

by a new writer of unusual and striking importance. "The Manager of the B. & A." by Vaughan Kester, is said to be a remarkable performance for a first work of fiction by a young writer.

A knock at the door—but still, He gave it no reply, And the waiting guest gave a cheery hail...

Frederick Palmer, whose vigorous stories about the American soldier and sailor in "The Ways of the Service" are becoming so popular, is a graduate of Allegheny University, Meadville, Pa.

SIC TRANSIT. The cities of the world, one after one, Like camp fires of a night, in ashes gray...

At the close of the war he returned to London and resumed his correspondence, from which, however, he was called to America to make a journey into the mysterious Klondike country.

NOTES. The name of Lady Sarah Lennox will be known to a wide circle of readers...

Palmer accompanied the Greek army, saw the early battle from the trenches where he lay with the Greek soldiers, and finally, when the battle of Volo was fought and decided so disastrously...

Miss Gwendolen Overton, who has made a bit with her novel of Southern life, entitled "The Heritage of the Forest," has spent many years at army posts in Arizona and New Mexico.

These are the difficulties in the way of a form of fiction which none the less is full of possibilities of delight.

Owen Johnson, whose "Arrows of the Almighty" is reviewed in another column, is only a year out of Yale, where he is the son of the editors of the Lit.

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necessary articles, that he managed to get over the route and back again before most other correspondents there fairly started. He was thus able to relate the first really authentic story of the Klondike, describing with precision the various routes and trails and the extreme difficulties of the gold hunt long before others had authoritative tales to tell.

When Palmer got back from the Klondike the war with Spain was practically ended. However, he started immediately for the Philippines, where he saw a great deal of the early fighting with the insurgents, and when the Chinese trouble broke out he left Manila immediately for the scene and accompanied the relief column on its memorable march to Pelin.

The Mall and Express of New York says that the Bowen-Merrill company, the publishers of Maurice Thompson's latest novel, "The Gaddy," is said to be a remarkable performance for a first work of fiction by a young writer.

Mr. Edwin Markham, writing with enthusiasm of Zola's new novel "Labor," describes it as "a panorama alive with motion, with passion, with every human interest. A dozen love stories are tangled in the movement."

"The Love Letters of Blismarck" has everywhere been received with an enthusiasm which has only been equalled by the reception given to the "Brownings Love Letters." This is not to be wondered at, for the surprise that meets one at the very threshold of Blismarck's House of Love comes to us with the startling effect of a transfiguration.

Another edition of 10,000 copies of Tarkington's "Monsieur Beaucaire," the eighth edition in a few months, has been issued by McClure, Phillips & Co. The book is now on its fifty-first thousand.

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SOCIETY WOMAN AUTHORESS.



Mrs. Reginald de Koven, the New York society woman, has become famous throughout the country by the clever book on Babylon she has recently published.

good literature survives among readers everywhere. This is attested by the large sales of sets of Scott and Thackeray, Dickens and Goldsmith, sold by Macy's, and the fact that excellent publication has ever turned out. The issue contains sixty-two pages, and is carefully edited and lavishly illustrated throughout.

A young girl, seventeen years old, who writes a novel which sets all Chicago by the ears, should prove to be a literary light of no small importance. Miss Margaret Horton Potter, daughter of a wealthy Chicagoan, accomplished this triumph when, in the month of August, she wrote "Social Lion," under a nom de guerre. Within a year from that time, Miss Potter produced and had published "Unconquered," a book of absolutely different character from her first work, and which portrayed the life of the monarch in England of the time of King John.

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Mr. Churchill's book, therefore, makes a sweeping charge of the romances which have already secured for them a place in the history of the novel. One who prefers the methods of the present romancers to those of the present realists may be allowed to acknowledge the difficulties against which the romancers contend. Undoubtedly the jostling of historical with imaginary characters is a difficult thing for the romancer to manage.

Two articles of more than usual interest in the June issue of the unique magazine Mind, are "Immortality and Reason," by Alex. E. Gibson, and "Religion and Spiritualism," by H. Forbes Kidder.

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test "in life everlasting." The argument is ingenious and reverent throughout. If, he says, we follow the teachings of Christ and of nature, we find a moral dynamic which is quite incalculable, and from which there is no escape. Let a man once see that the alternative which confronts him at every step of his moral profession is life and death, that his task is, as Christ says, "to win for himself a soul," or, at a farther stage, it is "to save his soul alive," and he will realize that he is face to face with realities and not with an extravagant arrangement arbitrarily established. The appeal is to that deepest, strongest, most persistent of all desires, the love of life.—The Macmillan Co., New York.

The popularity of "Alice of Old Vincennes" is unabated. In the book-stalls all over the country the book occupies first or second place on the list of demand, and there will doubtless be several more editions of the volume necessary before the taste for it is satiated. The charm of the story undoubtedly is in its romantic historical flavor, though the severer critics claim that it is the modification of the romantic element that makes its chief virtue and places it a notch higher than the other historical novels of the day.

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Reviews of New Books. Editor McLean's "Reviews of New Books" conclude the number—Alliance Publishing Co., New York.

In the Youth's Companion for this week a new serial under the title of "The Great Scoop," is commenced. It is a newspaper story, and is by that clever writer, Molly Elliott Sewall, so that the readers of the Companion may anticipate a treat. The serial will be completed in five chapters, and the first installment is most interesting.

The June number of The Arena completes the twenty-fifth volume of that standard review. It contains a number of contributions upon topics of interest to students of advanced thought.

Formed On Good Models. "What an extraordinarily courteous and polished gentleman your friend Scrivener is!" "Yes! I presume it is the result of his constant reading."

VERSIFIERS OF WINDOW PANES. Many and various have been the rhymes—good, bad, and indifferent—which have been scratched at various times upon windowpanes.

Sound advice, which it is to be hoped was followed. Another example from the same county is the work of an apparently genial old Yorkshire parson, who at the commencement of the nineteenth century visited daily to take his glass and smoke his pipe, an inn situated between Northampton and Boroughbridge.

MAGAZINES. Two articles of more than usual interest in the June issue of the unique magazine Mind, are "Immortality and Reason," by Alex. E. Gibson, and "Religion and Spiritualism," by H. Forbes Kidder.

THE LEGACY. "Good master tapper, I observe Three crosses at thy door; Hang out your old, ill-treated wife, And then you may count four." The sign is said to have been after-

wards altered to that of the Four Crosses. Men are not the only offenders in this mild mania of spilling good glass with bad rhymes, for women are quite as bad. Thus, on one occasion a lady expressed herself as follows concerning a fop:

"Dandies, to make a great show, Wear coats stuck out with pad and stuffing; But that, you know, is a raps— For what's a gown without his stuffing?"

On the window of an inn on the Chester road a lady once scrawled, "Lord M— has the softest lips in the universe," to which another lady added the couplet: "Then as like as two chips Are his head and his lips,"

The following lines, which are not so well known, refer to the charms of daughter of Mr. Stewart, the factor of the Closeburn estate, and was written when the poet resided at Ellisland: "O, lovely Polly Stewart! O charming Polly Stewart! There's not a flower that blooms in May That's half so fair as thou art."

It may be interesting to know that these lines passed into the possession of Mr. John Spiers of Glasgow, from Mr. John Thomson, writer of Locherie, in token of friendship and regard, September 15, 1834. The lady's quotations are, of course, only a few of the many window-pane rhymes and poems which are to be found scattered up and down the countryside.—London Standard.

ART NOTES. The exhibition of fine arts of the Societe des Arts de Strasbourg, Alsace, will open on June 15 and remain open till July 15 inclusively. The exhibits consist of paintings, drawings, lithographs, and sculptures.

Emmanuel Hanneux, the Paris sculptor, has finished the bust of Mme. de Baronne de Hirsch in clay, given by her to the Societe des Arts de Strasbourg. The bust is in the form of a water-nix or spirit. A cascade falls over the strings of the harp held by the nix, and is thus supposed to give the keynote or inspiration for which the artist waits.

The 462 paintings and drawings illustrating the life of Christ upon which the French artist, James Tissot, spent many years of arduous labor, have now been properly framed in gold mats suitably inscribed and hung in the galleries of the Crookier Institute building. The purchase of the collection for \$20,000 was made possible through the generosity of friends of the Institute. Tissot's pictures were shown at the National academy last year. While opinions may differ concerning their value as works of art, there is no doubt as to their importance as studies in ancient oriental life, manners, and costume.

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