

# The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

## Great Vogue of American Literature in Sunny Italy

(Special Correspondence.)

FLORENCE, Dec. 13.—Italian publishers and editors, as well as Italian writers, are manifesting an increasing interest in subjects which bear upon America. This autumn's publishing output is especially rich in this literature.

Treves of Milan, for instance, announces "Agli Stati Uniti," by Vico Mantegazza. Signor Mantegazza, like most writers upon countries not his own, bases his observations upon a visit of only some months to America. His first impressions—the White House, the political parties as exponent of north and south, the negro question, ranches, the Italian in Texas, the Panama canal, the Japanese question, imperialism, what he calls "the American peril," and last, but not least, Miss Elkins as the text for a study of American women, are the subjects which have interested Signor Mantegazza.

Another firm announces "The American Peril," which is declared to be a more menacing one than the "yellow peril."

### MAGAZINE ARTICLES.

The magazines of the autumn also abound in American articles. La Donna, the Italian Ladies' Home Journal, introduces its readers to America by means of Signor Ernesto Duci's account of his travels in our country, and, in the same issue, Baroness Renard von Koenig describes the life of a western girl and her costumes.

Dayton, O., figures in La Lettura as the home of the Wright brothers, the Nuova Antologia discusses "Italian Emigration to the United States," the new tariff laws and the American workman, and La Minerva treats of social settlements in the United States. Of Andrew Carnegie, of Don Rice, under American rule, and economical and social conditions of the United States. Translations of Poe's stories are being published in a popular journal.

### WOMAN'S NOUVEAU DE PLUME.

A writer whose short stories, or "Novelle," as they are called in Italy, are attracting increasing notice, is "Jane Gray," who lays her scenes entirely in California. America, too, plays her part here for the mother of "Jane Gray," in real life the Marchesa Clotilde Pellucano—was born in New York. She was, however, of Italian parentage and married a young Italian lawyer, her daughter, who is distinguished for her beauty as for her talents, in her turn married the son of the Duchessa Ruffo Sforza, the youngest member of the Italian house of Sforza. The Marchesa Pellucano, when a small girl, took from her father's library, a valuable and "not to be touched" history of England. In it she read of "Jane Gray," and, in spite of the punishment which followed this pursuit of historical knowledge, the unfortunate queen has possessed for her an undying fascination ever since, and, in consequence, when she came to write, it being still the fashion here for women writers to shrink behind a non de plume, she signed herself "Jane Gray."

### AN ITALIAN AUTHORITY.

Women of Italian affiliation, but at work in America, are also affecting Italian literature. Miss Amy Bernardy, professor of Italian literature at Smith college, and a contributor to the Outlook, and other American papers and magazines, is becoming the recognized authority here on the social conditions of the Italians in other countries. Her latest papers and the Italian review, La Minerva, devotes a number of columns to approval and discussion of her conclusions. Miss Bernardy, who spends half her time in Italy with her parents, has her home near Forti del Marni, a seaside resort still more characteristically Italian. Fashion not yet having modified its freedom. The spot itself is renowned for its beautiful combination of the charms of the Mediterranean and the Carra mountains, which, with its rays of sunshine, white marble, rise from the iridescent blue sea.

Then, too, announces the Nuova Antologia, Miss Dives St. Cyr of New York, has translated Giannino Anton-Traversi's play, "Carita Mondana," to be given this winter at a New York theater.

### ITALIAN IN THE DRAMA.

Italian writers, it would appear, find expression most successfully in the drama, since 35 new plays are announced this autumn. What is more striking still is that all are to be given at leading theaters during the winter. Chief among them are D'Annunzio's new drama "Amaranto" to be given at Venice, and "L'Amore e la Morte" by Sem Benelli, that beloved Italian playwright, whose "Cena delle Beffe" after unprecedented runs in Italy, is to be given in Paris in February. Giannino Anton-Traversi is also represented by a new comedy "Il Paravento," and Rossana, the writer who is the champion of the working man, although herself a member of a noble family, has prepared a play, by name "L'America e Donnicello Coatto" for the Sicilian actor Grassano.

### POPULAR BOOK FORM.

A form of book whose popularity in-

creases in Italy is what is called a conference on some man or subject. Each chapter is given to an authority on his subject. Treves has just issued such a conference on Leonardo da Vinci, who gives his name to the book. The illustrations, which can be removed for framing, comprise all that is possible to reproduce of Leonardo, and yet the book is sold for the low price of \$1.50. The chapter of fresh interest is the one on Leonardo's aviation, by Luca Beltrami, which was made part of the official guide of the aviation meeting at Brescia this summer.

The writer who may be called the voice of the Maremma, Antonio Palmieri by name, has written another volume of his Poe-like stories of that malaria poisoned section, called "I Racconti della Lupa." Among new books of gossip interest are "First Appearances of Celebrities," by Marchesa Gino Mondelli, and "An Actress and Victor Emmanuel II," by Italy's William Winter, the famous "Jarrow." The latter book has made almost a sensation, the newspapers devoting columns to a review of its pages in which move in absorbing procession all the great actors in the Risorgimento. Laura Bon was an actress of surprising beauty, born to be adored of a king and to be entrusted by him with a secret mission to the Austrian marshal Benedek. Her life, as told by Treves, makes a book so fascinating that the "Corriere della Sera" reviewer, Ugo Oletti, a leading critic, declares that once begun a book cannot be laid aside until all is read concerning the adventurous life of this bewitching actress.

### NAMES BY TRANSLATION.

American and English writers might find difficulty in recognizing themselves and their books when spelled in Italian. "Cappano dello Zio Tom" by Signora Enrichetta Becker Stowe, and "The Life and Stranger Adventures of Robinson Crusoe of York," by Daniel Defoe are samples.

Writers in Italy, like all other things here, are torn between the past ideas and present progress. At the very moment when Italian authors and writers, in protest against their small returns from publishers, are organizing in Rome to form a society and to some extent to their own publishing houses, in the same city, a writer is refused the Sacrament for being seen on the street in company with her old friend, Don Murri, the excommunicated Modernist. This connection, it may be of interest to know that Italian authors largely pay publishers to bring out their works and their chief chance of money is from an English translation.

### OTHER INTERESTING BOOKS.

Other books of interest, announced for November, are "Napoleonic Legends" by Matilde Serao, "Roman Legends" by Gabrielle d'Annunzio, "Shakespeare's Italy" by G. B. Suardi, the late Cesare Lombroso's "Researches into Hypnotic and Spiritualistic Phenomena" and "Tuscan until Fall of the Empire" by G. B. Suardi, the latter a conference, exhausting the branch of the history of Tuscan development and manifestation, by such writers as the Florentine criminal lawyer Enrico Ferri, and the jurisprudence of his day and Arthur Ljaker, who gives the history of Florence's famous library founder, P. Boccaccio. The publisher of this last book is Barbara of Florence.

### WRITERS OF FLORENCE.

One side of Italian literary life concerns itself with the foreign pens in its midst and to discuss them one must turn to Florence. In this city, where dwells the largest number of exotic writers outside Paris, Mr. Algar Thorold, author of "Six Masters of Disillusion," etc., the nephew of the editor of London "Truth," Mr. Henry Labouchere, has assumed editorship of an English sheet published in Florence. Heretofore, it has been only the usual gossip continental hotel sheet of the Anglo-American colony. Mr. Thorold proposes to make it literary. The second number contained a statement by Dr. Bode, who has been in Florence, concerning his purchase of the wax bust bought by him as a veritable Leonardo. An article by him in Florence discusses Dr. Bode's position, and the interest excited sold the edition out in a few hours.

### ANGLO-SAXONS ABROAD.

The English and American writers living in Florence are lacking neither in reputation nor numbers. On the hillslope from Fiesole overlooking the city in villas live Mr. Thorold, Bernard Benson, the renowned Behren, and Vernon Lee, all critics. Near by Mrs. Lee-Hamilton, widow of Eugene Lee-Hamilton, the poet, writes her novels as "Annie Holworth." In Florence proper dwells Miss Helen Zimmern in her apartment with its beautiful roof garden. In the artists' quarter William de Morgan lives, where Miss Maud Crutwell also spends part of her time, and scattered everywhere in villas, apartments, pensions, are dozens upon dozens who work as translators, newspaper correspondents, or writers on Italian subjects, past or present. The English and American writers, coming and going from library or art galleries and departing from Florence with completed manuscripts.

EVA MADDEN.

## Revival of Celtic Learning Aided By Scholars of Europe.

Great Celtic Congress to be Held in Brussels Next Year—Excavators at Tara Hope to Make Important Discoveries—Ancient Home of High Kings of Ireland.



Palais des Academies at Brussels.

(Special Correspondence.)

RUSSELS, Dec. 14.—To the revival of Celtic learning, which is the most notable feature of Welsh and Irish life of the present day, is due the rise of a great Pan-Celtic movement on the continent of Europe. Continental peoples, who called themselves Latins or Teutons, are beginning to remember with pride their origin in the great and glorious race which formerly dominated the whole of western Europe.

All over the continent of Europe Celtic literature is now studied, not as the product of an archaic tongue, but as a living and glowing force which races possessing the Celtic strain must comprehend and utilize for the development of their own powers. In like manner the study of Celtic history and archaeology has been taken up in earnest as something quite as necessary as the study of the history and art of Greece and Rome.

The German, French and Spanish scholars who are most occupied with Celtic studies, naturally turn their eyes towards Ireland, the pre-eminent Celtic land, for the elucidation of every point in the development of Celtic genius and Celtic civilization. Taking advantage of the general interest, and of the sympathy of Europe, a group of Irishmen, resident on the continent, founded last year a Celtic union with the object of uniting representatives of every Celtic nation in a common effort for the advancement of the Celtic cause. Brussels was chosen as the headquarters of the Celtic union, because there the readiest welcome is given to societies formed for racial advancement and for the spread of knowledge.

### BELGIANS ARE CELTS.

The Belgians are among those who boast their Celtic descent. One-half the population of the country, the Walloons, is purely Celtic; the other half, the Flemish, though claiming to be of Teutonic origin, admits a large admixture of Celtic blood in their sympathies. Walloons and Flemings alike have entered into the spirit of the Celtic movement. The Belgian government looks on it with favor, and the new Celtic union, known on the continent as L'Union Celtique, has obtained its official patronage for a great Pan-Celtic congress which it has arranged to hold in Brussels during the holiday season of 1910.

The Celtic association, a union of Irish, Scotch, Welsh, Breton, Manx and Cornish Celts, presided over by Lord Castletown of Upper Ossory, in Ireland, has accepted the invitation of L'Union Celtique to co-operate in organizing the Celtic congress. The association already has held Celtic congresses in Dublin, Edinburgh, and Carnarvon, each of which was a success, and it is anticipated that the congress of Brussels will be a still greater success than any Celtic congress which has been held up to the present time. L'Union Celtique which will organize its sittings, with the assistance of the Belgian government, which has placed one of the Brussels palaces at its disposal, does not mix in the war of sects. It makes no political profession; but it realizes that all living movements must be national, and it will give full play to the great national sentiments of every Celtic nation represented at the congress.

### HISTORICAL EXHIBITION.

In addition to the congress it is organizing a great Celtic historical exhibition to be held in Brussels in 1910, as a separate, but a chief part of the Brussels international exhibition of that year. The Belgian government again coming to its aid, its exhibits will be placed in a separate, fire-proof building. This exhibition will be the first purely Celtic exhibition ever held. It will be illustrative of the development

of Celtic civilization and of the Celtic character. The greatest relics of Celtic art, the most interesting exhibits connected with Celtic history will be gathered together at it. The splendid illuminated manuscripts of Ireland and the fine examples of Celtic goldsmiths' work from that country will be shown, as will the arms and armor of Irish chiefs, and the portraits of Irish heroes, from Brian Boroiome, whose portrait will be brought from the County Clare home of his O'Brien descendants, to O'Connell, and to men of Irish blood who won distinction for themselves by their bravery on American battlefields.

A special feature of the exhibition will be the section devoted to the Irish in the United States, in which all that is possible will be exhibited illustrative of their achievements there in every branch of learning and industry, in religion, in science, in law, in the state service, civil and military, and in commerce.

The exhibition will be illustrative in a like manner of Scotland, Wales, and every other Celtic land. During it special concerts of Celtic music will be given. Irish jigs and Scottish reels will be danced, and Celtic subjects will be the theme of lectures.

### EXCAVATION OF TARA.

The congress will be attended by Celtic scholars, as well as by Celtic patriots. Before them reports will be laid showing how far L'Union Celtique has advanced in its great archaeological enterprise—the excavation of Tara.

Tara became the seat of the monarchs of Ireland in the dawn of history. The Ard-Righs—high kings—of Ireland had lived and held their courts there for centuries when Patrick came to Ireland. The royal city reached the height of its glory in the third century of the Christian era, a period quite within the limits of authentic Irish history. Elaborate descriptions of the city as it stood at that time and, later, at the time of Saint Patrick's coming, are given in the ancient Irish manuscripts, and these descriptions are proved to be correct by the surveys made of the foundations of the great buildings on the hill.

Tara is a small but conspicuous hill, rising almost perpendicularly out of the great plain of Meath. Its top is spacious and level. On its highest point stood the great Rath of the kings, surrounded by a stone wall which tradition says was built by the Fir-Bolgs, the Celtic race which settled in Ireland in the very dawn of history. Stones of that ancient fortification still stand on Tara on the spot where they were originally placed, but the rest of the enclosure, the Rath na Righ, on the summit of Tara hill. The external dimensions of the Rath na Righ are 562 feet. Within it stood the House of Cormac, the Rath na Righ, or Judgment Hall, the mound of the Cow; the mound of the Hostages, and the La Fail. Cormac, who built the royal residence within the Rath, lived in the beginning of the third century. Of his palace the chronicles say "in the highest place of the city the king had a fair and well built castle; in that castle he had a fair hall and spacious and in that hall he was wont to sit in judgment."

### EARTHEN MOUNDS.

The mound of the Cow is a circular hillock, six feet high, and 40 feet in diameter. It is supposed to have got its name from the cow Glas, which belonged to the smithsmith, who succeeded the Fir-Bolgs in the supremacy of Ireland, and was itself succeeded by the Milesians, from whom most of the existing Irish families claim descent. The mound of the Hostages, another circular earthen mound, lies to the northeast of the Rath. On it, it is believed, stood the building in which Cormac lodged the hostages whom "he brought from every fortress" when he made a visitation of Ireland, "and exhibited at Tara."

### TRUE LIA FAIL.

Beside the mound of the Hostages stood the celebrated coronation stone, the Lia Fail. This stone still stands at Tara. It has been removed a short distance from its original position, to the center of the Rath, to mark the grave of the "Croppies" who were killed

there in 1798. Irish antiquarians reject the Scottish tradition which says that the Irish coronation stone, the Stone of Fate as it is called, was conveyed in the fifth century from Tara to Stone. They will not admit that the stone brought from Stone to Westminster, and now placed in the coronation chair of the English kings, is the Lia Fail. That stone is of granular limestone, and must have been brought from a distant place, either Irish or foreign, to Tara, for no granular limestone is found in the locality.

### GREAT BANQUETING HALL.

The greatest of the many buildings which the Irish monarchs erected on Tara was the Banqueting hall, an immense building in the shape of a ship. Its length according to the measurements of its foundations made by the cartographers for the Ordnance survey of Ireland, was 750 feet and its breadth 90 feet. These must have been the dimensions of the hall, the chambers attached to it. Of the banqueting hall itself, the Book of Glendalough says: "Three hundred feet is its measurements, six times five cubits its habitation of the king, king over Erin, three times 50 indahs (bedrooms) in it, 50 heroes with swords in each indah of these. Great was the hall, the chambers, the glittering of gold on their weapons. Seven cubits without any springiness was the measure of the hall. Seven, also, fair chandeliers of brass. Twice seven doors of doors. It was the law of that king to drink before that host should drink. Great was the drinking in that hall. Fifty noble lawgivers, 50 also truly fine festive companions, with 40 chief distinguished heroes, 30 heroes standing up to attend on the warlike king while he was feasting, that no mischief should befall him. Three hundred cupbearers distributed wine, three times 50 indahs of wine, were of pure strong carbuncle (garnet) of gold or of silver all."

At great length, in prose and verse, the chronicle enumerates and describes the retinue and the guests of the king, and the entertainment provided for them. A thousand chiefs were entertained in the banqueting hall, 7,500 soldiers, the body guards of the chiefs, were housed about the hall: "Fifty above a thousand" was the number of the king's household.

### ST. PATRICK'S VICTORY.

Near the banqueting hall was the Rath of Laoghaire, the monarch who ruled at Tara, when Saint Patrick preached there and gained a great victory for Christianity over Druidism, on Easter Saturday 432 A. D. In the time of Laoghaire the Rath was covered with habitations; the palaces of the king, the chiefs and the Druids crowded the hill top and the sides of the hill were covered by the dwellings of the artificers, the traders, the huntsmen, and all the following of the court. Tara continued to be the richest city and the most important spot in Ireland until the year 662, when it was abandoned, on the death of Dornid, a monarch who had incurred the anger of the church because of his violation of the right of sanctuary, and in whose lifetime Tara was cursed by Saint Ruadh.

### TARA'S TREASURES.

From the time of Dornid until the present day no attempt has been made to unearth the rich treasures which lie on the hill of Tara. How rich these treasures are can be guessed not only from the descriptions given in the ancient records, but by the finds which have been turned up by chance on the hill. These include magnificent gold ornaments, such as the torques found in 1810 on a mound near the churchyard, where they must have lain for more than fourteen hundred years.

The excavations of the Celtic Union, which are to be carried out in a scientific manner, by sectional tunneling, will interfere in no way with the ancient landmarks on the hill, or the graves on its top. They will bring to light, it is believed, many relics of the earliest ages: spears, swords, shields, and domestic vessels such as the pagnas buried with their dead, as well as arms and ornaments dating from Christian times. It is believed that much will be unearthed which will elucidate the early history of Celtic civilization, much dating from the interesting period when paganism gave place to Christianity, and much illustrative of the finest period of true Celtic art.

In the work on Tara the aid of the American and European scholars will be given. The profit will be Ireland's first, but all the world will share it. Cardinal, Archbishop of Armagh and Malines, The Earl of Dunraven, a great Protestant noble, is its president, and a descendant of O'Connell its honorary secretary. JOHN DE COURCY MAC DONNELL.

## Port Arthur Scapegoat Now in Tea Business

(Special Correspondence.)

S. PETERSBURG, Dec. 13.—From commanding a fortress to selling tea is a long stretch. After being shut up in Port Arthur, made a hero of, disgraced at a moment's notice, accused of treachery, and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a fortress almost within earshot of the imperial palace, ex-Gen. Stoessel has made a plucky attempt to retrieve his fortunes by entering a large firm of tea merchants in Moscow. If rumors are to be believed, he is far more successful in commerce than he was in his military career in Manchuria.

And yet Gen. Stoessel could not have been a bad soldier, for he rose from the ranks, and that is harder in Russia than anywhere else. Many disliked him, but he was treated as a hero. The intrigue had much to do with his being hauled over the coals about the surrender of Port Arthur. Indeed, many people think that Russia has treated her old soldiers badly. Gen. Alexieff, who was commander-in-chief at the front during the Japanese war, has been tried recently and sentenced to fines and imprisonment. Gen. Kurapatkin, who held the same position, has been publicly censured. Admiral Nebogoff shared Gen. Stoessel's fate; the officers of his squadron have been tried and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and of course dismissed from their respective services. They were put in the fortress of St. Peter and Paul, which was built in the reign of Peter the Great, and has a cathedral attached to it where all the emperors, empresses and grand dukes and duchesses since Peter the Great are buried. The port allotted to prisoners is not, naturally, shown to the public, but it looks towards the Neva and the never side of the city.

Each of the prisoners had a large, bright room, which was warm and dry. Before their windows stretched the river, across which stand the Winter palace, the foreign embassies, and the admiralty. Even the fact that they could enjoy the finest view in St. Petersburg afforded them but little consolation. The ex-general's room contained a cane bedstead with a thin mattress, a large table before the window, a smaller table against the wall, a few chairs, a cupboard for clothes and a washing stand, and a day bed. The windows were covered with iron railings fixed in crisscross fashion, and the entrance to that part of the building was guarded day and night.

### LIFE IN PRISON.

At 8 o'clock in the morning the wardens enter with tea and newspapers, as these two warriors were not political prisoners they were allowed to do things which generally are tabooed in prison. They were permitted to read no fewer than four newspapers a day, but General Stoessel, who is not a very cultured man, used to declare that one was quite enough for him—and he took nearly the whole day to get through it. At 1 o'clock luncheon, consisting of soup and meat, was served. The food was extremely monotonous, but both

prisoners said the quality was good. After luncheon each took a little walk in the fortress garden, closely guarded by soldiers. While the sailor did not care for this form of exercise, the ex-commander of Port Arthur used to look forward eagerly to the break in the monotonous day. At 5 o'clock a light meal was served. It generally consisted of omelette and billy, a kind of pancake though very much thinner than what is generally known as such. Tea was served at 9 o'clock, and this concluded the day's menu. As they were allowed to keep the lamps burning as long as they liked both prisoners read till late in the night. Neither could sleep very well.

Twice a week they were allowed to see visitors, the first visitor being confined to their wives, but at the second one, friends and relatives were admitted. They attended the famous fortress cathedral on great feast days, when, however, the public were not admitted. Twice a month, each was allowed to use the fortress bath, where they were overhauled and disinfected. Though, as can be seen, both were as well treated as prisoners could expect to be, they soon became shattered in health. The ex-general, for example, could not eat, and complained of pains round the heart. From the very beginning it was thought that their sentences were over severe, and influential friends pleaded for them at the court. Their efforts were crowned with success, for after 25 months imprisonment they were pardoned by the czar, on his birthday, last May. There was something pathetic about their release. General Stoessel attended service in the fortress church in which he had stood so many times as a prisoner, and, escorted by his friends and relatives, drove home in a motor car. His comrade, unobserved and alone, walked out of the precincts and across the road, where he got into a tramcar.

### ENTERS BUSINESS.

When his friends used to visit him in the fortress, the general's future was much discussed. A public career was his dream. The state of his finances had been declining from year to year. The trial had been very expensive and his debts, since the war, were said to be over two and a half millions. The general's friends, however, seemed to stare him in the face when some friends came forward and offered to help him if he decided to go into business. After much debate he said he would enter the tea trade, in spite of his trial he has many well-wishers in Russia—indeed, his sentence was a most unpopular one—and the general's opinion is that he will retrieve his fortunes altogether.

General Stoessel is not the only Russian ex-official who is doing well. M. Lopukhine, the former police chief, who was exiled to Siberia for being too friendly with the revolutionaries, is in a fair way to become a millionaire. He has acquired platinum mines, and is planning the organization of a banking concern, being allowed a full freedom of a military prisoner on parole.

M. Lopukhine has the support of a powerful Moscow financier, who gives to him the life of his son. When M. Lopukhine threatened the department of police then a young man in question, who was then a student, was discovered to be mixed up with the revolutionaries, and a warrant for his arrest was issued. Had the arrest been effected, there is little doubt that the student would have pronounced sentence of death, but the police chief sent the father a warning, and the son was able to escape from the country.

The financier, in his gratitude, promised to help M. Lopukhine in whatever way he might ever be able to do so, and is now fulfilling his promise.

ANNE HASON TREVOR.

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