Literature

POEMS EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW.

THE ROSE-COLORED GLASS.

Once, when a child, I found somewhere
A piece of clear red glass,
And when I looked through it, it brought
A miricle to pass:

The dull old earth and clouded sky
Became most wondrous bright,
And trees and flowers and everything
Rejoiced in rosy light.

And through the years of later life
Some happy folk I've known
Who'd found the magic of the glass
And made it all their own;

Some happy folk for whom the sun
Still shone on cloudy days,
For whom the flowers would always spring
Along the stony ways;

Brave-hearted folk who yet could smile
When troubles closely crept,
Who ever had a word of cheer
For those who sighed or wept;

Dear folk whom it was good to know,
Who made the dull grow bright,
And shed about their way on earth
A rosy heavenly light.

And oft I think how good a time
'Twould surely bring to pass,
If all of us could look on life
Through their rose-colored glass!

—Charles Stewart Pratt in March Housekeeper.

TRODDEN HARD.

Three thousand years or more ago
King Solomon, both sage and bard,
Observed a fact he noted thus:
"The way of the transgressor's hard."

The question why is oft discussed,
But the solution seems complete:
The sinner's way is hard because
It's trodden by so many feet!

—Smart Set.

NOTES.

The recent death of Miss Sarah Chauncey Woolsey, better known as Susan Coolidge, at Newport, R. I., at the age of seventy, removes another favorite author of stories for young people, whose books, like those of Louisa M. Alcott's will be read by boys and girls of the second and third generation. "The Katy-Did" books, the first of which was published in 1872, have enjoyed widespread popularity, a new new edition being printed annually to supply the demand. Her publishers, Little, Brown & Co., were anticipating a new book from her, the first for many years, when the news of her sudden death was received.

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Miss Lilian Whiting sailed for Italy before her new book, "The Outlook Beautiful,' was published, to secure additional material for a more elaborate volume, to be called "The Florence of Landor." Miss Whiting has been spending the winter in Washington, where she has been the recipient of many social honors. "The Outlook Beautiful," just published by Little, Brown & Co., is a book after the nature of her well-known "World Beautiful," series, and, therefore, appeals to a large audience.

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Miss Lily Dougall, author of the new mystery story, "The Summit House Mystery," which is rapidly passing from one edition to another, tells some interesting facts concerning its conception. She says, "A story which contained some of the main incidents here depicted was once told me by a venerable lawyer in one of the American cities of the Atlantic seaboard. Afterwards I made a four months' stay in those regions of wonderful beauty described in this book, and, wanting a plot which would work in with those alternating moods of nature—the gloom the awesomeness, the sylvan delight, and above all, the aspects of victorious calm—that distinguished mountain scenery from that of our everyday levels, the legal problem, which had taken strong hold upon my imagination, seemed to suggest a drama suited to the stage and scenery. The story, except its ending, was accordingly written. My final difficulty was that I could not find a solution to tally with my characters, and it was some years later that I woke up one morning among the Welsh mountains with the discovery of the last chapters clearly in my mind." She adds that "no one need think himself dull if he does not guess a conclusion which it took me half a dozen years to discover."

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"The Summit House Mystery," has already reached its fifth edition, although published only a few weeks. The first edition was sold within a few days after publication, the second edition within a week after the first, the third edition before it could be delivered from the bindery, and the fourth about a week lated. The enthusiasm of the reviewers is being justified by events.

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Clara Morris, the famous actress and author, has done much good in an unpretentious way. Her wonderful little story, "The Trouble Woman," published in book form by Funk & Wagnalls company, is a true expression of her own creed. "I'm a firm believer in the law of compensation," she said in a recent interview. "All my life I have been willing to do for others, and I find abundant return. My greatest successes have come through my labors for charity. I first played 'Camille' for charity—indeed, I never would have acted the part for any other purpose, but after the beginning I could not get away from it. I drifted into my literary work by writing a short story for a paper published at a charity bazar, and I sometimes think that my labors in this direction have been a more sincere satisfaction to me than anything in my stage career. I know it makes me as happy to make people feel through written words as it ever did to move them by spoken words. But all this brings me back to my original proposition. I have cast a few crumbs on the waters, and ,oh, how many loaves have come back!"

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The works of Leo Tolstoi have been translated into 38 languages, often appearing under fake titles and in fragmentary form. Frequently whole pages have been interpolated which he never wrote, while in other instances, sections of his work have been cut out. The edition of his complete works in 26 volumes now in course of publication by Funk & Wagnalls company has Tolstoi's entire approval. He has co-operated with the translators, Louis and Aylmen Maude, and has highly commended their work. With reference to his work "What Is Art?" the omissions and alterations made by the Russian censor so incensed the author that he wrote in the preface of Mr. Maude's translation, "The book appears now for the first time in its true form. More than one edition has already been issued in Russia, but in each case it has been so mutilated by the censor that I request all who are interested in my views on art only to judge of them by the work in its present shape.

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Mary Imlay Taylor, the author of "My Lady Clancarty" and other romances should write plays, according to Mrs. Leslie Carter. Having read "My Lady Clancarty," this well-known actress wrote the publishers, Little, Brown, & Co., as follows:

"I have received the book, 'My Lady Clancarty,' which you were good enough to send me, and I have read it with a great deal of interest. It is beautifully written, and the story is most fascinating. Why does not the authoress try her hand at the play? She would seem to have the ability for that form of writing."

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Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons will shortly produce a volume from the pen of Mr. Henry Wellington Wack, treating of The Romantic Attachment of Victor Hugo and Juliette Drouet. Recently Mr. Wack, while staying in Guernsey, had the good fortune to discover a budget of letters addressed to the great French poet by Juliette Drouet. Conscious of the intense interest taken by admirers of Hugo in the liaison which constitutes the dominant fact in the life of the king of romance, Mr. Wach has embodied Madame Drouet's letters in an interesting sketch of Victor Hugo's life at Guernsey, where the master's long exile was spent, and the scene of his most active literary period. These love-letters, which are about to be given to the world for the first time, are the missives which inspired so many of the Hugo letters published in France. The significance of Mr. Wack's discovery is recognized in France, and M. Francois Coppe has written an introduction to the book, incidentally revealing many interesting anecdotes of Hugo and his literary confreres. While in Guernsey, Mr. Wack made the acquaintance of many people who were personally intimate with Hugo and obtained from them much information concerning the domestic life of the poet which was in danger of escaping record. The book, which is charmingly printed and profusely illustrated, is a valuable contribution to the history of French literature, and brimful of interest to the general reader.

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A new volume of poems by Paul Laurence Dunbar, the negro poet, has just been issued by Messrs. Dodd, Mead & company. "Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadow" is the title of the volume, which will be uniform in size with "Lyrics of Lowly Life," "Lyrics of the Hearthside," and "Lyrics of Love and Laughter."

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In writing her book "The Girl from Home," Mrs. Isabel Strong had not only such valuable experience as she must have gained as amanuensis for her stepfather, Robert Louis Stevenson, but the good effects of vigilant and critical attention to her work on the part of her brother, Lloyd Osbourne, of her son Austin Strong, in whose one-act play Francis Wilson has had recent success, and of Mrs. Frank Norris, whose critical discernment had already been of valuable assistance to the author of "The Pit." What with this friendly grim tribunal and her thorough and affectionate study of Honolulu as it was "when Kalakaua was king," it is little wonder that she has made her story so well wrought and vivid a picture of life on the "Island."

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Mabel W. Daniels, the Boston musical composer, and author of "An American Girl in Munich," just published, was the first woman to apply for admission to the score-reading class at the Royal Conservatory, Munich, of which the famous Stevenhagen is director. The secretary of the Conservatory was present when Miss Daniels made her application. The conversation that ensued as reported by Miss Daniels in her book, is as follows:

"There have never been any women in the class. I am right, am I not, Herr Sekretariat?" said Stavenhagen.

"You are right, Herr Direktor," responded the other. He held his hands behind him, and gazed at me as one might at a curious species of animal. I felt I ought to be tagged like those poor creatures at the Zoo: "Rare. From North America."

"Of course," said the director, "because a fraulein never has joined the class is no reason why a fraulein never can."

"Not at all," said the secretary. The gravity of his expression was worthy of a crisis in the affairs of state.

And so, after a whispered consultation, Miss Daniels was admitted.

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The author of the "Yellow War," whose nom de plume "O" is said possibly to conceal Captain James, the well-known war correspondent of the London Times, gives a brief foreword to his book, in which he forestalls any criticism to the effect that his sketches may be the work of some imaginative writer and not of a correspondent on the spot. He says: "The following sketches have been published with the object of giving the layman some glimpses of the true significance of war when two first-class powers come together on sea and land in clash of battle. Of many of the incidents related I have been an eyewitness. For the rest I have dealt at first hand with the actors themselves. Although for the purpose of concealing identity, the nomenclature is fictitious, yet every character in the book represents some living actor in the terrific drama with which I have been intimate during the past year."

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"The 26th of the month seems to be a fateful day for me," said George Barr McCutcheon recently. "I was born on the 26th of July and was married on the 26th of September. The other day I was looking over my journal or diary, or whatever you call it. I keep a record of the day on which I begin and end a novel I am writing. Strange as it may seem, I began 'Graustark' on the 26th of December, 'Castle Craneycrow' on the 26th of September, 'The Day of the Dog' on the 26th of October, and 'Beverly of Graustark' on the 26th of November. I was not at any time conscious of this coincidence in dates, and it has startled me into the belief that it has been my lucky day—so far, at least."

LEAVES FROM OLD ALBUMS.

ELDER JOHN HENRY SMITH.

How He Looked When He Was Twenty-five Years of Age.

Old-time friends of Elder John Henry Smith will readily recognize the above photograph. It was taken in the spring of 1874, just prior to his departure for Great Britain on his first mission. He left home in June of that year and returned in August, 1875, laboring in the Birmingham conference during his absence. Elder Smith is now in his 57th year, which would make him a little over 25 years of age at the time the picture above shown was taken.

BOOKS.

Edwin Lefevre whose mystery of the money market, "The Golden Flood," after a successful serial run in McClure's Magazine has just appeared in book form, gives an interesting explanation of the origin of the plot. "The story," he says, "is based upon a pet theory of mine. I believe that the quality of mind—genius you might call it—which makes a man successful in Wall street is practically the same as the quality of mind which makes him successful as a poet, a novelist, or an artist. At bottom it is high-powered imagination, guiding the captain of finance to see new channels for investment that his less capable brothers do not see, in the same way that it leads the great painter to see beauties in nature to which other artists' eyes are blind. The plot of 'The Golden Flood' developed naturally in harmony with this idea. The big capitalists in Wall street are not hopelessly sordid and unromantic; and when young Grinnell came to them and began depositing millions of dollars in gold, he played upon their imaginative faculties. They immediately went further than ordinary men would have gone, and made up their minds that Grinnell was an alchemist and was making the gold. I am confident that had the situation in the book really developed on Wall street some such result as I have worked out would have taken place." Mr. Lefevre has been over six years the financial editor of one of the big New York dailies; and his opinions have behind them the authority of an extremely close study of the financial world and financial magnates of the United States.—McClure Phillips, New York.

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"A Knot of Blue" (Little, Brown & Co., publishers, Boston) is a story of man's fickleness and woman's steadfast, conquering love. The knot of blue was the bow the fair Aimee de Marsay gave to Raoul de Chatignac, the fickle lover, to wear in war, whither he went to regain his self-respect after having been duped by an intriguing woman and a cunning villain. The story amounds in intrigue, adventure, the joy of living and achieving, and it throbs with romantic tenderness. Although not an historical romance in any sense, the scene is laid in that quaint spot where the Old World and the New have met for centuries—Old Quebec—a field in which Mr. Wilson has shown himself a worthy compeer of the best writers of romantic fiction.

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William R. A. Wilson, author of "A Knot of Blue," is a native of Central Illinois, a graduate of Williams college, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia university. After practising successfully as a physician, he abandoned his profession for literary pursuits and travel. His previous book, "A Rose of Normandy," published two years ago, is now in its 7 edition.

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The Funk & Wagnalls company, New York and London, announces that the long awaited Standard Encyclopedia is at last in course of preparation. Preliminary announcement of the work was made to the press several years years ago, soon after the completion of the great Standard Dictionary. Then came the immense twelve-volume Jewish Encyclopedia, and active work on the Standard Encyclopedia was deferred until the Jewish Encyclopedia should be well on toward completion. Nine volumes are now published; the tenth is announced for May 15, and the two remaining volumes will be ready before the end of the year. This will enable the publishers to bend all their energies to the work of making and publishing what they promise shall be the greatest and most perfect encyclopedia of universal knowledge ever made. Their well known achievement with the Standard Dictionary gives unquestionable weight to their promises for the new work. None familiar with the perfect Dictionary, which in so short a time has earned in every civilized land the acknowledged right to its name—Standard—will doubt that the same enterprise and the same intelligence will produce the Standard Encyclopedia and make it, too, worthy of its name. Neither time nor money, the publishers declare, will be spared to accomplish this result. It will be to things what the Standard Dictionary is to words. It will be up to date. It will be made wholly by specialists, the highest authorities in every branch of human knowledge being made its editors regardless of expense. It will be all-inclusive, both as to subject and as to thoroughness of treatment. It will be most easy to consult; indeed, this feature will be a distinctive one. The thing a man wants to know at once will be the thing he finds first and easiest. The illustrations will be all that the most critical can wish and will be prepared primarily for the purpose of information. The maps will be made and adequate, a thing never yet achieved in American Encyclopedia making. The Funk & Wagnalls Standard Encyclopedia will be, in short, the standard universal reference work for the masses, and the scholars, the workers, and the dilettant, for all of high or low estate, old or young, who want to know. Funk & Wagnalls company do not promise what they can not fulfill.

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A man steps into your office, draws up his chair, and talks right into your face. His breath is offensive. Your only thought is how to get rid of him and his business. You cut him short with, "I am not interested."

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WHAT THE BEST MAGAZINES CONTAIN.

Ainslee's for June will amply satisfy the anticipation with which this magazine is awaited every month by its rapidly increasing number of readers. "The Outgoing of Simeon," by Elizabeth Duer, is the novelette; it is a genuine love story, but one of the unhackneyed sort. Its plot is original, but plausible, and it contains a number of intensely dramatic situations. David Graham Phillips continues his great serial, "The Deluge," in in which he has, in the person of Matthew Blacklock, consummated one of the finest pieces of character drawing in modern fiction. Holman F. Day and Emerson G. Taylor supply the humor of the number in their stories, "Plug Ivory and 'Plug Avery" and "Green Devils and Old Maids," respectively, the latter, as may be guessed from its title, being an automobile story. Robert E. MacAlarney has a strongly dramatic story in "Supper With Natica," which is treated in a somewhat unusual manner. Two extremely pretty love stories are "By the Fountain," by Margaret Houston, and "Love and Mushrooms," by Frances Wilson. An exciting and intensely dramatic racing story is "The Blood of Blink Bonny," by Martha McCulloch-Williams. "Bas Beau," by Anna A. Rogers, is an amusing story of conjugal misunderstandings. A strong society story, describing some social problems, is "The Flatterer," by George Hibbard. A delicious short story is "Concerning the Heart's Deep Pages," by Sewell Ford, who contributed the novelette, "Cherub Devine," to the February number. Susan Sayre Titsworth has a bright, sparkling bit of fiction in "The Doing of the Lambs," which will have to be read to decide whether it is a story of Wall street operations.

A significant feature is an essay on "Americans in London," by Lady Willshire, who is a prominent figure in London society.

The poetry is contributed by Charlotte Becker, Theodosia Garrison, Philip Gerry, William Hamilton Hayne, Madison Cawein and Charles Hanson Towne.—Ainslee Magazine Co., New York.

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Two complete novels, five serials and nine short stories make up the contents of the June Popular Magazine—surely an imposing array of fiction for a dame. The novels are: "The Blucher of Wheat," by Howard Fitzallan, and "The Isle of St. Anthony," by George Bronson-Howard. The serials are by H. Rider Haggard, H. G. Wells, Andrew Comstock McKenzie, Richard Marsh and Louis Joseph Vance. A new serial, "The Private War," begins in this issue, and, judging by the opening chapters it will prove both uncommon and uncommonly good. Leigh Gordon Giltner George Gibbs, Herbert Thompson, Chas Steinfert Pearson, Louis Tracy and others contribute the short stories. It is an exceptionally good number.—Street & Smith, New York.

Shakespeare Suffered From Insomnia, Says Churton Collins

OUR LONDON LITERARY LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, May 10.—Of the making of theories about Shakespeare there is no end, and the latest person of real prominence to weave one is Prof. Churton Collins, who thinks that the bard suffered from Insomnia.

"He must," says this eminent Shakespearean authority, in a magazine article just published, "have been distressingly familiar with the tortures of this malady. Time after time his characters are made to refer to the agonies of sleeplessness and the blessings of repose. To say nothing of the famous lines in 'Macbeth,' and of the two great soliloquies in the second part of 'Henry IV,' and in 'Henry V,' what is Margaret's curse on Richard III:

No sleep close up that deadly eye of thine.

"What is Iago's first exclamation after he has wrecked Othello's peace of mind?

Not poppy, nor mandragora,
Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world,
Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep
Which thou owedst yesterday.

"What is Friar Laurence's instructive comment when Romeo comes to visit him in the early morning?

Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,
And where care lodges sleep will never lie;
But where unbruised youth with unstuff'd brain,
Doth couch his limbs—there golden sleep doth reign.

"What says Brutus as he bends over the sleeping boy Lucius in 'Julius Caesar?'

Enjoy the honey-heavy dew of slumber:
Thou hast no figures nor no fantasies
Which busy care draws in the brains of men;
Therefore thou sleep'st so sound.

"And how admirably is the state familiar to bad sleepers described in 'Hamlet:'

Sir, in my heart there was a kind of fighting,
That would not let me sleep; methought I lay
Worse than the mutines in the bilboes.

"Again in no fewer than four of the sonnets the pains of sleeplessness are dwelt on," concludes Mr. Collins.

Meanwhile another Shakespearean expert, Sidney Lee, who recently visited the United States, has been voicing the general dismay among students in this country at the rate at which early editions of Shakespeare's plays and poems are going to America. In a speech at Dudley, the other day, Mr. Lee bewailed particularly the unique first quarto of "Titus Andronicus," and the "surpassingly rich library" of the late Mr. Locker Lampson, recently acquired by a New York dealer. Never in the history of English book collecting, the speaker declared, had Great Britain lost suddenly and secretly such a treasure of Shakespeareana. Before the officers of any public institution like the British museum or the Bodleian library, before any private English collector had any suspicion of their impending fate, these Rowfant volumes crossed the Atlantic, never, in all probability, to return.

"While we admire the superior enterprise of the American collector," said Mr. Lee, "we cannot but grieve over the insensibility of our own rich men, who allow these heirlooms to leave our shores without making any effort to retain them here."

Mr. Lee also had a shot at George Bernard Shaw, in reply to some more than commonly irreverent things which the author of "Man and Super-Man" has been saying about the bard of late. Lee declared that Shaw's inversions of the commonplace and portrayals of sentiment upside down were in his own plays most refreshing. But when he publicly asserted that "As You Like It" was romantic nonsense, and that he had written very much better plays himself, the Shakespearean authority said one could only recommend Mr. Shaw to ponder Bacon's observation that "Vain glorious men are the scorn of wise men, the admiration of fools, the idols of parasites, and the slaves of their own vaunts."

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The literary folk here who, like Sidney Lee, deplore the conquests of the "American collector," are delighted at the repulse of some of these gentlemen by the public spirited citizens of Rheims. In this picturesque French city, there stands a mansion known as the Musician's House, which is the only remaining vestige existing in the old city of thirteenth century architecture. The owner recently received an offer of $20,000 for it from an American, whose name is not forthcoming, but who proposed to have the place pulled down, and to transport the chief decorative motives to the United States, where they were to be rebuilt into another house. The owner of the mansion thought the offer too good to be refused, but had the grace to give the city a prior right to the purchase. Englishmen probably would have left the place to its fate, but in France they are attached to their historic relics. Forty thousand francs toward the amount required was raised by a public subscription almost immediately, the state has given a subvention of 30,000 francs, and the municipal council of Rheims has just decided to vote the other 20,000 francs needed to preserve the interesting old building.

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One of the first things that Signor Marconi will do on his return from the United States will be to unveil a tablet which has just been placed on the house in Clifton once occupied by that pioneer of science, Humphrey Davy. The tablet to be unveiled by Marconi will also state the fact that two other famous people are connected with the same house—Thomas Lovell Beddoes, the poet, with whose family Davy lodged, and Beddoes' aunt, Maria Edgeworth.

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I hear that among the unpublished work left by the late Jules Verne is a book entitled, "A Trip to England and Scotland." It has not yet been decided if it will see the light.

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