

CHICAGO IN LETTERS.

Some Notable Writers of the Middle West Metropolis—Miss Florence Wilkinson and Mrs. Reginald De Koven in the List of Literary Women—Chatfield Taylor at Work on a New Volume.

Special Correspondence.

Chicago, June 18.—The breezy, progressive and intensely commercial city of Chicago would hardly be looked upon as a literary center; but, considering the comparative lateness of the year of its existence, this great mart of trade and transportation has produced quite its proportion of men and women who have done things creditable in the realm of letters. They are, of course, not so numerous as are the writers of classic New England and their older communities which have of more time to devote to the pursuit of culture. In that fact a "gaily comic" writer, their work covers a wide range of literature, but fiction seems chiefly to have been the forte of the Chicago writer.

Among the Chicago novelists who are lately coming into prominence and whose work gives promise of a successful career is Miss Florence Wilkinson. Her second novel, "The Strength of the Hills," has been accepted by Harper & Bros. as the September story in the Contemporary American Novel series, which this house is publishing in the month of the present year. "The Strength of the Hills," as its title suggests, is a story of the hill country in the Adirondacks, and is said to be thoroughly characteristic of American life. Her first novel was published two years ago by Herbert S. Stone & Co. under the title "The Lady of the Flag" which attracted especially favorable comment. Miss Wilkinson is also a poet of no little merit, having produced a number of clever short poems, among them the ode delivered at the dedication ceremonies of the Woman's building at the World's fair in 1893. She is likewise doing something in journalism and touched upon the dramatic. E. H. Sothern, the actor, has in his hands a serious drama on "David," which he accepted from her last winter.

Miss Wilkinson is a native of Tarrytown-on-Hudson, N. Y., but has been resident of Chicago for half a dozen years or more. She comes of a distinguished literary and scholarly family. Her father, W. C. Wilkinson, is professor of poetry and criticism in the University of Chicago, and has written a number of books himself.

Another literary woman of promise from Chicago can claim as her own is Mrs. Reginald De Koven, the author of "By the Waters of Babylon," a new novel which is likely to make something of a stir. Though now a resident of Washington, Mrs. De Koven formerly lived in this city, her father being so late Charles B. Farwell, some years ago United States senator from Illinois. H. C. Chatfield Taylor, the author of "The Idle Hour," is now at work upon quite a different kind of novel. It is a story of the Franco-Prussian war, the

result of the most careful study and research. Mr. Taylor is fortunately not afraid of work and he is going into this serious effort with an enthusiasm which should carry him far. Yet he is possessed of a yet delightful sense of humor, which keeps him from taking himself or his work too seriously.

George Ade has transferred his desk from the time to Asheville, N. C., and from there he sends out his witty little "Fables in Slang" to an eager press. On the surface no successful book would seem to be more obviously barred than the novel. Yet several dramatists are seeking the privilege of putting it upon the stage. And if the work were done in the right way it might not make such a bad play after all. There is life enough in its characters to animate any number of theatrical lay figures.

Eugene Field a few months before his death said that his most cherished ambition was to collect the myths and traditions of America—the folklore of the Indians and the white pioneers—and tell the tales again for the glory of the land and its romance. Unfortunately, he did not live to carry out this poetic idea, and no one has yet arisen to claim the laurels he coveted. Yet in "A Child of the Sun" Charles Eugene Banks has rescued at least one of these exquisite romances from oblivion. It is so captivating a story that it makes one wonder if there are other Indian myths of its kind.

George Barr McCutcheon, the author of "Granstar," lately published by Herbert S. Stone & Co. of this city, was born in Indiana and is another of the young dramatists who are making great state famous in letters. He is a journalist. He began as a reporter in 1889, and four years later he became city editor of the Lafayette Morning Journal, a position which he still holds. For three months in his early youth he tried to be an actor, but during his walk home after this experience he was cured of that ambition.

Seven Years in Bed.

"Will wonders ever cease?" inquires the friends of Mrs. S. Pease, of Lawrence, Kan. They knew she had been unable to leave her bed in seven years on account of kidney and liver trouble, nervous prostration and general debility; but, "Three bottles of Electric Bitters enabled me to walk," she writes, "and in three months I felt like a new person." Women suffering from Headache, Backache, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Melancholy, Fainting and Dizzy Spells will find it a priceless blessing. Try it. Satisfaction is guaranteed. Only 50c at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

To save mending, avoid breaking, and to avoid suffering, prevent coughs and colds by the timely use of BALL-LARKIN'S BARKHOOD'S SYRUP. It is a safe, sure and swift remedy for all bronchial ailments. Price, 25 and 50 cents. Z. C. M. I.



The summer is upon us and many of the fairest belles of this city are taking train for mountain, seashore, or lake side. Now is the season of the summer girl and our charming maidens are abroad to lay siege to tender susceptible masculine hearts. At all the summer resorts, inland and by shore you will find her. Without her, vacation time would be a bore and summer life a dreary blank.

THE ISLE OF PINES

One of Uncle Sam's Possessions in the Antilles—Its Strategic Value to the United States—Climate and Medicinal Waters Will Make It a Great Health and Pleasure Resort.

Special Correspondence.

Havana, June 12.—In view of the determination of the United States to hold as its own the Isle of Pines, special attention is drawn to that beautiful island off the southwest coast of Cuba. The Cubans are loath to give it up, but there is a quite general recognition of the right and no question as to the power of the United States to hold it. When the treaty of peace with Spain was ratified, there were ceded to the United States the island of Porto Rico and "other islands" of the West Indies, while Spain simply "relinquished sovereignty" over Cuba. The Isle of Pines is held as one of the "other islands" and not a part of Cuba. According to the Platt amendment it is "not included within the proposed constitutional boundaries of Cuba" and "the title thereof left to future adjustment by treaty." All of which, in plain terms, means that it will be a part of the United States.

Aside from its wonderful resources and marvelous advantages as a health resort, the Isle of Pines is of great strategic value to the United States, inasmuch as it can be made to command the Yucatan channel, leading to the Gulf of Mexico. It will also be invaluable in connection with the Nicaragua canal if built and controlled by the United States.

Spain seems never to have appreciated this little jewel of the tropical seas, though it had been sanctified by the footsteps of Columbus, who discovered it in the summer of 1494, and who described its forest clad hills and mountains as presenting a spectacle of beauty and grandeur. Columbus christened it Evangelista, which is still a favorite name for the island. For many years after this the Spaniards abandoned it to the pirates and bold buccaners who held forth in West Indian waters to the terror of early colonists. Here was their principal headquarters, whence they departed upon their bloody cruises. One of these, the Hajo de Cerro, is still standing. It was the hiding place of their treasure, like the mysterious island of Stephenson. After the banishment of the pirates a few peaceful whites and blacks crossed over from Cuba and settled in little farms, but up to recent times Cuba's Spanish authorities utilized the garden spot as a place of banishment for drunkards, idlers and political prisoners. These were not placed under guard, but turned loose upon the poor farmers.

Today the Isle of Pines can boast of only about 2500 population, though it has an area of 400 square miles, or about half as large as the state of Rhode Island. There are only two small towns on the island—Nueva Gerona, its capital, and Santa Fe, fifteen miles farther inland. To reach them one must sail around to the northern coast, winding in and out the channels between a hundred cays and islets, all green with mangrove thickets. Nueva

Gerona lies three miles from the sea, up the river Chama, and to its wharf comes once a week a small steamer from Havana, the south-north part of its own several miles distant—due to the Santa Fe river, several miles above the Caribbean. Vessels drawing upward of six feet of water cannot approach at any port, because of shallow water over the bar.

The natural resources of the island are important and varied though they are yet almost wholly undeveloped. The soil is extremely fertile, but only a small part of the island is under cultivation. A few of the green valleys are used as cattle ranges. Tobacco and sugar are grown to a limited extent, and pineapples are perhaps the staple product. There has been some trade in woods—Mahogany, pine and cedar—spirits of turpentine, pitch, tar, sulphur, tortoise shell and crystals also are among the products. Silver, quicksilver and iron exist in small quantities and the marble quarries practically are exhausted.

The Isle of Pines is perhaps most important as a prospective health resort and is destined to become a paradise for invalids, especially sufferers from lung, bronchial and throat affections. Medicinal springs abound, the waters of which are very strongly mineralized with oxygen, carbonic acid gases, chlorides of sodium, sulphate of lime, nitrate of lime, iron, magnesia, silica, chloride of calcium and sodium, etc. What other constituents, making a combination not altogether pleasant to take, but abounding in health restoring qualities. The climate is as perfect as one can hope to find this side the Elysian fields, with dry, pure air, cooled by fresh breezes from the nearby ocean, and redolent with the invigorating odor of the pine forests with which the uplands of the island are clad.

Saves Two From Death.

"Our little daughter had an almost fatal attack of whooping cough and bronchitis," writes Mrs. W. K. Haviland, of Armonk, N. Y. "But, when all other remedies failed, we saved her life with Dr. King's New Discovery. My niece, who had Consumption in an advanced stage also used this wonderful medicine and today she is perfectly well." Desperate throat and lung diseases yield to Dr. King's New Discovery as to no other medicine on earth. Infallible for Croup and Colds, 50c and \$1.00 bottles guaranteed by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept. Trial bottles free.

If you are troubled with the most uncomfortable disease called piles, don't neglect it. Don't let the complaint get a firm hold. Every day the disease is neglected it grows worse. Commence at once to use TABLET'S BUCKEYE PILE OINTMENT. The relief is immediate, and cure infallible. Price, 50 cents in bottles, 75 cents. Z. C. M. I.

RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE SEASON

We Shatter all Established Prices and Name Values Heretofore Unheard of. Monday we commence a Sale unparalleled in scope, mighty in proportions and tempting in price. A Money-Saving Opportunity which rarely comes at this season of the year.

Bargains in Buggies



Buggies, nicely upholstered, silk parasol, worth \$10.00. Cut to \$6.95
Buggies, rich designs, fine upholstery, worth \$12.50. Cut to \$8.50
Go-Carts, well made, worth \$11.00. Cut to \$7.80

Bargains in Bookcases



Combination Bookcases, solid oak, worth \$20.00. Cut to \$15.00
Combination Bookcases, solid oak, worth \$25.00. Cut to \$18.50
Combination Bookcases, solid oak, elegant designs, worth \$30.00. Cut to \$26.50

Bargains in Sideboards



Sideboards, solid oak, golden finish, worth \$20.00. \$13.00
Sideboards with rich carving and nicely finished, worth \$30.00. Cut to \$22.50

Bargains in China Closets



China Closets, solid oak, bent glass, worth \$20.00. \$14.50
China Closets, solid oak, golden finish, worth \$25.00. \$16.50

Bargains in Chairs



High back, cane seat chairs, well made, worth \$1.35. 85c
Cane seat, nicely carved and finished, worth \$1.75. \$1.20

Bargains in Folding Beds



Mantel Folding Beds, golden finish, with best of spring, worth \$15.00. Cut to \$10.00
Mantel Folding Beds, with mirror top, worth \$12.75. \$23.00. Cut to \$12.75

A Big Cut in Carpets, Mattings, Rugs.

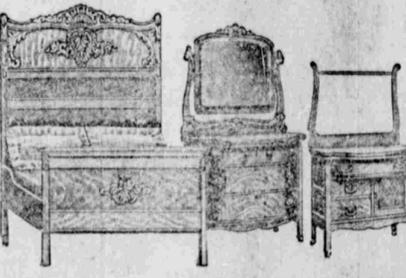


Carpets.
Good Brussels Carpets, 65c worth \$1.00. Cut to \$1.00
Elegant Velvet Carpets, worth \$1.50. Cut to \$1.10
Best all wool Ingrain Carpets, worth \$1.00. Cut to 75c
Good wearing Ingrain Carpets, worth 90c. Cut to 45c

Curtains.
Nottingham Curtains 3 1/2 yards long, worth \$2.00. \$1.25
Cut to \$1.00
Irish Point Curtains, worth \$4.00. Cut to \$2.75

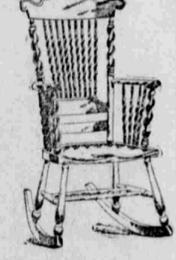
Linoleums.
Good wearing Oilcloth, 35c worth 50c. Cut to 35c
Very heavy Linoleum, worth 60c. Cut to 50c

BARGAINS IN BED ROOM SETS.



Bedroom Sets, 3 pieces, hardwood, well made, worth \$25.00. Cut to \$16.00
Bedroom Sets, solid oak, nicely finished, worth \$35.00. Cut to \$27.00
Bedroom Sets, different patterns, with large French plate mirrors, worth \$50.00. Cut to \$35.50

Bargains in Fancy Rockers



Fancy Rockers, nicely finished, with arms, worth \$3.50. \$1.90
Cut to \$1.50
Fancy Rockers, cobbler seat, worth \$5.00. Cut to \$3.20
Fancy Rockers, rich designs, worth \$4.50. Cut to \$4.50

Bargains in Dressers



Dressers, golden finish, worth \$15.00. Cut to \$9.95
Dressers, with oval French plate mirrors, worth \$16.50. Cut to \$11.75
Dressers, with large pattern French plate mirror, worth \$22.00. Cut to \$16.50

Bargains in Iron Beds



Iron Beds, white enameled, and strong, worth \$4.50. Cut to \$2.95
Iron Beds, new designs, worth \$7.00. Cut to \$4.75
Iron Beds, with rich brass trimmings, worth \$9.00. Cut to \$6.50

Bargains in Desks



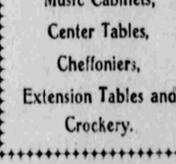
Ladies' Writing Desks, solid oak, worth \$10.00. Cut to \$5.20
Ladies' Writing Desks, fine polish finish, worth \$15.00. Cut to \$9.50

Bargains in Parlor Furniture



Three-piece Parlor Suits, covered in damask, worth \$27.00. \$27.50
Cut to \$25.00
Five-piece Parlor Suits, covered in damask, or velour, worth \$25.00. Cut to \$19.50
Five-piece Parlor Suits, richly carved frames, worth \$45.00. Cut to \$31.50

Bargains in Refrigerators, Music Cabinets, Center Tables, Cheffoniers, Extension Tables and Crockery.



Couches, deep tufted, covered in tapestry, worth \$10.00. \$6.00
Cut to \$5.00
Velour covered Couches, deep tufted, fringe bottom, worth \$15.00. Cut to \$9.75
Rocco frame Couches, covered in beautiful velour, worth \$22.50. Cut to \$16.25

CASH P. W. MADSENS FURNITURE STORE, CASH OR CREDIT.

51-53-55-57 EAST FIRST SOUTH STREET.