

## GOSSIP ABOUT FAMOUS MEN.

NEW YORK, August.—This is a bad year for the summer resort of all kinds. The World's Fair and the hard times combine to keep the people away, and none of the hotels are doing more than half business. Some of the biggest hotels along this Lake are closed, and the assembly grounds have not had their usual crowds. Up to this time the big Chautauqua has had a steady increase every year, and had the conditions been the same as usual there would have been one-third more here this summer than ever before. As it is they will not more than hold their own, and many of the smaller Chautauquas over the United States will be run at a loss. This Assembly, however, is on a sound basis, and it can depend on a good crowd whatever the conditions. It has a big revenue, and it is doing a great work. I chatted last night about it with Dr. T. L. Flood, the editor of the Chautauquan. Said he: "There is no college in the United States that is planted on a firmer foundation than this institution. It has a revenue of one hundred thousand dollars a year, and there are in the United States today about sixty thousand people who are studying our courses. All told over two hundred thousand people have been connected with the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific circles, and we have given diplomas to 30,000. No college of the United States has had so many graduates as that, and the number of students steadily increases. We now have our own text books written for us, and we supply the work for a big publishing house in keeping us in books. It costs only seven dollars a year to engage in our work, and a student can carry on his work at home, and graduate at the end of four years for an outlay of twenty-eight dollars. Two could combine and graduate for \$15 a piece, or three could get in this way a college education for \$10 each."

"How many Chautauquas are there in the United States?" I asked.

"There are sixty different assemblies or summer universities like this. These are scattered from Florida to Maine and from Washington, D. C., to California. The reading circles are found in every town, and the students are of all ages. I met at Baltimore not long ago a man eighty years old who had just completed the course and who told me that he was so pleased with his studies that he had taken up the study of the Greek classics and he sent me a translation of his letter into the Greek to show me how he was progressing."

## A MAGAZINE EDITOR TALKS OF MAGAZINES.

The conversation here turned to the magazine developments of today, and I asked Dr. Flood what he thought of the cheap magazines which have just been started.

He replied, "McClure's magazine is a newspaper magazine, and it may make a place for itself at the price of 15 cents a copy. The reduction of the price of the Cosmopolitan to a dollar and a half a year will, it seems to me, cut down its income without materially increasing its circulation. The class of people who would buy a magazine like the Cosmopolitan is not large enough to make such a price pay, nor is it that class which will let a small difference of price stand in the way of their preferences. The

subscribers of the higher priced magazines, Century, Harper's and Scribner's will not change on the ground of price alone, and the great increase of circulation will have to be built up from outside quarters. The greatest competition that the magazines have today is the Sunday newspapers. It is full of magazine matter, and the larger papers have the ablest of the world's contributors for their Sunday issues."

"How is the Chautauquan doing?"

"Very well, indeed," was the reply. "We have something over 50,000 circulation, and we have steadily grown notwithstanding the fact that Scribner's magazine, and the Cosmopolitan have sprung into existence in the meantime."

## A BIG MANUFACTURER ON THE TIMES.

The Hon. Lewis Miller, of Akron, the head of the big mower and reaper works there, is stopping at Chautauqua. He was one of the originators of this great institution, and he is now its President. I met him here last night, and asked him as to the financial outlook. He replied, "I find times hard every where and the banks are all pressed for money. You cannot borrow money on Government bonds in most of the banks today, and this fact is paralyzing business. Most of our business men are working on credit. They give sixty or ninety day notes, and upon paying these they borrow again to carry on business. The banks have such demands upon them that they refuse to make new loans, and the result is, every one is suffering. The smaller localities are also hurt by the drain of the World's Fair. Akron, Ohio, is not a large place, but it is estimated that \$700,000 have been taken from it and the country near by to Chicago. This, of course, effects us materially."

"Will Congress help us?"

"That is a question," replied Mr. Miller. "I don't believe we will get much relief until the tariff question is settled. No one can do business without knowing just on what grounds he has to do it. The silver question and the tariff must be fixed before we can have financial rest."

## THOMAS EDISON AND THE TARIFF.

Mr. Miller is the father-in-law of Edison, the inventor, and Mrs. Edison is here with her father. I spoke of Edison's shutting up his shops, and asked Mr. Miller what he thought of it. He replied, "Mr. Edison understands himself I think. He is quick to grasp a situation, and he acts quickly. As soon as Mr. Cleveland was elected he shut up his iron works, and began to invent cheaper methods of mining and reduction. He has spent two hundred thousand dollars on this, and he says he proposes to make iron so cheaply that all the free trade of the world cannot compete with him. He has vast iron mines in New Jersey upon which he has already spent a fortune."

## SCHUMACHER, THE OAT-MEAL KING.

"I here asked Mr. Miller about Mr. Schumacher, the oat-meal millionaire, of Akron." He replied: Yes, Mr. Schumacher is living and he is doing a bigger business than ever. He is a German and he has built up an immense fortune by supplying our breakfast tables with ground oats. He came to Akron poor and started into business with a barrel of whiskey. He was peddling this out when the Woman's Temperance Crusade was in progress.

A crowd of women went about breaking up the saloons and throwing the liquor into the streets. When they came to Schumacher he said, "You pay me five dollars for my barrel of whiskey and I will stop my business." They did this and the whiskey was rolled out into the street and emptied. Schumacher then opened a little grocery store. The sympathy of the people was with the reformed whiskey seller and he got trade. Then he began to grind oats and went on until he made a fortune. He is now a strong temperance advocate."

"How did you happen to engage in the Chautauqua work, Mr. Miller?" said I.

"It came through my Sunday school work," was the reply. "I have been interested in Sunday schools for forty years, and many of the modern methods in Sunday schools and their architecture were invented by me. I want to see a broader system of education inaugurated in this country which should be open to all, and my friend Chancellor Vincent and myself talked over the matter together, and out of that grew what is now the great Chautauqua system. It was our idea to make the institution self-supporting and we have accomplished it. It is not a money making scheme in the sense that the people connected with it, make anything out of it, but we aim to make it pay its own expenses, and though it has cost, all told, I suppose in the neighborhood of a million dollars, it is self supporting."

## A NEW STORY OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

One of the six foot school superintendents of the United States is Professor Search, who presides over the schools of Pueblo, Colorado. He is at Chautauqua lecturing on some new methods of education which he has invented. He is an old college mate of mine, and it was while talking of our school days last night that he said:

"I started to go to college with just fifteen dollars in my pocket, and when I reached the school I had only seven dollars left. I worked my way through college and graduated as you know in 1878. Have I ever told you how I came to start?"

"No."

"Well," continued the Professor, "the story is a curious one. I was a poor boy of fourteen. I wanted an education, but I had no idea that a college course was within my reach. I had never thought of it as a possibility, when one day I was studying in the office of the Superintendent of Public Schools of Marion, Ohio, my home, when a big blonde man came in. He asked me what I was studying. I told him. He then asked if I wanted an education. I said 'I did.' He then looked down upon me and put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'No boy is too poor to get an education. All you have to do is to decide that you will have it; and you will get it. Now I want you to think over the matter in your mind and set a day when you will to college, and when the day comes I want you to go. If you have or can save the money, all right, but decide to go whether you have the money or not, and go. You will be able to get along in some way; only go.'"

"Well," continued Professor Search, "these words made a deep impression