

FRANCIS TURNER PALGRAVE has been elected to the Oxford Chair of Poetry. His taste and critical discrimination have long influenced literature. His selection of standard poetry, "The Golden Treasury," published in America by D. Lothrop & Co., occupies the place of a classic among collections.

MR. G. HAVEN PUTNAM, the publisher, sails for Europe on the Arizona on June 1. Mr. Putnam's visit is exclusively on business connected with the house of which he is senior member, his arrangements including the closing of several important literary undertakings into which the firm will enter shortly after his return on August 10.

LAWRENCE SEVERN, an English writer, has brought out a novel entitled "Heaven's Gate": A Story of the Forest of Dean, of which the scenes are laid in and about Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey. The critics who have been permitted to read this in manuscript are enthusiastic in pronouncing it a story of great strength and exquisite style.

THE Villon Society of London have completed arrangements by which they will soon have translated and published a limited edition of "The Decameron" more literal and exact than any rendering that has hitherto been printed. The translation, as usual, will be under the charge of Mr. Payne, who before now has distinguished himself in this branch of literature.

IN answer to a question asked of Messrs. Charles L. Webster & Co. concerning the progress of the Pope's book which they are to publish, their representative, Mr. Hall, said that the work was making satisfactory progress, and that Mr. Webster would sail for Europe on July 1, going directly to Rome. It is hoped that he may receive some of the manuscript, and as soon as possible arrangements will be made for translating it into English.

TOLSTOI literature promises to have several other additions in the shape of translations of the Russian's "Sketches of Sebastopol," upon which Mr. Franklin Pierce Abbott, a Boston literary gentleman, is now engaged. Count Tolstoi was an officer of artillery at the time of the Crimean war, and took part in the defence of Sebastopol. The sketches, three in number, were written by him afterward from memory, and described in a graphic manner the battle and scenes on the field.

IF the number of copies sold of a book may be taken as an indication of its popularity, Mr. F. Marion Crawford's latest novel promises to outstrip any of the author's previous works, over 21,000 copies of "The Tale of a Lonely Parish" having already been disposed of up to the present time. Of "Doctor Claudius" 20,000 copies were sold in all. "Mr. Isaacs" sold steadily up to 30,000 copies, and the cheap paper edition of the novel which the Macmillans are about to publish will, it is expected, add at least 10,000 to that number. Notwithstanding "Mr. Isaacs" selling qualities, the publishers are confident that "The Tale of a Lonely Parish" will exceed them all.

THE numbers of *The Living Age* for May 8th and 15th contain Lloyd's, Artist Life in Rome, Past and Present, and Society in Paris, *Fortnightly*: The Cuckoo, *National Review*: Principal Tulloch, and Moss from a Rolling Stone, *Blackwood*: An Old Schoolbook, and General Readers, by One of Them, *Macmillan*: Soldiering in Jamaica, *Army and Navy Magazine*: Frederick the Great, *Temple Bar*: Aggressive Irreligion in France, and The German Peasantry, *Spectator*: The Close of the Culturkampf, *Saturday Review*: The Lesson of 1686, Paddy and his Landlord, and Fashion in Flowers, *St. James's Gazette*: with instalments of "By the Post Tonga," "This Man's Wife," and "A Diplomatic Victory," and poetry.

THE accuracy employed by book reviewers is not always infallible. This was illustrated in the recent criticism of the translation of Octave Feuillet's "Aliette" by a Boston critic, who, believing himself to be unsurpassed in a knowledge of the French, criticised a translated sentence which stated (pages 106, 107) that "three great mail coaches descended a brilliant company," which, to the mind of the critic represented a gross slaughter of the English language. Unfortunately for the reviewer, however, and fortunately for the translator, no such translated words appear, the paragraph in question setting forth as plainly as type can render it that "three great mail coaches drew up . . . and thence descended a brilliant company."

THE *Nation* seems to be looming up as a school of authorship. Scarcely is Mr. Homer Martin's novel published, when one is announced by her successor in the literary reviewing of that paper, Miss A. R. Macfarlane. The title of the new work is "Children of the Earth," being suggested by Rosencrantz's answering "As the indifferent children of the Earth," to Hamlet's asking him and Guildenstern "How do ye both?" The attempt has been to make a story of ordinary people, swayed by ordinary motives with which all "children of the earth" can sympathize. Whatever "questions" may be touched upon, are presented in the characters and action, and not by any attempt at "subtle analysis" on the author's part. The scenes are laid on the rocky shore of the Nova Scotia, and in social New York.

IN a few days Messrs. T. Y. Crowell & Co. will issue a new work dealing with the present labour troubles by Professor Ely of Johns Hopkins University. Professor Ely has devoted much time to the book, and is especially familiar with the subject in all its phases, having written and spoken already at length concerning the problem. Another volume upon the same subject, also in the Crowell press, is entitled "A Vital Question, or What is to be Done," by Nickolai Garrilovitch Tchermeishevsky, translated from the Russian by Mr. Nathan Haskell Dale. Of course, the problem is looked upon from the Russian point of view. The author is a noted liberalist, who was banished to Siberia for his liberal ideas, and the sale of his book was forbidden. Notwithstanding, however, the volume has been secretly circulated, and it has now just appeared in a German edition.

By arrangements now perfected, Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons have become the authorized publishers of the papers of the American Geographical Society, which has ex-Chief Justice Daly for its president. The publication will consist of all the bulletins issued by the society as well as the more prominent and interesting lectures delivered before its members from time to time. The first of these lectures which the Putnams will bring out is ex-Minister S. G. W. Benjamin's recently delivered address on "Persia and the Persians." And in this latter connection the pleasing fact is given out that Mr. Benjamin has consented to write "The Story of Persia" for the Putnams' series of "The Stories of the Nations." This history of the country with which Mr. Benjamin is so thoroughly conversant will be a careful history of Persia from its beginning to the present day.

THE *Overland Monthly* for May is a springlike number, containing several excellent stories—"In Favilla," a comet story, "Biscaché Bill," a story of the Andes, and a California camp-meeting love story, besides the serial "For Money," which reaches its crisis in this number. The sketches are all local, being of a trouting vacation in the Sierras, of the experiences of the California volunteers of '61, and of the lonely vigil of an Indian woman in Trinity county, who waited for a year alone, almost without food, fire or shelter, at the rendezvous where her slain husband was to have joined her. There are also brief studies of the prison-labour question and liquor license question in California, a ringing

poem of Spanish California, "The Rivals," besides other poems, and the usual excellent reviews, editorials, etc. Among the briefer contributions is one in memory of Doctor Taylor, a remarkable early Californian, by Hon. Horace Davis.

MESSRS. ESTET AND LAURIAT announce an *édition de luxe*, of George Eliot's works, the first fine library edition ever issued. It will contain all the author's novels, essays, and poems, and a biography by the Rev. Geo. Willis Cooke. It will be embellished with a series of proof impressions of entirely original Painter-Etchings and Photo-Etchings. Among the artists who will contribute to the work may be mentioned Frederick Dielman, F. S. Church, Wm. Unger, Will H. Low, J. Wells Champney, George Fuller, H. Sandham, W. St. John Harper, Walter Saterlee, W. L. Taylor, E. H. Garrett, F. T. Merrill, S. A. Schoff, S. G. McCutcheon, J. Henry Hill, and others. The text will be printed from new electrotypes plates made and printed at the celebrated University Press of Cambridge. The paper will be of the finest quality of Parchment Linen Drawing Paper, uniform in size and quality with that of the *édition de luxe* of Carlyle issued by the same firm.

HON. WILLIAM DORSHEIMER hopes to deliver the manuscript of his work on Martin Van Buren for the *American Statesman* series to his publishers, Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., by Aug. 1. The book will be published in the autumn. Governor Dorsheimer finds in Mr. Van Buren an interesting subject in the political history of America, and in his study of the statesman's character special attention will be directed by him to a point in Mr. Van Buren's career frequently overlooked by modern students, namely, that to his influence, more than that of any other single man, the change from congressional caucuses to national conventions was due. The fact that Van Buren may also be said to have been practically the first national nominee of the Democratic party—since Jackson's nomination for the Presidency evoked no contest or opposition—will also be brought forth prominently, as will the author's attribution to Van Buren of much of the modern party methods.

THE *Overland Monthly* announces "Chata and Chinita," a novel of Mexican life, by Mrs. Louise Palmer, to begin in the June number. Mrs. Heaven has been a favorite contributor both to the first series of the *Overland* and to the present magazine. Her contributions have been chiefly stories and sketches of Mexico, a country with which she is familiar from long residence. She does not describe American life in Mexico, but the life of the Mexicans themselves, entering into their point of view. As a story of the inner life of a rich *hacienda*, and the real character of Mexican *senoras* and *senoritas*, it should be more valuable than "Ramona," on account of the much more intimate acquaintance of the writer with the subject. The scene is to be laid in a great, solitary *hacienda*, occupied by the widowed mistress of a proud family, the two *senoritas*, her daughters, and their array of feudal dependants. Chata and Chinita are two children of this community, at opposite extremes of the social scale, yet whose fortunes prove to be curiously crossed by each other's.

DR. STUCKENBERG, of Berlin, opens the May *Andover Review* with a very valuable paper upon "Liberal Education in Germany." Rev. Dr. Van Dyke, of New York, writes suggestively of "A Sturdy Christian," thus designating the religious character of Dr. Samuel Johnston. Dr. Langdon closes his interesting series on "The Possibilities of Religious Reform in Italy" with an article replete with fresh information gained by the author while residing in Italy and in personal relation to some of the leaders of the movement. In the Department of "Biblical and Historical Criticism," Dr. Paul Haupt, the distinguished Assyriologist, presents a new and remarkably spirited translation of a portion of a famous cuneiform inscription now in the British Museum. It recounts a great victory gained by Sennacherib which was immediately followed by the destruction of Babylon. Dr. Haupt prefaces his translation with an historical introduction. This paper is of exceptional critical value, and will interest not only professional scholars, but all students of the Old Testament.

ILLUSTRATING Prof. Edward Morse's piquant article, "Japanese Boys and Girls," F. H. Langren opens the June *Wide Awake* with a charming frontispiece, "Preparing for the Feast of Dolls;" Prof. Morse's article itself is full of naive facts about Japanese children, representing Japan as a paradise for little folks, and the little folks themselves as nearly angelic. Mary Hartwell Catherwood writes the opening story, an exciting tale of the Red Pump Tavern in 1856. Mrs. Brush furnishes a good historical story, of the burning of Corlaer, and Prof. C. B. G. Roberts of King's College, Nova Scotia, has a finely written story of adventure "Bear vs. Birch-bark." E. S. Brooks contributes an historical story, also finely illustrated by Pyle. Mrs. Sherwood in her series, "Royal Girls and Royal Courts," writes about the three Danish Princesses, Alexandra, Dagmar and Thyra, and the Danish Royal household; and, quite curiously, Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont writes in this same number about the royal Danish festivities many years ago, which she attended, in honour of the marriage of the Crown Prince, describing many unique court customs.

THE June number of the *Atlantic Monthly* opens with the second instalment of Mr. William Henry Bishop's striking new serial, "The Golden Justice"; and the number also contains portions of Henry James's very remarkable socialistic novel, "The Princess Casanassina," and Charles Egbert Craddock's brilliant romance, "In the Clouds." Under the title of "A Roman Gentleman under the Empire," Miss Harriet W. Preston gives a charming life-like account of the younger Pliny, and of his times. The short story of this issue, "Valentine's Chance," by Lillie Chace Wyman, is excellent. Mr. Edward Stanwood contributes a paper on American history, entitled "A Glimpse of 1786," and an important critical article on Honoré de Balzac—the man and his books—is written by Mr. George Frederic Parsons of the New York *Tribune*. "James, Crawford, and Howells" form the subject of an able piece of critical writing, and there is a brief criticism of Miss Anne Whitney's statue of Lief Erikson, by the architect Henry Van Brunt. This excellent number is concluded with some good poetry and the usual Contributors' Club and Books of the Month.

THE *North American Review* for June will open with an article by Professor Ely of the Johns Hopkins University on "Socialism in America." It is a lucid, brief explanation of the creed of the German Socialists, and the distinction between them and the Anarchists who have recently caused so much trouble. Gail Hamilton makes a second attack on Professor Sumner in an article entitled "Free Trade in Discussion." General Beauregard continues his account of the "Defense of Charleston," and Donn Piatt gives a very interesting account of the latter days of Secretary Stanton's life. Dorman Eaton has an essay on the collision between the Senate and the President, in which he vigorously assails the Senate and zealously defends the President. Senator Ingalls explains his "New Constitutional Amendment," and a new writer, Jesse Coolidge, assails Howells and his school in an article entitled "Bric-a-brac in Literature." But the most notable article in the number is a symposium, in which Henry Clews, Uncle Rufus Hatch, and Stephen B. Elkins give their views on the "Labour Problem." Mr. Clews maintains the thesis that capital should absolutely rule, while Mr. Elkins, on the other hand, advocates co-operation and profit sharing in an article which, considering his position as a political manager, is exceedingly radical.