

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE Scribners announce that the title of Mr. H. C. Bunner's novel has been again changed from "The End of the Story" to "The Midge," and that it will be published immediately.

A NEW book which is soon to come from the press of Messrs. S. C. Griggs and Company, Chicago, is expected to attract attention among scientists. It presents a new theory to explain solar phenomena, and attacks the generally accepted beliefs. It is to be regretted that the author does not sign his work.

MESSRS. GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS have in preparation a very elaborate and beautiful edition of Goldsmith's "The Vicar of Wakefield." The illustrations have been drawn by French artists, they will be printed in colours in France, and the sheets sent to England and this country, where the text will be printed. The American edition will be ready in August.

WE learn that by request Mr. J. Macdonald Oxley, of Ottawa, has written a paper on the History of the Fisheries Question for the *Magazine of American History*. It will appear at once. Mr. Oxley has a bright, interesting story, "The Professor's Last Skate," in the *May Wide Awake*; and the same magazine has on hand another article of his on the "Birds and Beasts of Sable Island," which will be richly illustrated.

THE series of Sunday evening addresses on the labour question, delivered by Rev. A. J. F. Behrends, D.D., in the Central Congregational Church, Brooklyn, and which have attracted such large audiences and widespread attention, are to be collected and issued in book form by Messrs. Baker and Taylor, of New York. The book will be entitled "Socialism and Christianity," and is to be published within a fortnight.

AT the solicitation of Mr. E. P. Roe, Messrs. Harper and Brothers have sold the plates of "Nature's Serial Story" to Messrs. Dodd, Mead and Company, who publish his other works. The novel first appeared, it will be remembered, in *Harper's Magazine*, but its publication in book form, it is said, was not especially successful. Messrs. Dodd, Mead and Company will also bring out in book form the series of papers "The Home Acre," by Mr. Roe, upon their completion in *Harper's*.

A VOLUME of "Consular Reminiscences" by G. Henry Horstmann is in the press of Messrs. J. B. Lippincott and Company, of Philadelphia. Mr. Horstmann, who was United States Consul at Munich from 1869 to 1880, and later on occupied a similar position at Nuremberg, will embody in the book a series of recollections of his consular terms, and afford interesting glimpses of German life. The same firm will issue a new novel by S. Baring-Gould, entitled "Court Royal."

MR. H. C. BUNNER, who since his marriage has resided in the same apartments formerly occupied by Richard Grant White in Seventeenth Street, New York, has pledged himself to write four short stories for one of the popular magazines during the next fall and winter. One, already completed, is said by a friend, who has been allowed to read it in manuscript, to be written in a vein entirely unlike any of his previous stories, and to be pre-eminently the best which has thus far emanated from the pen of *Puck's* editor.

MISS MATHILDA BLIND, who has been chiefly known, at least to American readers, as a writer of several biographies, has just completed a long poem, which is said to be highly ambitious. It gives a realistic account of the tragic incidents of the eviction of the Highlanders from certain districts early in the present century. Some of the facts were made known to her by surviving witnesses. The volume will appear in England in a few days with the title "The Crofters." Messrs. Roberts are Miss Blind's American publishers.

A SINGULAR method has been adopted by the new magazine, the *Forum*, for the review of books in their pages. Having no regular literary department, or space for suitable book reviews, and desirous still of securing the good will and interest of the publishing houses, announcement has been made that, in return for each book of importance forwarded to the *Forum* office, an advertisement will be given of the volume in the regular advertising pages of the magazine. Why this arrangement will find favour with the publishers it is easy to understand; but whether the owners of the *Forum* will find it profitable to pursue this course for any length of time is not equally clear.

THE new publishing firm of Henry George and Co. will make its entree into the literary world next week by the issuance of Mr. George's new work, "Protection and Free Trade," which will also have simultaneous publication in England. It is the present intention of the firm to publish only the works of its senior member, and besides a new work upon which Mr. George is now engaged issuance will be given later on to new editions of "Progress and Poverty" and "Social Problems." The members of the new firm are confined to the family of Mr. George, the latter assuming an active interest in the business. The office of the new firm is at No. 16 Astor Place, New York City.

MR. BRANDER MATTHEWS sailed for Europe on April 7, where he will spend the summer, returning to America in September next. Mr. Matthews' visit is made entirely for pleasure and rest, and save a series of letters which he will probably write for the *New York Commercial Advertiser*, he will perform no literary work of any character. In London he will be the guest of Austin Dobson, Edmund Gosse, Andrew Lang, and other members of the younger school of English literature. He leaves a short story, entitled "The Perturbed Spirit," to appear in the May number of the *Century*, and a series of literary recollections from his pen will also form part of "The Experience Meeting," in the June *Lippincott's*.

MR. D. BLACKMORE has just sent to the Harpers the final chapters of his story, "Springhaven," which is appearing as a serial in the *Magazine*. Every reader of "Lorna Doone," or in fact any of the author's stories, knows how familiar Mr. Blackmore is with nature in all her moods. Indeed, the author is out of doors a great part of his life at his home in Teddington, only staying under cover long enough to write his daily stint, or to play chess—his one dissipation. As a chess-player, the writer is uncommonly skilful, and when opportunity offers tries his hand even with professional players, among whom is Steinitz, one of his most intimate friends. As a market gardener, Mr. Blackmore has been very successful, and his land yields him quite as much, if not more, money than his pen.

MR. HOWELLS and Mr. Curtis will, in the forthcoming June number of *Harper's*, both write of Longfellow, the former of the poet's right-mindedness and lofty purpose, while Mr. Curtis will discuss his life as illustrating the character of his work. In this number of the magazine will also be printed Rear Admiral Edward Simpson's article on "The United States Navy." A feature of the paper will be the copious illustrations and vessels now in use by the navy. Special pictures will be given of the side-wheel steamer *Powhattan*, the sloop-of-war *Brooklyn*, the frigate *Tennessee*, and the historic sloop-of-war *Kearsarge*. In a subsequent paper the same writer will treat exhaustively of "United States Docks."

MISS EDNA DEAN PROCTOR, the poetess, now lives in retirement in Brooklyn at the residence of her friend, Mrs. Laura C. Holloway. Miss Proctor performs only an occasional piece of literary work, and in consequence her name is rarely encountered in the popular magazines. For the past few weeks she has devoted the greater part of her time and attention to the issuance of the genealogy of the Storrs family, of which the late Charles Storrs and Dr. R. S. Storrs are the best known members. Miss Proctor is in the prime of her womanhood, is possessed of delightful manner, and has a distinguished carriage that would attract instant attention to her. Her voice is low and musical, and she has the rare gift of being a good listener as well as a charming conversationalist. Such literary contributions as emanate from her pen find publication generally in the columns of the *Youth's Companion*. She has derived a comfortable revenue from her writings, one volume of her complete poems having run through several editions.

FOR some months Mr. Henry Clews, the banker, has been at work upon a volume of his reminiscences of Wall Street and the famous men who have been conspicuous in the financial world. The book is now nearly finished, and it will be issued about the 1st of July by a New York firm of publishers, under the comprehensive title, "Twenty-eight Years' Experience in Wall Street." Mr. Clews has written the history of the street for the first time. Going back more than a quarter of a century, he describes every important event, and gives a sketch of every prominent operator and familiar figure in Wall Street. The book, which is to fill 600 pages, will contain a large number of portraits, many of which have not before been engraved, and several of bygone Wall Street worthies. Among the engravings already arranged for are excellent pictures of the Vanderbilts, Jay Gould, James R. Keene, Daniel Drew, Jacob Little and William R. Travers, which accompanies a very amusing chapter devoted to Mr. Travers' sayings and doings. The dedication is "To the Veterans of Wall Street."

MRS. FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT is one of the few authors who are not disturbed in their literary composition and work by noises in the same room wherein they labour. Her work is usually done, writes a member of her household, in the breakfast room, with her children about her, prattling and playing their innocent pranks, laughing and crying by turns—noises which to most brain workers are more trying than anything else. No matter how noisy the children may be, they never disturb the mother's literary work, and occasionally, when perplexed and weary, she finds pleasant relief in a few moments' romp with them in their play, or assists them in some juvenile sport which they are unable themselves to carry out. She writes at a plain desk, along which are arranged all of her published works, in costly bindings, placed in the order of their issuance. The novelist generally employs a dull pencil and odd scraps of paper for writing materials. She writes quickly, her thoughts coming as fast as her pencil writes. Her costumes are of the costliest description, she possessing numerous dresses of different colours and quality—all of which, however, become her.

THE "Vest Pocket" edition, just brought out by the Appletons, of Mr. O. B. Bunce's clever little work, "Don't," promises, from present sales, to add several thousands to the copies already sold since its issuance. In all 144,000 copies of the little book have been sold, 71,000 of which were disposed of in America, while the balance were sold in England and the Continent. And to these figures must still be added the sales of the German translation. The writing of the little work was suggested to its author in June, 1883, on a train while reading an editorial in the *New York Evening Post* treating of "Books on Department." In this article the writer quoted a series of directions of etiquette furnished by Mme. Patterson-Bonaparte by Lord Cholmondeley about 1835, and it was the negative character of the directions given by the titled writer that suggested to Mr. Bunce the peculiar title of "Don't" for a book and its use at the beginning of every paragraph. Upon reaching home Mr. Bunce began his odd literary task, and inside of a month the book, which has since entered into thousands of homes, was written, printed and ready for publication. The author's extreme sensitiveness to public notice prevented him from attaching his name on the fly-leaf, and for months its authorship was surrounded in mystery.

THE business methods pursued by the Century Company in issuing their popular magazine are extremely interesting, as we learn from one of its officers. The first copies of the complete number are sent to the editor for inspection and approval. If satisfactory, the order is at once given to print from 15,000 to 20,000 copies to supply the English market, which are shipped to London in sheets before the middle of the month. By the 14th of the month the advertising sheet will be ready, and several thousand copies are immediately started off to San Francisco, the furthest American point. A day later a large shipment is despatched to New Orleans by water for the southern market. Commencing on the 15th, as a rule, the presses are put to work for the American News Company's supply, and for fifteen consecutive days give an instalment of 10,000 copies daily, which are by them shipped to the furthest points first, and so gradually nearer New York until the first day of the month is reached, when the local dealers are supplied. The subscription list requires a few less than 50,000 copies, and they are forwarded generally on the last two days of the month preceding that of the date of the magazine. Between 3,800 and 3,900 copies are required for the newspaper exchange list, with a probable 200 or 300 for a special complimentary list. The papers and editors receiving advance "literary notes" printed on a postal card, number 757 alone. These facts will enable the reader to form some idea of the perfect business system which prevails in the *Century* office.

NOTHING apparently delights the modern literary paragrapher more than to write incessantly concerning the rates of remuneration received by the most popular magazine writers for their work. The chief value of these statements lies in their erroneous and misleading character. Miss Murfree, for example, is made to receive \$500 for a single short story in one instance, while in another the figure is cut down to \$150; the facts in the case being that the author in question receives \$250 for any single story which she may write, Miss Murfree having a "standing order" from two of our most popular magazines for the story Miss Murfree commands and receives \$3,000. Mr. Howells and Mr. James are the best paid of magazine writers, each having received \$5,000 for their latest novels published in the *Century*. A similar figure will be paid to Mr. Cable for his "Grande Pointe." Mr. Aldrich also commands high figures for his work, this being, perhaps principally due to his rare appearance of late as a writer of short stories. For one short story, published some time since, entitled "One Day in Africa," he received \$1,000, and a similar sum could have been obtained by him for his latest piece of fiction, "Two Bites at a Cherry," had he permitted its publication in a magazine other than his own, the *Atlantic*. Julian Hawthorne receives \$300 for an ordinary short story. For his serial, "Love or a Name," published in *Outing*, he received \$1,000 for the American rights to serial publication, and a similar sum for its simultaneous publication through an English magazine. Mr. Bunner, Mr. Matthews, and other short story writers of less renown, receive from \$100 to \$150 for a story of five to seven magazine pages. Mr. Stockton receives a high figure, seldom disposing of a short story for less than \$500.