

Personal.

Mr. Hall Caine's sister, Miss Lilly Caine, is to be married soon to Mr Geo. Day, the popular young dramatist.

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has accepted an invitation to attend a dinner to be given by the Canadian Club on March 25.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper has entered the Halifax law firm of Borden, Ritchie, Parker, and Chisholm. It is understood the present name of the firm will not be changed.

At a meeting of the Conservatives of West Ontario, held at Stouffville on Saturday, Mr. N. F. Patterson, barrister, of Uxbridge, was unanimously chosen as the candidate for the House of Commons.

The Right Rev. William Alexander, D.D., Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, has been elected Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, in succession to the Most Rev. Robert Samuel Gregg, D.D.

Last week's bye-elections in Great Britain sent Mr. John Morley to Parliament for the Montrose District, and a Liberal to replace Mr. Tankerville Chamberlayne in Southampton. Both represent gains for the Liberals.

Lieut.-Col. Starke, the popular commanding officer of the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, will be commandant of this year's Bisley team. The Adjutant will likely be a Queen's Own man, Captain Mutton's name being mentioned in this connection.

On Sunday evening last, in the Methodist Churches of Winnipeg, there were memorial services for the late Mr. H. A. Massey, of Toronto. Mr. Massey contributed largely to Methodists in the West, one of his last donations being ten thousand dollars to Wesley College, Winnipeg.

Lieut. MacInnes, of Hamilton, who was serving with the expedition to Ashanti, contracted an illness which necessitated his immediate removal to the coast and embarkation on a troopship returning to England. He is now at Malta. His illness is not regarded as serious.

Sir Frederick Pollock, Professor of Jurisprudence in Oxford University, has finished the manuscript of the British case in the Venezuelan dispute, and it is now in the hands of the officials of the Foreign Office. It is said that the Professor does not attach any importance to the Schomburg line.

Mr. James Scott, one of Toronto's leading retail dry goods merchants, committed suicide on Saturday by leaping from one of the Rosedale bridges, a fall of more than 120 feet, while suffering, it is believed, from a fit of insanity. The deceased was in easy circumstances, but had been in ill-health for a considerable time.

It was announced some days ago that Li Hung Chang, the famous Chinese statesman, had been appointed to represent the Emperor at the coronation of the Czar and Czarina, of Russia, at Moscow, in May. He has decided to return to China from Russia by way of Europe and the United States. No date was fixed for his coming, but a visit may be expected from the distinguished Chinaman some time during the summer.

Edgar W. Nye, better known as "Fill Nye," died at his home at Buck Shoals last Saturday. He was born at Shirley, Piscataquis County, Me., Aug. 25, 1850. His parents moved to Wisconsin when Nye was a child and there he grew up on a farm. He was educated at River Falls, studied law and went to Wyoming Territory in 1876, where he was admitted to the bar. Justice was administered in a rather summary fashion out there in those days and Mr. Nye has said that clients found that they could be hanged effectually without the expense of a lawyer, so he took to writing for the newspapers. His first letters were written for the Cheyenne Sun at one dollar a column. He was afterwards on the staff of the Denver Tribune, and subsequently became editor of the Laramie Boomerang. His humorous writings in that paper attracted wide attention, and the Laramie Boomerang began to be quoted by news-

papers throughout the country. Thus Nye became famous. During recent years his income from his writings and lectures has been \$70,000 a year. When not on a lecture tour Mr Nye spent most of his time in the last three years at his handsome home near Asheville, N.C.

Literary Notes.

A rare quarto of Shakespeare's "Pericles" was sold a few days ago at a book sale for £171, a record price.

Macmillan & Co. have in press a volume of "Studies in Judaism," by Mr. S. Shechter, Reader in Rabbinc in the University of Cambridge, which deals in a scholarly manner with many somewhat obscure topics in connection with the Jewish faith.

The complete novel in the March issue of Lippincott's is "A Whim and a Chance," by William T. Nichols, already favorably known to the readers of this magazine. It turns on a circumstance peculiar, but not without precedent in real life, the effort to find clues to property which has mysteriously disappeared with the owner's death.

The new edition of Poe has finally been completed by the issue of the tenth volume. It is now two years since the actual work on this edition was begun, and this time has been one of unceasing labour on the part of Mr. Stedman and Mr. Woodberry, the editors, and Messrs. Stone & Kimball, the publishers, to make this edition the absolutely final and definitive one.

In none of his papers upon "This Country of Ours" has ex-President Harrison delivered himself with such vehemence and emphasis as he has in the one in the March Ladies' Home Journal, "The President's Duties." Besides commending one of Mr. Cleveland's acts, and censuring Ambassadors for making political speeches, he talks of Presidential appointments in a most feeling and an almost pathetic way.

"The transmission of personality is the creed of literature as it is of religion," said Mr. Birrell in the course of a lecture on Dr. Johnson, at Westminster Town Hall, and the *obiter dictum* is worthy of all acceptance. Mr. Asquith presided, and the audience, including "all the talents," Lord Rosebery, Mr. Arthur Balfour, Mr. Thomas Hardy, Mr. Henry James, and Mr. Herbert Paul, occupying chairs in the front row.

The firm of Macmillan & Co. was registered as a limited company on January 31st, the capital being stated at £240,000, divided into 1,400 6 per cent. preference shares and 1,000 ordinary shares of £100 each. The first directors are Messrs. G. L. Craik, F. O. Macmillan, G. A. Macmillan, and M. C. Macmillan, with a qualification of £5,000 each and their remuneration 20 per cent. of the net profits divisible after paying the preference dividend. No shares are, we believe, offered to the public.

The London Lancet has received the following production from a medical man, to whom it was sent by a child: "DEAR DR.—I would be very pleased if you would let me have a Baby for one guinea. We want it on the 4th of Febr'y for Mother's birthday. We would like it fat and Bonny, with blue eyes and fair hair. We Children are going to give it to her ourselves please answer at once. Yours sincerely, ARCHIE — P.S.—Which would be the cheaper a Boy or a Girl?" The "P.S." especially is delightful.

Grub street has been strangely agitated over the changes in The Pall Mall Gazette office, more so, we think, than the public at large. Mr. Gust's action in disclosing the private relations that existed between himself, as editor, and Mr. W. W. Astor, as proprietor, does not commend itself to us as either in good taste or the dignified course that a man in Mr. Gust's position might have been expected to adopt. Mr. Astor seems to us to be entirely within his rights in removing an editor in whom, for any reason, he has ceased to feel confidence. The publication of the correspondence in no way helps Mr. Gust or his colleagues, so far as we can see, and we are at a loss to understand the motive that led to it.

Frederick A. Stokes Co. announce for early publication "A Woman Intervenes," by Robert Barr; "The Temptress," by William Le Queux; "I Married a Wife," by John Strange Winter; "The Broom Squire," by S. Baring-Gould; "A Woman with a Future," by Mrs. Andrew Dean, and "The Rogue's Daughter," by Adeline Sergeant.

The stage rights of "Macaire," the play by Stevenson and Henley, which came out first in the Chap-Book, have been purchased by Richard Mansfield, who is shortly to produce the play. *Macaire* is a wonderfully picturesque character, and the comparison between the English and American productions is likely to be interesting. Mansfield has undoubtedly more talent for the picturesque than any other American actor, and Beerbohm Tree, who will probably do the play in England, has much the same reputation on that side of the water.

Before Whitelaw Reid became minister to France, he devoted a good deal of his time to the conduct of his paper, the Tribune. The copy editors who put up the head-lines of stories of the day fell into the habit of making most of them interrogative, as, for instance: "Was it Murder or Suicide?" or "Did She Kill Him for Love?" or "Will the President Sign It?" etc. The entire paper was specked with interrogation points. This thing had been going on for weeks, till one day a postal-card arrived, addressed to Mr. Reid, and marked personal. It read as follows: "I'm getting awfully tired of your questions. Why don't you find out something? A great newspaper is supposed to know everything, and ought not to annoy its readers with needless inquiries. This morning you ask, 'Will Mr. Platt Consent?' How the hell do I know?"

Mr. Andrew Lang discourses this week on "Widows" in The Morning. As to the influence of widows on literature, he remarks, "One could write a chapter." But he restricts himself to a brief note or two: Inheriting her husband's papers, the widow sometimes publishes them indiscriminately and indiscreetly. More probably she declines to allow any mortal even to look at them (if of biographical interest), and then sells them, *en masse*, to a ragman, or her daughters sell them in total ignorance of their nature and value. Sometimes the womankind of the deceased hero burn everything indiscriminately at sight, as a maiden aunt (name unknown) burned all Sir Walter Scott's letters to his friend Erskine. Now most letters are the better for being burned at once by the recipient, but letters of great literary value and interest fare ill at the hands of widows and the daughters of widows. To the fire, the ragman, or the auction of autographs they usually take their way, and the biographer becomes a confirmed misogynist.

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