

Professor Hugo Munsterberg, of Harvard, on behalf of the American members of the Helmholtz Monument Committee, invites subscriptions for the proposed memorial of the great scientist.

Mr. Gosse is reported as saying that "Sig. Gabriele d'Annunzio and Mr. Rudyard Kipling are probably the most gifted persons under the age of thirty now writing verse in any part of the world."

The expected biography of the late Prof. Freeman, by Dr. Stephens, to be issued by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., will contain many extracts from Mr. Freeman's correspondence on literary, historical, and general topics.

The author of "The Curse of Intellect," published anonymously by the Blackwoods, is said to be Lady Gwendolen Cecil, the daughter of the Marquis of Salisbury, who has frequently contributed fiction to *Blackwood's Magazine*.

Macmillan & Co. have just published an exceedingly original and dramatic story by a new writer, Joseph Conrad. It is called "Almayer's Folly," and the scene is laid in the Malayan archipelago, with Malays, Arabs, Dutch traders, and half-breeds for its *dramatis personæ*.

Professor Corson's little book on "The Aims of Literary Study" has gone already into its second edition. It has won warm appreciation everywhere, *The Nation* voicing the general opinion in declaring: "A wide reading of this book by those engaged in literary teaching would be productive of much good."

In their "Iris Series," Macmillan & Co. publish next "A Lost Endeavour," a story of the Pacific, by Guy Boothby, illustrated by Stanley L. Wood. It will be followed by Miss Jane Barlow's "Maureen's Fairing," "Typhena in Love," by Walter Raymond, which formed the first volume of the series, has gone into its second edition.

Mr. Murray announces new editions of Mr. W. Robinson's work on "The English Flower-Garden," and also the late Sir Charles Lyell's "Students Elements of Geology," with upwards of six hundred illustrations. The greater part of the latter book has been re-written by Prof. J. W. Judd, F.R.S., of the Royal School of Mines.

A most notable gathering of the National Council of Women of Canada, is to be held in the Normal School buildings, on the 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st of May; and on the evening of the first day Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, the President of the Council, will hold a reception at the Parliament Buildings from 9.30 to 11 o'clock p.m.

The Rev. Dr. James Martineau, the great philosopher and theologian, has lately celebrated his nineteenth birthday. He is still in fine health and endowed with vigorous working power, as witness his criticism, just published, of Balfour's "Foundations of Belief." Dr. Martineau has received a flood of congratulations from English and American representatives of philosophical and religious thought.

The magnificent gift of a million dollars, to be devoted to a library building for Columbia College, is a signal illustration of true philanthropy, on the part of Mr. Low, the President. The donor wishes the library to stand as a memorial of his father, the late Abiel Abbott Low, "a merchant who taught his son to value the things for which Columbia College stands." The announcement of this gift was accompanied by that of a gift from Mr. W. C. Schermerhorn, of three hundred thousand dollars, for the construction of another department building, the giver suggesting his preference for a scientific laboratory of some sort. Since President Low's inauguration, five years ago, Columbia has been made the recipient of gifts amounting altogether to more than five millions of dollars.

At a recent meeting of the Committee of the Carlyle House Purchase Fund, in London, the Secretary reported that considerable progress had been made with the arrangements by the sub-committee in the matter of repairs and other things necessary for the preservation of the house. In the repairs and alterations changes only that are absolutely essential will be made, so that the house may be preserved for the nation in as near as possible the same condition as when Carlyle occupied it. The committee is hopeful that enough money to complete the purchase and effect the necessary improvements will be raised very soon, but, as there will also have to be a maintenance fund, contributions are urgently solicited.

Hugo's faculty of observation was extraordinary. His physical vision was very quick and of such vigor that he never used glasses even in his old age. "His eye never rests upon a tower," says Sainte-Beuve, "without his counting the angles, sides, and points." But it seems that, while his eye was attracted by the strongest reliefs, the most salient points, it was little sensible to colour; his own pencil and crayon sketches are lacking in colour distinctions, but exhibit strong light and shade effects. Psychologists tell us that a person's manner of seeing affects his manner of visualizing, and it is therefore not surprising that Victor Hugo's poetic images are almost always marked by strong contrasts. Antithesis is the strongest characteristic of his style; not only his language, his form of expression, is antithetical, but he thinks in antithesis, and the contents of his poems and chapters, the characters of his dramas and novels, are almost without exception combinations of opposite elements.—A. Lodge, in *Modern Language Notes*.

In his monthly chat on "Men, Women and Books," in *The Critic* of May 18th, Mr. Zangwill complains of the autograph-hunter, and proposes that authors shall only sell their autographs, the proceeds to be devoted to charitable purposes. This plan, he thinks, would be applicable as well to musicians, actors and all professions "admitting of notoriety." The Tennyson Beacon Fund increases steadily, the editors announcing that it now amounts to \$1,034. Of Miss Frances E. Willard's "How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle," *The Critic* says that it gives the machine "a standing in literature hardly lower than that of the horse or the ship. . . . It acquired a soul, a voice, and spoke to her mind's ear." "Do not forget," says the paper in conclusion, "that she is the first to give the machine life, to make it a symbol, a winged word, a myth." Of interest is a half-page picture of the Columbia Library presented to the College by President Low, with a diagram of the grounds and a description of the different college buildings as it is proposed to build them. A portrait of Seth Low accompanies this article.

Gustav Freytag, the German writer, died in Wiesbaden, April 30. He was born July 13, 1816, in Kreuzberg, Silesia, and came of a very old German family of high social position. Freytag was one of the most versatile and prolific writers of modern Germany. His poems and prose writings began to appear in 1834, and have continuously adorned the columns of the German press ever since. In 1835 he wrote his first play, which was so well received by the public as to bring him immediately into popular favour. From 1835 to 1848 he was a voluminous writer, producing poems, dramas, scientific studies, art criticisms, book reviews, and short stories. In June of the latter year a complete edition of his works was published in Leipzig. They then already amounted to five volumes, and he has since trebled that number. Of his novels, "Soll und Haben" had reached its twenty-eighth edition in 1883, and his "Verlorene Handsehrift" the thirteenth, apart from translations into most European languages. Of his plays, "Die Journalisten" is the most popular. In 1863 he wrote a book on "The Technique of the Drama," which has recently been translated into English. His largest work is entitled "Die Ahnen," and consists of six volumes of historic tales, in which German conditions during the past are vividly pictured. Freytag was a thorough scholar, and wrote a clear though somewhat diffuse style. Scherr called

him the "favourite author of the tradesmen and professors' wives."—*New York Evening Post*.

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We quote from *The American Naturalist*, April, the following summary of a note in *La Revue Scientifique*, on the recent cold weather in Europe: "Wild boars, which are very numerous in the forests of Luxembourg, driven by cold and hunger, roam through the streets of the villages. Also the wolves have come down from the Vosges Mountains to the plains in vast numbers. If these animals are experiencing such suffering through cold, it is not surprising to hear that the game birds in the preserves of Marly and Rambouillet are perishing from the same cause. Each day the guards find great numbers of pheasants and partridges frozen to death. In this connection is mentioned a singular fact observed by an English farmer. He owned four peacocks which were in the habit of coming to his call. He noticed that for two days one was missing. The third he saw two of the peacocks vigorously scratching away the snow to the depth of a meter. On going to their assistance he found the missing bird buried in the snow and fastened down to the ground by his tail, which was frozen in a pool of water. A few hours after his release the peacock had perfectly recovered."

The Hamilton Spectator: To the *Globe's* standing query, "Has the National Policy made you rich?" the *London Advertiser* adds this: "Has the National Policy kept you honest?" All that remains now is for the *Montreal Witness* to ask, "Has the National Policy saved your soul?"