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Literary Notes.

Mr. S. R. Crockett, whose "Cleg Kelly" has already sold an edition of 20,000 copies, is having his portrait painted life-size by Mr. Whistler, who intends it for exhibition at one of the galleries this season. A similar compliment is being paid to Mr. J. M. Barrie by Mr. Leslie Brooks.

The tendency towards international publications is growing. Holland will shortly be the birthplace of a periodical which will be published in English, French, and German. Janus is the proposed title, and medical geography and history will be the principal subjects dealt with in it.

Literary Russia is agog just now over a new writer, a simple villager, who, in depicting scenes of village life and character, has shown a natural genius that will class him with the leading contemporary authors. Details are very meagre, but before long we may expect full and profuse items concerning the new star.

It is rumoured that Mr. Hall Caine is living a secluded life in the neighbourhood of the Mile End-road for the purpose of getting local life and colouring for the new story which he announced last week as being in preparation. If the rumour be true Mr. Caine has precedent for this method of studying the East-end as he is. Mr. Rudyard Kipling adopted similar tactics before he wrote his "Badalia Herodsfoot."

The fifth volume of Mr. Traill's "Social England," now in the press, will contain an exhaustive paper on the literature of the age, to which Professor Saintsbury has contributed, in accordance with Mr. Traill's decision to obtain the assistance of specialists for special subjects. In the same way Dr. John Brown has taken us "Nonconformity and the Wesleyan Movement" in the same volume, and Mr. R. E. Prothero "Agriculture."

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. announce a complete edition of the works of Robert Browning, in two volumes, containing historical and biographical notes of the author that are included in no other edition. They will publish, also, Miss Betham-Edwards's forthcoming story, "The Dream-Charlotte: a Story of Echoes"; and, in connection with Messrs. J. M. Dent & Co., of London, a translation of the works of Alphonse Daudet, to be published monthly, beginning with "Tartarin of Tarascon."

The first of the series of papers on South Africa which Professor James Bryce, M.P., is to contribute to The Century, appears in the May number. He corrects the general impression that the country has little natural beauty. Portions of the highlands he compares to Switzerland and the White Mountains, and he says that one can never tire of the charm and variety of colour in the landscape. Professor Bryce says that the Boers have retained to this day a passion for solitude that makes them desire to live many miles from any neighbour.

The announcement is made by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons that they have purchased the books of Robert Louis Stevenson heretofore published by Messrs. Stone & Kimball, including the "Vailima Letters," "Ebb Tide," "The Amateur Emigrant," and "Macaire"; and that they have also concluded arrangements for the publication of his posthumous works. "Weir of Hermiston" they expect to publish the latter part of May, and "St. Ives" at a later date. The Scribners will thus be the publishers in this country of all of Mr. Stevenson's works.

An interesting coincidence, or an example of mental telegraphy, is that just at the time when Professor Rontgen was perfecting his discovery of the X-rays, but before the results were made known, there was published in "Stella," by Charles S. Hinton, a romance, the plot of which was based on the fact of the permeability of the human body to rays of light. "Stella" was published in November of 1895, and it was not until some months later that the condition stated in the book, and seemingly so far beyond any likelihood of conjecture, became a scientific and demonstrable piece of knowledge.

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