

Literary Notes.

The April number of the American Historical Review is of peculiar interest, comprising, as it does, among its leading articles, "The Battle of Bunker Hill," by Charles Francis Adams; "The Bohun Wills," a group of wills illustrating the life of a great family of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, translated and annotated by Melville M. Bigelow; "Recent Memoirs of the French Directory," by Prof. H. Morse Stephens; "Virginia and the Quebec Bill," by Justin Winsor; "The Case of Josiah Philips," by Prof. William P. Trent; "Light on the Underground Railroad," by Prof. Wilbur H. Siebert, and "The First Six Weeks of McClellan's Peninsular Campaign," by James Ford Rhodes. Among the Documents will be the hitherto unpublished memoirs of Lord Burghley, touching peace with Spain, 1588, dated shortly before the arrival of the Armada, and the conclusion of the Diary of Richard Smith, member of the Continental Congress.

Alexander Dumas *did* not believe in immortality for theatrical pieces; to be successful when first represented, they must be founded upon manners; now the latter are as changing as the sands. His first drama was the *Dame aux Camélias*, which gave him the least worry, was the most rapidly written and that will live longest. It was neither a thesis nor a social work; it was a simple history founded upon fact, a passion drama, a tale of "love," and not intended to rehabilitate any body. Now as electricity is not likely to replace love, the old, old story will remain perennially green. Dumas fixed at twenty years the life-interest of a play. When he accepted the joint-production of the "Darricheff"—Dumas was married to a Russian Princess—he invited his collaborator to give him a call; he invited Dumas read to him the first two acts. "And when the other three?" asked the collaborator: "In twenty years, for by then the piece will suit living manners."

The April number of Scribner's Magazine contains a very unusual number of articles of immediate interest in connection with current events of the first importance. The leading article is a sympathetic review of the late Lord Leighton, P.R.A., by Cosmo Monkhouse. The illustrations, which are of remarkable richness and beauty, were selected with the assistance of the artist himself, and the whole article was completed before his death on January 25th. It is the most complete record of his artistic career that has, or will be, furnished by any periodical. Another article of great contemporary interest is "The Quarrel of the English-Speaking Peoples," by Henry Norman, the correspondent of the London Chronicle, whose telegrams from Washington were so influential in modifying British opinion on the Venezuelan question. Mr. Norman's article is a very clear exposition of the present temper of the British people, and it also points out with definiteness the line along which the peaceful solution is to be expected. He is, of course, an advocate of the doctrine of arbitration, and he also believes that the United States would simplify relations in future if it should definitely, through Congress, define the Monroe Doctrine as it is accepted by the Government. Mr. Norman closes with an enumeration of certain domestic problems that press upon the attention of the United States.

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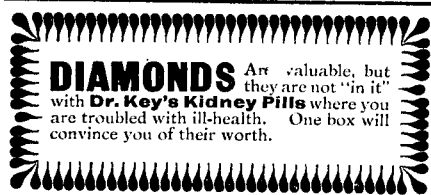
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