

Literary Chit-Chat.

The Empress Eugenie is about to publish an autobiographical work entitled, "Some Recollections of My Life."

E. P. Dutton & Co., N. Y., will shortly publish a little book called "Living Waters," by the author of "Bible Lilies."

The May number of *Harper's Magazine* begins its seventieth volume. Though so near three score and ten it is still in vigorous health.

Had John Brown lived he would have been eighty-five years old on the 9th of May. On that day Mr. Sanborn is to publish a "Life" of the would-be emancipator.

De. Plumtre's "Spirits in Prison, and other Studies on the Life after Death," recently published by Thomas Whittaker, has already entered on its second thousand.

Harper & Bros. have nearly ready "Lives of Greek Statesmen: Solon—Themistocles, by Rev. Sir George Cox, author of "Mythology of the Aryan Nations," etc., etc.

D. Lothrop & Co. will issue at once a little book entitled "Baby Barefoot," by Mrs. Mary H. McQueen, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; and the long-expected book on "Alaska," by Miss E. R. Scidmore.

D. Appleton & Co., are about to publish a work by E. P. Vining in which the author attempts to show that America was discovered in the fifth century, by a party of Buddhist monks from Afghanistan. The title of the book is to be "An Inglorious Columbus."

"At Love's Extremes," is the title of a novel by Maurice Thompson, which is about being published by Messrs. Cassell & Co., New York. The scene of the story is laid in the mountains of North Carolina. The two heroes are Englishmen, but the tale is said to be thoroughly American. This is, we believe, the author's first novel, though he is well known as a writer of graceful prose and poetry.

James R. Osgood & Co. have now ready "Literary Landmarks of London," by Laurence Hutton, an excellent little hand-book, giving the haunts and homes of every English writer of note that has frequented the city, with precise indications of their present condition. They have also issued "England and Russia in Central Asia," by G. M. Towle, a compact statement of the Afghan problem, with the [military] positions of the English and Russians, the great political and commercial questions involved, and the strategic value of various points in Afghanistan.

Miscellaneous.

INDIA-RUBBER.

The elastic gum is procured from several sorts of trees, but the species which yields the best and largest proportion is the *Castilloa elastica*, indigenous to Brazil. The very numerous and various uses to which caoutchouc is now applied have led to an enormous demand for the article. Our readers may be aware that it is simply the sap of the tree which exudes on an incision being made, and which is conducted to moulds, where it takes any desired form. The natives of Brazilian forests, not being satisfied with the slow process, have cut down the whole woods, consisting of trees 150 or 200 feet high, in order to insure a larger and more immediate yield. The English Government foreseeing that a time would come when the supply would fail, determined to introduce the culture of the India-rubber tree into Ceylon and Singapore. But a difficulty arose: the seeds were found to dry up so rapidly that out of 90,000 sent from Brazil only 2,500 arrived in good state. On the other hand, when once sown, they grow with amazing rapidity. Those above-mentioned were all sown immediately on a small space of ground, and in only a few days some of the seedlings had attained the height of eighteen inches, and in two months several of them furnished a small quantity of the gum of excellent quality. The young trees will be gradually transplanted to favorable sites, and no doubt seems to exist that the

Castilloa elastica will be acclimatized in the places selected. The fruit resembles a pear, is green, and contains numerous seeds of the size and shape of a coffee-berry, and so rapid is their vitality that they frequently germinate in the pulp which surrounds them. Several new preparations of India-rubber are now used for various purposes. Among these are what is called rubber parchment, which can be used instead of gelatin paper, gold-beaters' skin, or parchment in sealing bottles, etc. It takes a very brilliant color by the application of various substances, such as ultra-marine, chrome-green, etc. A second comparatively new substance is the vegetable-ivory which is used for umbrella handles. This is prepared by adding calcined magnesia to a solution of India-rubber and compressing the mass in a hydraulic press in hot cast-iron moulds. Many other articles can be manufactured from the same substance.—*Selected.*

JOHN KEATS.

"Keats, when he died, had just completed his four-and-twentieth year. He was under the middle height; and his lower limbs were small in comparison with the upper, but neat and well turned. His shoulders were very broad for his size; he had a face in which energy and sensibility were remarkably mixed up; an eager power, checked and made patient by ill health. Every feature was at once strongly cut and delicately alive. If there was any faulty expression it was in the mouth, which was not without something of a character of pugnacity. The face was rather long than otherwise; the upper lip projected a little over the under; the chin was bold, the cheeks sunken, the eyes mellow and glowing, large, dark, and sensitive. At the recital of a noble action or a beautiful thought, they would suffuse with tears, and his mouth trembled. In this there was ill health as well as imagination, for he did not like these betrayals of emotion; and he had great personal as well as moral courage. He once chastised a butcher, who had been insolent, by a regular stand-up fight. His hair, of a brown color, was fine, and hung in natural ringlets. The head was a puzzle for the phrenologists, being remarkably small in the skull; a singularity which he had in common with Byron and Shelley, whose hats I could not get on. Keats was sensible of the disproportion above noticed, between his upper and lower extremities; and he would look at his hand, which was faded and swollen in the veins, and say it was the hand of a man of fifty."—*Personal Traits of British Authors.*

A little discussion has arisen concerning the use of the word "pedagogue" as applied to teachers. The following may help in settling the question. "Smith's History of Greece," chapter 35, page 413, section 10, says: "The pedagogue or private tutor was not a teacher; he was seldom a man of much knowledge, often, indeed, a slave, and his office was merely to watch over his pupils in their idle hours and on their way to the schools." The position of a pedagogue among the Romans may be gathered from Plautus, who says:

"*Scrum uni mittit, qui oim a puero parvulo mihi pedagogu fuerat*"—A tutor was both guard (or servant) and instructor. A pedagogue among the Romans was a servant that followed his young master, took care of his behavior, particularly attending him to school, sometimes giving the most elementary instruction in letters.

Eschenburg's Manual says that the *pedagogi* in Roman times gave some elementary instruction. There was a drifting away from their first duties as performed among the Greeks.