

SOME WRITERS OF NOTE.

SEVERAL names have come forward prominently during the past few months as writers of fiction, and one of them is a Canadian. It may interest Canadian newspapermen to know something of Mr. W. A. Fraser, whose new book of tales, "The Eye of a God," has just appeared in Toronto and New York. Mr. Fraser is already the personal friend of a large number of journalists who appreciate his excellent social qualities, his bright personality and the success in literary work. As a writer of short stories, Mr. Fraser already ranks as one of the cleverest of the present day. His work is marked by originality of conception, and combines unusual strength with fine literary finish. He is a native of Nova Scotia, and follows the vocation of a civil engineer. Nine years of his life were spent in India, during which time he gathered a store of material that he is now utilizing in his stories.

He has also spent some five years or so in the Canadian Northwest, where, in the new free life of the plains and prairies, he has found a rich vein which he has worked with great success. No better stories than his have been written of the Western life of Canada. If he continues to develop as rapidly as he has in the few years since he first began literary work, we may look to his taking a

place among the great writers of this period. London Literature, last year, in a highly appreciative article on Mr. Fraser and his work, referred to him as "the Canadian Kipling." In this connection it is interesting to note that Mr. Kipling has taken a great liking to his Canadian prototype, and has encouraged him to pursue the course in which his talents would seem to fit him for eminent work. Mr. Fraser, who frequently visits Toronto, resides at Georgetown, Ont.

Mr. Theodore Watts-Dunton, whose romance, "Aylwin," has been one of the literary events of the season, was born 63 years ago at St. Ives, in England. He is the literary critic of The Athenæum. Mr. Watts-Dunton has long been well known. He contributed the article on "Poetry" to The Encyclopædia Britannica, which forms one of the most authoritative state-

ments of the principles of criticism to be found in our language. "Aylwin" is not a book of to-day, nor does it depend for its great charm on catching any particular tide that happens to be flowing. It bases its claims for recognition on the perfection of its literary art, on the genuineness of its romance, on its open-air freshness and on the fervor of its passion. The sources of its interests are manifold. Many will be attracted most of all by the picture of gypsy life which the book gives, the author being the great expert on the life of this rapidly dying but wonderful people. But it is the book of a scholar, of a poet, of a man of the world.

The accompanying picture of Mr. Dunne, of The Chicago Journal, who has won fame on two continents as the author of "Mr. Dooley in Peace and in War," will prove interesting to his Canadian colleagues who have heard of the man and read the book.



W. A. Fraser, of Georgetown.

BAD POLICY.

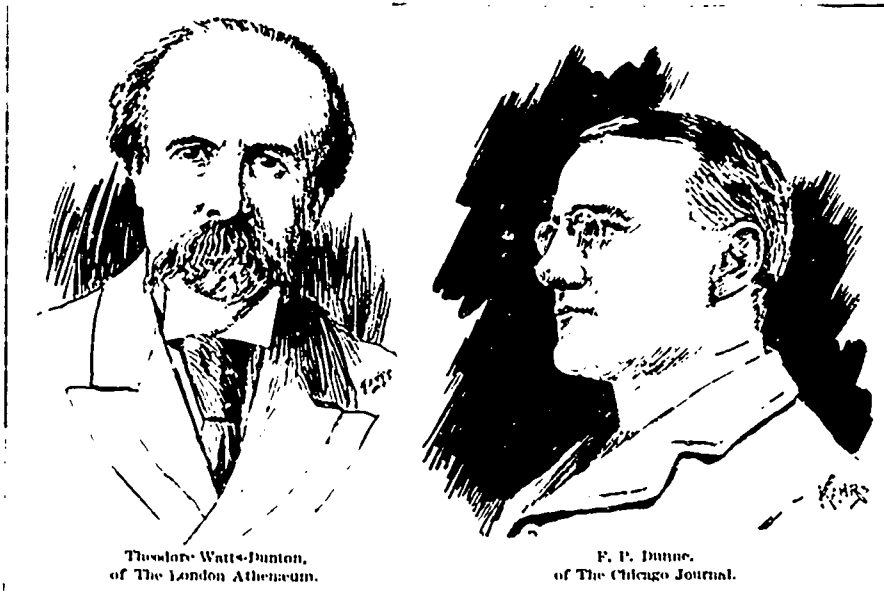
When rival newspapers in the same town blackguard each other and call each other "liar," "robber" and "thief," a suffering public is apt to take each at the other's valuation; and when this occurs, the newspapers as well as

their publishers have lost caste and influence. Where there should be recognized power, there is impotency; and where there should be respect, there is disgust.

This lack of courtesy towards each other is owing to a lack of business sense. The material prosperity of country newspapers will be vastly increased when editors and publishers in the same town come to understand that

the best business sense is courtesy towards each other, in and out of their papers.

There's no more real love for each other among lawyers or doctors than there is among editors and publishers, but the former have sense enough to publicly treat each other with courtesy—and they always stand together on rates. Let an irate client resist the payment of a fee on the ground that it is excessive, and all the lawyers in that community will swear that the fee is reasonable and just. But let some fellow go to a newspaper, and say that the other paper charged too much for an advertisement or for job work, and he is instantly encouraged, and told that he has been robbed by the paper in question, whose editor is a rascal anyway, and ought not to be allowed to live in the community.—S. K. Strothers, Illinois.



Theodore Watts-Dunton,
of The London Athenæum.

F. P. Dunne,
of The Chicago Journal.