

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MESSRS. CASSELL AND COMPANY will publish next month Mr. Ernest Chesneau's work on "The Education of the Artist" and "A Manual of Greek Archaeology," by Maxime Collington, translated by Dr. J. H. Wright, of Dartmouth College.

MARTIN FARQUHAR TUPPER, the poet, has just completed his autobiography. He has made a book of nearly 500 octavo pages, reviewing every detail of his life. It will contain a portrait of the author, and will be issued in London on May 1, bearing the title "My Life as an Author."

MESSRS. SCRIBNER have been obliged to postpone the publication of Mr. Frank R. Stockton's new novel, "The Late Mrs. Null," until late in the present month. The orders from the booksellers have been so large that a second edition was put to press as soon as the first was completed. The book will be issued simultaneously in England by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co.

MR. LAURENCE HUTTON's articles on "American Book Plates," which have been appearing in the *Book Buyer*, have opened up a new subject for study and research among bibliomaniacs. In the April number a new instalment of engravings are printed, reproducing the book plates of Daniel Webster, William H. Prescott, Charlotte Cushman, Winfield Scott, and others.

PROFESSOR H. S. FRIEZE, who occupies the chair of literature in the University of Michigan, has for several years been collecting the material for a biography of Giovanni Dupre. The work is now finished, and the illustrations which are to accompany it are in the engraver's hands. It is expected that the volume will be issued during the spring, and its probable title will be "The Art Life of Giovanni Dupre."

PROFESSOR SLOANE's enterprise in securing Mr. Lowell's essay on Gray in the March *New Princeton Review* is to be supplemented by the publication of a noteworthy and interesting prose article by Mr. Edmund Clarence Stedman in the forthcoming May issue. If Professor Sloane's good fortune continues in this auspicious manner, it cannot be long before he will place his magazine in the front ranks of American periodical literature.

ANOTHER Gordon biography has been prepared, which will be published at once by Messrs. Kegan Paul and Company, London. This time the author is General Gordon's own brother, Sir Henry Gordon. He has written only of those events in the soldier's life which have not been fully discussed by Mr. Hake, Mr. Forbes, or other writers of lives of Gordon. A very large part of the volume is devoted to his visit to Pekin in 1880, and his relations with the Cape authorities.

THE April number of Scribner's *Book Buyer* announces that the house will publish during the next month two new novels by New York writers. One is Mr. H. C. Bunner's new book, "The End of the Story," which is the correct title, and not "The Doctor and the Midge," as it has been stated in several newspapers, and the other is by Lieutenant J. D. J. Kelly, of the U. S. Navy, who makes his first appearance as a novelist in this book, although he is well known as a writer on nautical matters. The title is "A Desperate Chance," and it is a stirring sea story.

MR. J. S. WOOD, a close friend of the late Frederick J. Fergus, gives the first authoritative word in regard to the origin of the story, "Called Back." He says: "Hugh Conway wrote the first two chapters without having the slightest idea how he should continue, much less finish, the tale. He fancied that he had a strong original situation in a blind man hearing a murder committed. Strange to say, the one episode which was criticised as being improbable was the only part having any foundation in fact, the author having known of two instances of persons who had entered wrong houses by the aid of their own latchkeys."

AFTER some persuasion Mr. William J. Florence, the comedian, has consented to write the biographical notice of E. A. Sothorn for the series of volumes of "Actors and Actresses of Great Britain and the United States." Mr. Florence's sketch will probably be given place in the third volume. The list of special subjects and those to write concerning them for this dramatic work as it now stands are: Edmund Kean, by Mr. Henry Irving; Junius Brutus Booth, by Mr. Edwin Booth; Edwin Forrest, by Mr. Lawrence Barrett; and Joseph Jefferson, by Mr. H. C. Bunner, the editor of *Puck*. The second volume will probably be issued about April 1. There will be four volumes in all.

IN a few days Mr. E. A. Abbey, the artist, will return from Europe. For some years he has lived in England, working continuously for the Harpers, who, it is said, pay him a salary of \$10,000 annually. Mr. C. S. Reinhart is employed in the same way, though he lives in Paris. He was recently recalled to this country to make the drawings for Mr. Charles Dudley Warner's serial, "Their Pilgrimage," now appearing in *Harper's Monthly*, but having completed them, he is settled again in Paris. Mr. W. Hamilton Gibson has just started on a trip through the South for the Harper's, and the results of the journey will probably be found in *Harper's Monthly* during the summer or fall.

THE financial condition of Martin Farquhar Tupper, the English poet, grows more and more sorrowful, while the health of the aged author is also breaking down under the privations to which his circumstances subject him. In the recent contribution started for him in England, and concerning which circulars and printed appeals were liberally distributed among the literary people of America, but four American names were represented, chief among which was that of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes. The poet feels what he calls "the neglect of his American friends and admirers," from whom he believes he had reason to expect larger generosity. It is now proposed by Tupper's English friends, with the assistance of a charitable publisher, to issue a new and complete edition of all his poems, the proceeds of which from the first copy sold will be given over to the poet.

THE *Brooklyn Magazine* in its April issue, just to hand, prints the following touching letter, addressed to its editor by Miss Louisa M. Alcott, concerning the present condition of her father, Professor A. Bronson Alcott, the venerable philosopher, who resides with her in Boston:

My father, I am happy to report, is very well for one in his condition and at his age. He has never recovered the use of his right arm, and only partially the use of his right leg. He can walk a little with help, and goes to drive occasionally; but the exertion will soon be too great, I fear.

His loss of speech is the saddest part of his infirmity, and it is pathetic to see one who was so unusually gifted in conversation unable to express even his wants in words. His mind is still bright, and he enjoys the visits of friends, understanding all they say, though smiles and gestures and a few phrases are all he has to offer in return. He sleeps well, dozing much by day, and eats with his usual appetite the simple food he has lived on for fifty years—no meat, tea, or coffee,—and he still attributes his great vigour to his temperate life. He will never write or talk again, and his books are all he can offer now. He no longer cares to read, but enjoys pictures, and sits thinking for hours as he placidly waits for the great change. He often says he is tired and wants to go, but, like a true philosopher, bears the inevitable as bravely and sweetly as he has borne all the trials and joys of his long and beautiful life. He desires me to convey his thanks to the many friends who so kindly remember him, in which I very gratefully join. LOUISA M. ALCOTT.

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