

inspiration of your own, the epigram of a lecturer, a paragraph in a periodical, any gem of another mind. Jot them down and make a thesaurus of your own. 'Tis a great thing to have them when wanted, at least to know where to find them.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

(The space below is reserved for reasonable criticism, and may be called in colloquial language 'The Kicker's Corner.'—Ed.)

MR. EDITOR,—

I was pleased to see a notice of the Abbé Klein's new book—*Au Pays de la Vie Intense*—in your December number. Now I am on the alert for all the other notices that are sure to come from both sides of the Atlantic, not that the book is surely of the order of world's literature for all time, nor is it likely to revolutionize Europe, any more than the cur-tailed fox succeeded in persuading the other foxes to step up to the block and be relieved of their tails. I have read the book carefully for several reasons, not the least of which, was a strong personal interest in the clever writer and in some of his ideals; as a mere book of impressions on the seemingly inexhaustible subject—America, it strikes me as very easily superior to Paul Bourget's and Max O'Rell's. I will not speak of the special championship of America, which all the world knows to be a big subject; and likely to be for some years more, a rock of scandal for some, a helping stone for others. But do let me ask you, if you don't think the fair and able and fearless writer, who is not a new "chiel" among us taking notes, has been somewhat used as an advertiser, all unknown to himself, in the loud Yankee fashion, by some of the notabilities to whom he brought the open sesame of letters of introduction? That's the funny part of the book to me, especially the chapters devoted to the White House and to the so-called Red House, with all due respect for the Rough Rider, elected almost by acclamation to fill the responsible chair, set up by George Washington. One cannot but smile as one realizes how near to the farce-form of the dramatic act, Mr. Roosevelt's strides and speeches may appear to those who always lived in America, either below the Mason and Dixon