

says the *Literary Digest*. Charles de Bernard wrote "Les Ailes d'Icare" something like fifty years ago, and Thackeray spoke of it at some length in "The Paris Sketch-Book."

W. Hamilton Gibson, who is noted for his exquisite rendering of botanical subjects has prepared for the August number of *Harper's Magazine* a fully illustrated article on mushrooms. The article is of a popular character, and will enable any reader to discriminate between the wholesome and the poisonous fungi which abound in the woods and fields of America.

Dr. Murray's labors on the Philological Society's new dictionary, says the *Literary Digest*, were partly rewarded by letters which he had received from George Eliot, Tennyson, Lowell, and others, replying to his questions as to the use of certain words in their works. But when he wrote to Browning, the poet answered: "Don't know what I meant; ask the Browning Society."

William Winter's health is so poor and North British weather is so rough that he has given up his intended tour through Scotland, and will sail June 30th for New York. Mr. Smalley, who sends this word to the *New York Tribune*, adds that this postpones Mr. Winter's intention to add a companion volume to "Shakespeare's England," which every lover of charming observation in beautiful English will regret to learn.

In his essay on "The Political Ethics of Herbert Spencer," Professor Lester F. Ward goes through Mr. Spencer's various works, and, taking together those parts in which his political views are expressed, analyzes these doctrines and thus discovers Mr. Spencer's views on political science. He finds that Mr. Spencer, having begun as a revolutionist, has now, like so many other great thinkers at the close of their careers, become a reactionist.

We are glad to hear that Dr. Bourinot is to write the monograph on the Constitution of Canada which is to appear in a new series on political and social subjects, edited by Mr. E. J. C. Morton, M.P. for Devonport, and published by Henry & Co., of Bouverie St., London. The authors of the different volumes are to be "the first authorities in the world upon their respective subjects." Dr. Bourinot is certain to do full justice to his portion of the series.

Mary Anderson de Navarro has written her memoirs, which, it is rumoured, are to be published by a New York firm. The book, it is said, begins with her earliest recollections and ends with a frank avowal of the distaste, which, before she left the stage, she began to feel for the practice of the dramatic art. She cares nothing whatever for the theatre nowadays, and has seen but one dramatic performance in four years. She is taking lessons in singing and training her splendid voice.

Charles De Kay, whom the president has named as consul to Berlin, is one whose culture, accomplishments and capacity will fit him to fill the place. He is a practical journalist of long experience, a master of several languages, and it will not detract from his fitness that he is, moreover, a poet. Since his graduation from Yale college in 1868 he has been an incessant worker, was for several years literary editor, and is now

art editor of the *New York Times*. Mr. De Kay is a brother-in-law of Richard Watson Gilder.

Harper & Brothers have in press an illustrated pamphlet, entitled "Summer Reading," which contains critical notices of Blackmore's *Perlycross*, Davis's *The Exiles*, and other Stories, Capt. King's *Cadet Days*, Miss Wilkins's *Pembroke*, Thomas Nelson Page's *Pastime Stories*, Ruth McEnery Stuart's *Carlotta's Intended*, W. D. Howell's *A Traveller from Altruria*, Bang's *Three Weeks in Politics*, Mrs. Steel's *The Potter's Thumb*, Hardy's *Life's Little Ironies*, Olive Thorne Miller's *Our Home Pets*, Emma Wolf's *A Prodigal in Love*, and many other recent books.

A magnificent new edition of the works of Robert Louis Stevenson, is announced for publication in Edinburgh in the autumn. It will be called the "Edinburgh" edition, and will be limited to one thousand copies—one hundred for America, the latter being issued by Mr. Stevenson's American publishers, the Scribners. The edition will be printed on hand-made paper, in handsome style, by Constable, and will contain much matter not published hitherto in collected form. The set will consist of twenty volumes, which Mr. Stevenson has arranged in classified groups, so as to form more connected sequences than was possible at the time of production. The first volume will probably appear in October.

We have received the second volume of Mr. Larned's excellent "History for Ready Reference" (Springfield, Mass., and Toronto, Canniff Haight), of which we gave a critical notice some time since when the work first appeared. The present issue is chiefly noteworthy for its articles, or compilation of articles rather, on Europe, England, France and Germany, all of which are of considerable value to students and others who have occasion to consult such a book. In the case of Europe, however, the editor departs from the general plan of the work and introduces an essay of his own as "a sketch of the history of that continent at large cannot, for obvious reasons, be constructed of quotations from the historians." Mr. Larned shows his ability to write as well as compile history in this well digested essay. We welcome the series of five volumes—the limit of the work—as a valuable addition to books of reference in every good library.

The *Pall Mall Budget* reports a remarkable literary discovery by "an advanced Baconian." The writer proves conclusively (cryptographically speaking) that Bacon, the great originator of all the English literature of his age, was also the author of "Box and Cox." This he sets forth evidently from the back of the first edition, where the name of the play is printed:

BOX
AND
COX

These columns, read from top to bottom, give BACON OXDX. Here the author not only actually signed his name, but gave the date also; for, taking out the letters that gave a numerical value, we have OXDX, which, added, give 620. This stands for 1620, the date of the "*Novum Organum*" and without doubt of "Box and Cox" also.

Rider Haggard, like William Black, says the *Boston Home Journal*, is also a man of many homes. The youngest son of

STERLING MOUNTED CUT GLASS

Claret Jugs and Tumblers,
Sugar Shakers, Cologne
Bottles, Salts Bottles, Ink
Stands, Mustard Pots, Salt
and Pepper Shakers, Flasks,
Powder Boxes, &c., &c.

RYRIE BROS.,

Cor. Yonge & Adelaide Sts.

a country squire, he married a country heiress in Norfolk, and lives during a part of the year in her ancestral home, Ditchingham Manor, built three centuries ago, and lying in the valley of the Waveney, almost in the shadow of the Bath hills. The house is filled with interesting reminders of the novelist's journeys in many lands and of the incidents and places celebrated in his books. In a niche in the billiard room is a most interesting relic of another Englishman of letters. It is a desk which belonged to Charles Dickens, and was bought by Mr. Haggard's at the Gad's Hill sale. Mr. Haggard's study is a cosy corner room on the second floor, the walls of which are lined with well-filled bookcases and the original illustrations of his novels, framed in black and gold. Here he does the bulk of his writing, dropping his work now and then for a day's sport with rod and gun. Some months of the year Mr. Haggard spends in London, living in a charming house set in a great garden in Redcliffe Square.

Among the most important problems of the present day on this continent are the best methods of carrying on the Local Government of large municipalities like cities. In the United States the corruption and looseness that has so largely prevailed in the administration of civic affairs has led to very radical and diverse changes of late in the government of the most populous cities. As a consequence of the growing interest in the subject a considerable literature has been evolved. The publications of the Johns Hopkins University, the Wharton School of Finance and Economy, the Academy of Political Science, Columbia College and other institutions of note, are so many evidences of the attention that is now being directed to a subject of paramount importance. The book now before us, "The City Government of Philadelphia, A Study in Municipal Administration" (Philadelphia: Wharton School of Finance and Economy), is a very creditable performance on the part of students connected with the University of Pennsylvania. It is an excellent plan to encourage an interest in such practical questions among the young men of universities which ought to be everywhere the leaders in directing attention to the problems of government. The subject here treated is too large to be summarily disposed of in a mere paragraph; and we pro-