

The Influence Exercised By Old English Authors.

The Effects of Book Reviews Dwell Upon Some Phases of the Fads of Lattest Day Novel Readers—A Glance at Two New Publications.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
PHILADELPHIA, November 29, 1897.

In the change that takes place in the succession of generations, each with its own views of life and methods of passing time, the very motive with which one reads undergoes a revolution. When Dickens, Thackeray, and their fellows sent forth at intervals (which seemed long and tedious to their waiting lovers) their many-paged novels, in every drawing-room, at every table, on chance encounters between acquaintances, there was an interested question and answer such as are exchanged in reference to well-known places and persons. "Have you read 'Our Mutual Friend'?" "Oh, yes!" "Isn't Eugene Wrayburn delightful?" "And Jennie Wren—was there ever anything so amusing and so pathetic? Poor little thing!" Then some one else would chime in with another character, and the conversation would become general and excited, everyone understanding everyone else, and all familiar with the scenes, the characters, the story of the book as with the everyday routine of home life. A quotation from any page of any Dickens volume was recognized, and the innocent "slang" of the time was one of the curious natural expressions of some of the imaginary people who filled our fireside chairs with quaint and touching shadows. Now all that has changed. Volume after volume is thrust upon us, heralded by puffs, "ada," fulsome praise of the author (usually by the most interested party) and "highly genteel"—for they are quite that vulgar—sketches of the author's family and first beginnings, and the book is read—perhaps. The notices are read carefully, for it is an easy way to

"KEEP UP WITH THE LITERATURE OF THE DAY."

and the conversations regarding the book go far to prove that no further knowledge of it is considered necessary. "Have you read Hall Caine's last?" "Oh, surely! Do you suppose that I am so far behind the age as to have missed that?" "What do you think of it?" Let us see! Hall Caine—he is the red-headed man who was here a year or two ago, wasn't he? and they gave him a swell reception? Oh, I don't know. He has opinions of his own and he's rather coarse. But then, they are nearly all that. What do you think of the book?" "Well, it's fairly good. Strong, you know. They say he was four years reading up and preparing for it." There it ends. Has anyone—speaker, listener, or outside audience—any clue to the book's interior? Is there the slightest evidence that either the questioner or the answerer has even seen it? Alas, poor authors! I mean those who really write that they may be read, and who would like to be taken home to their readers' hearts, and used and lived with, and even lived by, in some of the dark hours that come to all as they come to authors. Reviews and "notices" and "ada" are what the readers care for now, and when the people read they sit down with Thackeray and Dickens and the old folks. More wonderful still, they read them as they were read years ago. I happened on a party of young folks not long since who were fresh from Dickens for the first time, and they rattled away without a thought of him. It was all the story and the characters and the fun and the pathos. And the next thing, I encountered a clever man of to day who has been much too busy until now to read for amusement still. He had been reading "Henry Edmond," and I had all the best of the work set out in the earnest and delighted comment upon it, but a word of Thackeray. How is it that we have come to this engrossing and

WEARING STUDY OF THE PERSONALITY OF AUTHORS

rather than of their thoughts and their expression of those thoughts? It is a nasty curiosity—nothing more. What a man is concerns himself, and concerns him deeply, for by it he shall stand or fall in the end. What a man does—that is, as his life-work, and thus in the case of an author, what he says—concerns his fellowmen. That alone acts and reacts upon them. They may learn what shall save them and lift them to the very heights of heaven from the utterances of a man who is himself beneath contempt, and, on the other hand, they may be poisoned and condemned through the teachings of a man of exemplary life and severely rigid morals. More than Balaam have blessed where they intended to curse and have cursed where they were expected to bless; for the utterances of all, whether of tongue or pen, are not under their own control altogether. The book itself is the matter to be considered, let who will write it. Apropos of the old books, did you notice that when the great, new and magnificent Congressional Library was opened a few days since, on the very first day there were more copies of Dickens taken out than of any other book or class of books?

The "League Tract" is formed of four articles, by Rev. Thomas Hughes, S.J., published at different times in the American Ecclesiastical Review, and they form clear, strong, scholarly, yet plain, comment on "Dr. White on the

INTEMPERANCE.

The Dyke Cure for the liquor habit is a boon to humanity. It removes the appetite for stimulants in a few days, and in four weeks restores the patient to the normal condition. A vegetable medicine taken privately. A sure treatment. No loss of time from business, and no bad after-effects. DR. MCAGGART, London, Ont.

The direct should be widely read, for its teachings, its explanations, its remarks are worth mastering and are not a little needed. Many who would not willingly doubt or waver are inclined to both through innocent ignorance. That is, through ignorance that does not know exactly where to go for information. Here it is! It is astonishingly clever, too, and the most cultured cannot but enjoy its sarcasm, polished and keen to an exceptional degree. Of course, the fact that Father Hughes' papers were prepared for the American Ecclesiastical Review vouches for their merit. When they were thought worthy of a separate publication, that set another seal upon them. They are delightful as they are solid.

I see the Ave Maria has issued those "Recollections of Aubrey de Vere" in book form, which is an excellent move about Christmas time. Christmas gifts are in all minds now, and what to get and what to give is always the same old story. A Christmas book need not always be merely ornamental, and the matter of the poet's recollections is both beautiful and useful.

SARA TRAMER SMITH.

C. M. B. A. OF CANADA.

Branch No. 50 Holds a Most Successful "At Home."

Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 24th, 1897, will long be remembered by those who were present at the "At Home" given by St. Anthony's Branch, No. 50, C.M.B.A., in the Queen's Assembly Rooms, in honor of the eleventh anniversary of its organization. The committee in charge have every reason to feel satisfied with the success which rewarded their labors in the arrangement of the "At Home," both socially and financially.

Shortly after 9 o'clock the evening's enjoyment opened with the Grand March, led by President M. J. Polan, of Branch 50, and Miss M. Emerson, and President M. Sharkey, of Branch 26, and Mrs. M. J. Polan. Needless to say the lovers of dancing enjoyed themselves, the music being furnished by Mr. Thos. Grant, whose reputation needs no comment. At 12 p.m. an adjournment was made to the supper room, where an excellent spread had been prepared by Mr. Chas. McCarney of Richmond Square.

At the close of the supper, President M. J. Polan, in a neat speech, thanked those assembled on behalf of Branch 50 for their presence in such good numbers, which showed that the C.M.B.A. held a prominent place among the people of our city. The President then proposed the toast of "The Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada," which was responded to by Grand Deputy T. P. Tansey of Branch 50.

The toast "Our Sister Branches," was proposed, and responded to by President M. Sharkey of Branch 26, and Dr. F. J. Hackett of Branch 50.

The President then called upon Mr. F. J. Curran, B.C.L., of Branch 26, to propose the toast of "The Ladies," which was done in a manner which no doubt met with the approval of every lady present, the gentlemen rising and singing "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows." The toast was responded to on behalf of the ladies by Mr. W. P. Doyle of Branch 50, and Mr. W. J. McGee, President of St. Anthony's C. Y. M. Society.

A move was then made for the Assembly Hall where an impromptu concert was held. Mr. Thomas Grant sang in his usual good style and had to respond to an encore. Mr. Albert Smith was called upon and favored the assembly with a solo which was sung in excellent style and for which he received a well merited encore. Master Willie Polan delighted the audience by his singing, which proved him to be an artist of no mean ability. The floor of the hall was again occupied by the lovers of the light fantastic, who availed themselves of the programme prepared for the occasion. It was very pleasing to notice the zest in which the older friends present entered into the various quadrilles and cotillions. The gathering dispersed at an early hour, well satisfied with their evening's enjoyment.

The success of the celebration is due to the following gentlemen who formed the committee:—Chancellors T. P. Tansey, P. Doyle, F. McCabe, T. J. O'Neill, President M. J. Polan, Bros. M. Neher, P. Kehoe, N. Frereault, J. P. Gunning and W. P. Doyle.

Misery in Havana.

A New York lady has just received a letter from the Mother Superior of the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Havana. It says:—"Lately some of our older pupils discovered a place called 'Los Fosos,' which means 'The Ditches,' because it is a low and marshy place. There over a thousand women and children of both sexes are living abandoned, unknown and starving. Many are perfectly naked. All are heaped up pell-mell. They have been there nearly two months. Of their number fifteen to twenty or thirty die daily. At night there is no light, and in the morning the corpses and the living are found together. Our Children of Mary are perfect heroines, but only the older ones can enter this den where the Government has concentrated the country people for the purpose of making them die from inanition. The iniquitous plan is a great success. After having passed weeks without food the sufferers are brought salt codfish or rice, and in eating ravenously they die. We could fill books with the horrors of this place. Its history will yet be written. Our 'Children of Mary,' their husbands and friends and our good Bishop, with many of the clergy, are hard at work trying to alleviate this unheard of misery. But it is almost impossible to aid so many. The Cubans are very charitable and generous, notwithstanding the poverty of everyone. There are in this place over a hundred little children without fathers or mothers. Nobody takes care of them, and some die daily. A woman who had eleven children, lost seven in three months, and is now dying of inanition."

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NEWARK CATHEDRAL.

The Structure Will be in Thirteenth Century Gothic Style and Will Cost \$1,000,000.

Four plans for the new Roman Catholic Cathedral at Newark, which is to cost \$1,000,000, have been for over a month in the hands of a committee headed by Bishop Wigger at Seton Hall College, and finally the award has been made to Jeremiah O'Rourke & Sons, of Newark.

The site is a whole city block, 812 feet on Clifton avenue, and 200 feet on Fifth and Sixth avenues. The tract is level and is on the top of the ridge overlooking the new Branch Brook Park, and affords a fine view of the Orange Mountains on the West and an unobstructed view of the whole territory eastward to this city and southward to Staten Island and the Highlands of the Navesink.

Work will be begun without delay upon the excavation, and Mr. O'Rourke is going on with the preparation of working plans. The work will be given out in a number of separate contracts and will be paid for by individual subscriptions by priests and laymen and by assessments upon different parishes in the diocese of Newark. The Bishop will be at the head of the building committee. He says that he is delighted with the plans and the prospect, and, his health now being good, he anticipated great pleasure in supervising the work and seeing the great cathedral grow. It will be called the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

The building will face south, fronting on Sixth avenue, about fifty feet from the curb line. It will be a typical Roman Catholic cathedral, complete in all its parts, with nave, aisles, two transepts and a large chancel and organ gallery. Around the chancel ambulatory will be eight chapels, two of which will open into transepts. One of the chapels will be quite large, and will be supplied with a separate sacristy, and will have a cloistered passage leading to the episcopal residence, which will adjoin the cathedral, and will be occupied by Bishop Wigger, who now resides at Seton Hall College.

The cathedral will be in thirteenth century Gothic style, and will have two imposing towers. Foundation walls of granite will rest upon the solid red sandstone of the ridge, and there will be cellars only under the chancels, chapels and sacristies. The total length of the building will be 309 feet, and its breadth 150 feet. The floor area will be about 25,000 square feet, and there will be seating room for 2,000, with standing room for 2,500 more. The height of the nave ceilings will be 96 feet, and of the aisle ceilings 40 feet. The two towers will be of stone, and the spires will be of different heights.

The taller, which will be known as the Jew tower, will have a spire reaching 350 feet into the air, or over 550 feet above the sea level. The western tower, which will be designated as the Blessed Virgin Mary tower, will rise from 250 to 300 feet, and will be of a lighter and more graceful design than its higher neighbor. Modern steel construction is to be used in the building, and the walls will be of stone, though the kind has not yet been decided upon. There will be three spacious front entrances to the building.

The nave columns will be of polished red granite, with carved marble caps and bases of unpollished granite. The woodwork will be all of quartered oak, and the interior colors will be light and cheerful. The floor will be of white marble and the roof of red tile. The main doors are to be of bronze. The nave and chancel will be 258 feet long, and the width of the nave and aisle 86 feet. The width across the transepts will be 412 feet, and each transept will be 44 feet wide. The third vestibule will be 20x80 feet in dimensions.—Sunday Democrat.

Success In Life.

"We do not count a man's years," said Emerson, "till he has nothing else to count." It would be an excellent thing for this Republic if we did not count a man's millions till he had nothing else to count. As a matter of fact, we count his millions, or his hundreds of thousands, or his thousands, first of all. According to the sum of them is the common estimate of the degree to which he has succeeded in life, and any considera-

There doesn't seem to be very much the matter with your child. He doesn't actually lose weight, but there is no gain. He belongs to that large class of children that don't seem to prosper. You look at him a little more thoughtfully than you do at the rest and say "He is not doing well." Failure to gain in weight in a child is a danger signal. Scott's Emulsion should be taken at once. It puts on fat where health demands it, strengthening the digestion.

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tion of his other achievements or quali-

ties, unless he happened to attain public distinction, is postponed.

There is a will case now before the courts which ought to have an illuminating influence, as tending to show that this common method of estimating success not only is very crude, but may be entirely incorrect. The common sense of mankind has affixed, by etymology, the character of a miserable man to that of a miser. According to that, the late Joseph Richardson was a miserable man. He lived like a beggar and in all his dealings behaved like "an hard man," and by energy and perseverance in the doubtful virtue of extreme frugality and the undoubted vice of extreme hardness, he amassed a considerable fortune.

Although by the interested estimate of one of his heirs the amount of the estate "in sight" after his death is reduced to half a million, it is scarcely disputed that he amassed a fortune of several millions. That is to say, that according to the common estimate he was a highly "successful" man. But was he? The facts that have come out since his death and those that are now coming out in the legal contest to which his death has given rise shed much light upon this question. The desire of getting the better of somebody was evidently the ruling passion of his life. The fruition of it gave him whatever satisfaction he was capable of experiencing. For certainly his money did not procure him any physical luxuries or even comforts. His passion for getting the best of a bargain led him, when a neighbor would not agree to the extortionate price which he asked for a strip of land five feet wide, which was evidently of much more use to his neighbor than it was to him, to build upon it what was called a "spite house." Nay, to build upon it two houses, of which one was for rental. The other, built primarily to shut off his neighbor's view, was built incidentally for his own habitation.

There he lived, in necessary circumstances of discomfort to which an ordinary man receiving a hundredth part of his income would have refused to submit, solacing himself with the reflection that he had also succeeded in inflicting some discomfort, though nothing comparable with his own, upon the neighbor of whom he had failed to get the better in a bargain.

There also he died, under circumstances of the most instructive character, which are now coming to light. It does not appear, nor is it likely, that the man ever had a friend in his life. Certainly his friends were not to be found in his own household. It is almost equally characteristic, whether he was of sound or of unsound mind, that his last illness should have been embittered by fear that the members of his family had designs upon his life. None of them had any reason for wishing to prolong it. It is quite clear that they had designs upon his property. They appear to have had no other interest in him than to procure it. He was carried from his "spite house" to his grave unlamented by any human being. Yet, according to the common estimate, he was "successful in life." If this was success, what is failure?—New York Times.

The Liquor and Drug Habits.

We guarantee to every victim of the liquor or drug habit, no matter how bad the case, that when Mr. A. Hutton Dixon's new vegetable medicine is taken as directed, all desire for liquor or drugs is removed within three days, and a permanent cure effected in three weeks. The medicine is taken privately and without interfering with business duties. Immediate results—normal appetite, sleep and clear brain, and health improved in every way. Indisputable testimony sent sealed. We invite strict investigation. Address THE DIXON CURE CO., No. 40, Park Avenue, Montreal.

To Print From the Telephone.

The publication in this country of a translation of an article in the Berlin National Zeitung, partially descriptive of a new electrical machine, said to be capable of recording at either end of the line messages sent by telephone wire, has attracted some attention from electrical experts. The description given as yet is too general and vague to afford a basis for a conclusive opinion on the merits of the invention. The Berlin National Zeitung says of it:

"It is an electrical writing machine called 'teleprinter,' the invention of an Austrian engineer named Hoffman. In its general appearance it is very much like a typewriter. The keyboard consists of four rows of seven keys each, which print the letters of the alphabet, and the numerals, and which call for the same kind of skill as the ordinary typewriter. The machine is connected with the telephone in some manner not yet revealed but without the use of a special wire. The letters of the message are printed upon the familiar narrow tape in clear type by the writer using the instrument. A similar machine is attached to the receiving end of the telephone, and it prints the message simultaneously with its composition on the sender's machine."

"One of the most apparent advantages this system offers, besides the accurate reproduction of the messages sent, is the possibility of sending a message to a person in his absence, so that he will find it duly recorded and awaiting him on his return. As soon as the central telephone office makes the connection, the machines begin to work, and the receiver continues to grind out messages as long as they are sent. The price of each teleprinter will be the same as that of a high-grade typewriter, 500 marks (\$125)."

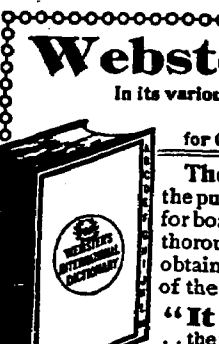
Alfred S. Brown, the electrical engineer of the Western Union Telegraph Com-



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Specimen pages free. G. & C. Merriam Co., Publishers, Springfield, Mass.

pany, thus speaks of the new invention: "I should judge that this machine is nothing more or less than one of hundreds of inventions designed to print messages from wires charged with electricity, either in connection with the telephone or the telegraph instrument. I never heard of this particular machine before. It has not attracted enough attention in Europe to be noticed in any of the leading technical journals so far as I know. I could name a dozen instruments which will do what it is said this instrument will do. They are on the market, but have not been adopted for general use by any telegraph or telephone company. I think that eventually instruments for printing messages as they are written and transmitted will be adopted for general telegraph and telephone business, but the problem of inscribing them on sheets, instead of on long tape-like strips of paper, does not appear as yet to have been solved."

A Preacher's Plagiarism.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Haverhill Gazette, has the following pertinent editorial comment on the rather unministerial conduct of a certain preacher in New York who has acquired notoriety by his attacks upon the Catholic Church:—

Rev. Madison C. Peters, of New York, is one of the men who firmly believe this country is drifting to its ruin by reason of the machinations of the wicked Romanists. Mr. Peters is a man whose mind unconsciously absorbs all that he reads, as the following will show: Ninety-three years ago, as shown by the Hartford Courant, President Eliphalet Notch, of Union College delivered a eulogy on Alexander Hamilton, a portion of which follows:—

"Approach, and behold, while I lift from his sepulchre its covering! Ye admirers of his greatness, ye emulous of his talents and his fame, approach and behold him now! How pale! How silent! No martial bands admire the adroitness of his movements; no fascinating throng weep and melt and tremble at his eloquence. Amazing change! A shroud, a coffin, a narrow subterranean cabin!—this is all that now remains of Hamilton!"

Recently Doctor Peters delivered a eulogy on the late Henry George. Upon that occasion he said:—

"Approach and behold while I lift from the sepulchre its covering. Ye admirers of his courage, ye emulous of his fame, ye covetous of his manliness, approach him now. How pale, how silent! No martial bands admire the adroitness of his movements; no huts wave, no shouts sound at the mention of his name. Amazing change! A shroud, a coffin, a narrow subterranean cabin—this is all that now remains of Henry George?"

Doctor Peters should at least cease his attacks upon the Pope long enough to explain how he happened to appropriate to his own use the language of President Notch without saying so much as "by your leave."

The reverend plagiarist has since explained that the words he "conveyed" were unconsciously "embedded" in his mind. There are other things embedded in that curious mind of his which, in a spirit of Christian charity, we wish he could disinter—his fossilized ideas about the Catholic Church, for instance.—Sacred Heart Review.

A POINTER IN FENCE BUILDING.

A simple method of preserving wooden posts, set in the earth for fences or other purposes, is given by a writer in the Bautechnische Zeitschrift, namely, that of turning them upside down, that is, reversing them from the position which they had while growing as portions of the trunk of a tree. The reason for this is that the capillaries of a tree are so arranged as to promote the ascent of fluids from the root upward; consequently, a log set in the ground in the same relation as the trunk of a growing tree will draw moisture from the ground to a considerable height, and the wood so moistened will decay, while, on the other hand, if the log is set with the other end up, the action of the capillaries tends to oppose the ascent of moisture, and the wood resists decay much longer. Mention is made of an experiment in France of furnishing alternate posts with a protecting ring, made by slipping on a drain

pipe, and filling the space between the inner surface of the pipe and post with tar and sand. The top of the pipe was set just at the level of the ground, and it was found as a result of this method that the posts so treated lasted five times as long as those which had been set in the ground without such protection.

PATENT REPORT.

Below will be found the only complete report of patents granted this week by the U.S. and Canadian Governments to Canadian inventors. This report is specially prepared for this journal by Messrs. Marion & Marion, Solicitors of Patents and experts, head office 155 St. James street, Temple Building, Montreal:—

AMERICAN PATENTS.
591,984—Robert W. Clarke, Victoria, Canada.
593,241—Isaie Frechette, Montreal, Can., hand lasting tool.
594,260—Frank S. Mead, Montreal, Can., valve gear for gas engine.
594,045—Joseph Tolhurst, Burlington, Can., gate valve.

CANADIAN PATENTS.
57,281—William H. Orr, Beauséjour, Man., horse shoe.
58,168—William H. Orr, Beauséjour, Man., wash board.
58,189—Eugene Godin, Three Rivers, Can., acetylene gas generator.
59,192—John Flood et al., Quebec, acetylene gas generator.
58,109—Herbert B. Fitzsimon, Wapella, Ass., anti-refilling bottle.

PASSING AN EXAMINATION.


A charming anecdote is told of Prof. D'Arcy Thompson the expert sent by England to investigate the seal question. While conducting examinations at an English University, he learned that one of the students to be examined, a young woman who was a candidate for a degree, was so timid and so nervous that it was likely she would not do herself justice, and he was asked to make allowance for this. Prof. Thompson asked to be presented to her before the hour of the examinations, and after meeting he suggested that, as they had a few moments at their disposal he would be pleased to have her show him about the museum. She gladly assented to this, and they spent a delightful half-hour; when the dreaded time approached the nervousness of the young woman became apparent. Finally she summoned courage to ask when the ordeal would take place. The conclusion of the story is obvious—Prof. Thompson told her the dreaded hour was over. While they sauntered about the museum he had put her through a rigid examination, she had answered his questions brilliantly, and she received her degree.—Boston Transcript.

ABSCESS WAS LANCED:

"I had an abscess on one of my hips. It was lanced and never healed. Hospital treatment failed. The next winter I had three abscesses. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and soon found it was helping me. When I had taken about six bottles I was cured." Mrs. FRANKLIN H. FEED, Freeport, Nova Scotia.

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