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**Literary Notes.**

In the second instalment of "Vailima Table-Talk," to appear in the June Scribner's, the story is told that Stevenson became very fond of Chevalier's music-hall songs as sung to him by a visitor. An account is given of an evening at Vailima, where "Liza" was one of the chief attractions.

Mr John Asnt n, the author of "Social England under the Regency," and many other works of a historical character, has written a new book for publication this month by Messrs. Chapman & Hall, under the title "When William the Fourth was King." It will have numerous illustrations dealing with the manners, fashions, customs and characters of William IV.'s reign.

The American Academy of Political and Social Science has issued a translation by Professor John M. Vincent, of Johns Hopkins University, of "The Constitution of Belgium." The volume also contains an historical introduction and full explanatory notes. This is the sixth number in the series of translations of foreign constitutions which the Academy is issuing. The others are the constitution of France, of Italy, of Prussia, of Columbia, and of Mexico. Besides these there are supplementary volumes on the "Recent Development of the Constitution of France," and on the "Amendments to the Italian Constitution."

Toward the end of this month the Scribners will publish an edition, fully protected by copyright, of a new poem by Algernon Charles Swinburne, called "The Tale of Balen." The poem, which is longer and more important than any recent work of Mr. Swinburne's, consists of Sir Thomas Malory's story of Balen, told in an elaborate, rhymed measure, which, however, keeps very close to the original. Both in scheme and method the poem is an entirely new manifestation of Mr. Swinburne's genius, and his own appreciation of its value is shown by the fact that he has made the dedication to his mother.

"The New English Dictionary: Will it be Stopped?" is the heading to an article in a daily contemporary last week in which the great expense of the undertaking was dwelt upon as a ground for the suggested stoppage. A quarter of a century would be required, it was declared, to finish the work at the present rate of progress. A later statement in an evening paper says the rumor is without foundation, other than may be found in a hint from the delegates of the Oxford University Press that they wish the plan as originally laid down to be adhered to. Whatever the facts may be the New Oxford Dictionary has obtained a valuable advertisement gratuitously.

Henry Norman, the correspondent of the London Chronicle, whose despatches from Washington have had such an important influence on the Venezuela question, has long been a student of international politics. His book of the "Far East" has already become an authority. Last autumn he visited all the countries (and made the acquaintance of their important men) which combine to form what is called the "Eastern Question." His first published article on this interesting trip will appear in Scribner's for June, under the title "In the Balkans—the Chessboard of Europe." It is a most vivid presentation of the curious principalities that make up that interesting corner of the world—Roumania, Montenegro, Servia, Bosnia, etc.

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