

"Twice Round the Clock," many sketches will be found which—to coin a word—might well be spoken of a Dickensian.

The civil war in America furnished scope for Mr. Sala to display abilities in a field in which he has met but few real rivals. As special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* in America during the war between the North and South, he gained a reputation which has scarcely impaired to this day, and in the Franco-German war, in which he also acted as special correspondent to his old employees, he proved that he was as worthy as ever to represent "the largest circulation in the world."

It has been frequently urged that the writings of George Augustus Sala are mostly mere word pictures which owed their popularity to the fact that they appeal largely to the emotional tendencies of those who read them; but this is in reality only another way of saying that our journalist thoroughly understands his business. Many an important piece of knowledge may be

impressed upon the memory when presented in a dress which commends itself to our fancy as well as to our reason. The hard and dry facts chronicled in Blue Books and official dispatches might never be read by the majority of Englishmen were there no men like the subject of the present sketch. Under the magic touch of Mr. Sala the most uninviting subjects become pleasant objects to study. The most formidable statistics, positively repellant in their original uncompromising battalions in columns, become attractive when dissected and resolved into the realities they represent. It is the journalists' business to do this. To wrap truth in all the attractiveness of fiction, and to convey knowledge in such a manner that the pupil knows not that he is being taught. This has been the work of George Augustus Sala, and if the journalists of the future succeed as well in similar work there will be little fear of degeneration in that press upon which Englishmen so highly pride themselves.—*Phonographic Monthly*.

Editorial Notes.

J. M. Dickson, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, is now residing in Cherokee, Iowa.

A correspondent wishes to know who has the largest shorthand library in Canada, the number of books contained therein and the number of systems represented? If any of our readers can give the required information we shall be glad to give it publicity in these columns.

Mr. Alex. J. Messervey, a shorthand writer of Quebec, succeeded in winning the following prizes at the recent annual races of the "Waverly Snow Shoe Club" of that city. One hundred yards, 2nd prize, gold and silver medal; half mile, 1st prize, silver cup, time 3 min., 23 sec.; one mile steeple chase, 1st prize, silver medal.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF SHORTHAND WRITERS.—We draw the attention of our readers to an announcement on second page of cover, of a convention to be held in Chicago, Sep. 8th, next. Correspondence is solicited from shorthand writers. We shall keep our readers posted as to the progress that is being made and hope that all will take a lively interest so that the meeting may be as practically useful as its promoters anticipate.

The Literary Ladder, by A. Arthur Reade, is a neat little volume, printed in semi-phonotype by Isaac Pitman, Bath, Eng. As the name implies the aim of the volume is to assist literary aspirants up the coveted heights. This is done by a series of well arranged articles, abounding in extract and anecdote of men who have reached the upper rungs, after patient hand-over hand struggle. It will be read with interest by the general reader and especially so by the youth who sighs for literary fame. On another page will be found the first article—"Authorship"—from this welcome guest. London: S.W. Partridge & Co., 9 Paternoster Row. Price 1s., cloth 1s. 6d.

Mr. George J. Bell, late of the Great Western Railway mileage office, London, has been appointed shorthand writer to Mr. Edgar, General Passenger Agent, Hamilton.

Taken altogether, it is possible that in no other case in Canada has so much shorthand work been done as on the Biddulph trial recently concluded at London. Irrespective of the newspapers, the official work by Mr. R. Tyson has been very heavy.

Mr. J. L. Payne, of the London *Free Press*, acted as official shorthand reporter at the recent three day's convention of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association at Stratford. The result will be a 350 page pamphlet containing the addresses and discussions in full, which the Association believe will be of great value to the dairy interests in the west.

An inquisitive reporter at London arrived at the following rates of speaking by the counsel and judges engaged on the Biddulph murder trials:—Judge Armour, 187; Judge Cameron, 192; Mr. E. Irving, Q.C., 129; Mr. Hugh MacMahon, Q.C., 121; Mr. W. R. Meredith, Q.C., 126 to 184. The figures were obtained after a number of two minute tests at various points in the addresses.

The Rev. Dr. Wild, who contributes an article in this month's *Warren* entitled, "The Profits of Shorthand Writing," and whose faithful picture forms our frotispiece, is now pastor of Bond Street Congregational Church, Toronto. His popularity has grown so rapidly that, although here but a few months, a person, to make sure of a sitting, must be on hand at least half an hour before the service commences. We believe the managers are speaking of admitting by ticket after April 1st; they have been compelled to this course to protect pew-holders. The Dr.'s former charge was in Brooklyn, N. Y.