

It should be of interest to us in Canada to note the large proportion of Englishmen in the population of Florida. The curled darling of London drawing-rooms, niggers dressed in cast-off velvet coats, typical Florida "crackers," boatmen, river captains, and handsome lazy Southerners, are each and all faithfully sketched by the gifted and travelled authoress.

"A NORTHERN LILY," by Joanna Harrison (Macmillan and Co.), is a very good novel. The five years of the uneventful life it describes belong to a pretty Scotch girl, Elsie Ross, who is made to suffer most unnecessarily for no fault of her own. Handed about from one stupid family to another, she loses her lover, who dies in action far away from Great Britain, and finally dies of scarlet fever herself. Sweet, thoughtful, uncomplaining, and spiritual, Elsie Ross is a genuine heroine, and one follows her career with interest and sympathy. Twenty years ago such a novel would have taken the world by storm; now, it appears with so many others just as good, that one can predict only a short life for it.

THE value of the Putnams' "Story of the Nations" series seems to grow as the issue proceeds; to impress itself, at least, more and more strongly upon the public mind. In these days, when the juvenile appetite is so abundantly pandered to by unscrupulous, sensational, and well nigh criminal purveyors of printed matter which lies like a stigma upon the name of literature, we cannot be too grateful for the many efforts that are being made to supply books for boys and girls of faultless tone and real value. And when, as in the present case, such an effort has drawn to the cause some of the most eminent of America's scholarly names, we cannot help noting how strong it is, and how deep is the feeling which prompted it. The latest of these books are "The Story of Spain," by Stanley Lane-Poole, B.A., assisted by Arthur Gilman, M.A., and "The Story of the Saracens," by the latter author. Of these perhaps the Castilian tale is told the more vividly and with greater charm of manner generally. The references that are freely made in both books can hardly fail to induce their youthful reader to pursue the subject further, although, if he thoroughly absorbs the information these volumes afford, he will possess a historical knowledge of the countries of which they treat, which multitudes of intelligent people pass through this world without acquiring. (Toronto: Williamson and Company.)

### MUSIC.

MESSRS. NORDHEIMER AND COMPANY show their appreciation of what is important in Canadian artistic growth by bringing out three very clever and pleasing arrangements of French-Canadian airs for the piano. The three—"DIALOGUE," "NOCTURNE," and "CHANT DU VOYAGEUR,"—form a *suite* called "TROIS ESQUISSES CANADIENNES," and as the first attempt made to embody some of these beautiful and precious *chansons* in lasting and tangible form, the thanks of the public are due to the composer, "Seranus." Taking her musical and literary work together, it is but right to call "Seranus" the exponent of the picturesque side of Canadian life, and the creator in fact of certain phases as yet only guessed at and imperfectly understood by our young public. These piano pieces have been already favourably received here at concerts, and deserve a brisk sale. The "Nocturne" is perhaps too much after Chopin, and the "Chant du Voyageur" resembles a certain class of teaching piece, but the beauty of the melodies and the skill of the arrangement are most unusual.

THREE new songs by the ever popular William Hutchison also appear. They are, of course, anything but original, but take with amateurs as well as with the public, and are certainly easy and singable. Perhaps the one entitled "LOVE IS AS FAR AS EVER" is the best.

"BE MINE AGAIN." Milton Wellings.

"DON'T QUITE FORGET." Edith Cooke.

"THE GARDEN OF SLEEP." Isidore de Lara.

Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers' Association:

Three pretty songs which will meet with many admirers. Within medium compass. "The Garden of Sleep" is the most ambitious, and is clever in the treatment of the rather sombre verses by Clement Scott.

### LITERARY GOSSIP.

MISS ROSE TERRY COOKE is engaged upon a new novel, to be called "Steadfast," which Messrs. Ticknor and Company, of Boston, will shortly issue. The story will depict New England life in the early part of the eighteenth century. A volume of Mrs. Cooke's poems is also nearly ready for publication by Mr. W. S. Gottsberger, of New York.

IN his moments of leisure, Mr. W. H. H. Murray ("Adirondack" Murray), has devoted himself to the writing of a number of short stories, which he has now collected, and will publish in a brief time through his literary manager, Mr. Charles T. Walter, of St. Johnsbury, Vt. The stories are represented as being written in Mr. Murray's happiest vein, and will have a first edition of 10,000 copies.

CHARLES DARWIN'S "Life and Letters" will receive publication in London during the early part of next month. It is not known whether there will be an American edition of the work, or merely the importation of copies of the English edition. It will be brought out in two volumes, with a late portrait of Darwin as a frontispiece, and be illustrated with a number of wood cuts. As already announced, there will be an autobiographical chapter to the work.

MISS FRANCES E. WILLARD is engaged in writing a story of American country life, which will embody her own history and experience as a Wisconsin girl in the earlier history of that State. The story will trace the history of Miss Willard's home and the unique development of her father's three children, of which Miss Willard was the eldest. Her book, "Woman and Temperance," is now being translated into the Japanese by a student of Vermont College.

MRS. ADMIRAL DAHLGREN'S new novel, "Divorce," is on the press, for publication in June. The novel is intended as a plea for the sacredness of the marriage tie, and also to exhibit some of the manifold dangers connected with our present system of divorce laws. The types in the story, says the author, may be found in our court records in every large city of the country. The author will also pay her compliments to our present laws and their discrepancies, also woven into a romance form. Mrs. Dahlgren has also written a story of plantation life at the South, called "The Two Cousins," which she intends first to issue as a serial.

THOMAS STEVENS, the famous bicyclist, has decided to publish the series of papers descriptive of his circuit of the globe, in book form, and the first volume will be issued simultaneously in America and England, Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons being the American publishers. The title given the work is "Around the World on a Bicycle," and the first volume will describe his journey from San Francisco to Teheran. The magazine papers have been considerably revised by Mr. Stevens, and a number of illustrations have been added. In addition to becoming one of the regular editorial staff of the *Outing* magazine, Mr. Stevens has also adopted the lecturing platform.

MR. HARRY HARLAND'S ("Sydney Lusk") new novel, "The Yoke of Shorah," is receiving the author's final correction in proof sheets, and the story will be issued this month. Mr. Harland has great expectations for this story, as he believes it contains some of his best work. This author is not a believer in hereditary genius, or gifts, and expressed the opinion a few days since that he believed success in writing fiction was more the result of hard work and constant practice than due to an inheritance or gift. He bases his assertion upon his own career, stating that such success as he has achieved is purely the result of the hardest work, and a determination to become a writer.

MISS AMELIE RIVES, the young Southern writer, whom Mr. Aldrich first introduced to the world of letters, through the *Atlantic* for March, 1886, by her story of "A Brother to Dragon," is reported by a friend to be deluged with applications from publishers for work by her. She is now engaged upon a story that, it is said, will rival her first effort, and the new story has been secured by the editor of *Lippincott's Magazine*, in which the tale will shortly appear as one of that periodical's series of "complete novels in one number." The novel is entitled, "The Farrier Lass o' Piping Pepworth," and, though in a different vein from "A Brother to Dragon," it is pronounced to be superior in interest and literary value.

THERE remained one book to be written about Russia. This want will be supplied next month, through Messrs. D. Appleton and Company, by Mr. Bouton's "Round About to Moscow; an Epicurean Journey." While making an extended pleasure trip last year, the author stayed long enough in Russia to gather original matter for refuting a great many serious errors. This volume, which delivers the first unbiassed American judgment of Russia, will be a welcome addition to the general knowledge of that country. The facilities and enjoyments of a summer trip to Moscow are so great, as explained by Mr. Bouton, that this season will probably witness a much increased movement of Americans in that direction.

MRS. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, wife of the novelist, has written her first individual story, which will be published in the June number of *Scribner's Magazine*. It will be remembered that Mrs. Stevenson collaborated with her husband in writing "The Dynamiters," but up to this time she has never appeared before the public as a writer under her own signature. The story, which is a short one, is entitled "Miss Pringle's Neighbours." Mrs. Stevenson is a San Francisco lady, and has hundreds of friends in America, who will read her work with considerable curiosity and interest. The June *Scribner's* will be especially rich in fiction, Miss Sarah Orne Jewett, and Miss Nora Perry, each contributing short stories, aside from that by Mrs. Stevenson, and the continuation of Mr. Harold Frederic's novel, "Seth's Brother's Wife."

MARK TWAIN'S comments in the *Century* on that unique little book, "English as She is Taught," has done much toward increasing its reputation and sales, and already several thousand copies of the book have been sold. Mr. Clemens' interest seems to have extended, likewise, to the author of the book, Miss Caroline B. Le Row, the humorist going so far as to send Miss Le Row the cheque which he received for his *Century* article. This was done in compliment to the author, and as the cheque was for a generous amount, Miss Le Row's literary venture is already eminently successful, from a financial standpoint, aside from what she may expect on her royalty account from the publishers. The little book has attracted considerable attention, and a friend says that Miss Le Row is deluged with letters from all quarters, containing additional material, which she will use in a supplement which she is preparing.

THE publishers of the *Century* do not propose to continue the publication of the *Southern Bivouac*, their recent purchase, as has been reported. The chief aim of the purchase was the securing of some six or seven important war articles dealing with the Confederate side, which the *Century* people were desirous of obtaining. These will be incorporated in their book of war articles shortly to be published. The *Bivouac* was not a paying institution at the time of the sale, its circulation never having exceeded 12,000 copies. The failure of the managers to make their periodical a success discouraged them, and they made overtures to the *Century* for a sale. The price asked, however, was too large, and the *Century* refused to entertain it, whereupon they were solicited to name their own figure. This was so small that the *Bivouac* people rebelled. Eventually, however, a sum was accepted only a trifle in excess of the original *Century* offer. The amount finally accepted was a very small one. Were it not for the war articles specially desired by the *Century* the purchase would never have been effected.

THE Sultan of Turkey has written to ex-Minister Cox, expressing his pleasure and gratification at the latter's desire to dedicate his forthcoming book, "The Diversions of a Diplomat," to him. The book, it is expected, will be published during the latter part of May or early in June. The title of the work somewhat indicates its subject matter. The *locus in quo* of Mr. Cox's book is in the Island of Prinkipos, one of the nine Prince's Islands in the Sea of Marmora, about fifteen miles below Constantinople. On this island Mr. Cox resided during last summer at a villa midway up on the mountain and above the town of Prinkipos. The mountain is covered with pine trees, whose resinous quality gave health, and whose pleasant breezes from the blue sea gave delight. The "Diversions" consisted in journeys to each of the islands, which have a history, and to the Bosphorus and the adjacent places, where associations, classic, historic, ecclesiastical, and otherwise, are plentiful. There will naturally be much that is personal in the book; but all with due reserve in connection with business as minister at the court of the Sultan. Portraits will be given of the various persons, from the Sultan down, who make Constantinople, at this time especially, one of the most interesting points in Europe. The book, when completed, will consist of over 500 pages, and is to contain more than 100 illustrations. No publisher has as yet been selected, although Mr. Cox is in receipt of numerous applications for the publication of the work. It is not unlikely that the volume will be published by subscription.