

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MISS ALCOTT'S story of "Jo's Boys" has passed its fortieth thousand, and orders for the edition of 10,000 now on the press have already consumed more than one-half of the number.

THE first edition of Mr. Howells's latest novel, "The Minister's Charge," consisted of 5,000 copies, and is nearly exhausted. A second edition of 3,000 copies is being printed by the publishers.

THE Harpers have in hand nearly the entire manuscript of Bret Harte's new romance, which will be published serially in their *Weekly*, beginning with the next number. The romance deals with life in California in the days of '49, and is considered by the novelist's publishers as a strong piece of fiction.

JEFFERSON DAVIS has an article in the January number of *Donahoe's Magazine* on "The Irish Element in the Southern Confederacy." Mr. Davis's estimate shows no stint of praise for such men as General Cleburne, who fell at Franklin, and Captain Atkins, of the Louisiana Tigers, who went to the Green Isle to die of American wounds.

THE death of General Logan has given a fresh impetus to his published book, and the Messrs. Hart, New York, are in receipt of more orders than they can comfortably fill. Nearly 65,000 copies of the book were sold up to the day of the author's death, and it is probable that the present awakened interest will add two or three thousand to this number. Almost the entire sum due the author on his royalty account was paid him only a few days before his decease, and, by virtue of General Logan's contract with his publishers, accruing royalties will be paid to his widow.

CONSIDERABLE interest is being manifested in Boston literary circles in the new novel by Mr. John T. Wheelwright, the young lawyer of that city, who, together with John Boyle O'Reilly, Robert Grant, and "J. S. of Dale," wrote the novel, "The King's Men." Mr. Wheelwright's new story is to be published by a New York house, and will be entitled "The Child of the Century." Mr. Wheelwright is one of a circle of young novelists that are attracting no small degree of attention by their creditable work, and his latest book, it is believed, will do its author more credit than any of his previous writings. The novelist is a very young man, who has already won distinction in the Boston law courts as an able lawyer and speaker.

CONCERNING General Lew Wallace's new romance, the announcement is interesting that the soldier-author will hereafter devote himself exclusively to literary work. Hitherto General Wallace has given such moments of leisure to his literary pursuits as his legal profession and public duties permitted, but his success has been so large as an author that he has decided to become a permanent addition to the literary ranks. The author's methods of work are not uninteresting. He shapes his plots, conceives his characters, and completes his works, all but the mere writing, entirely on his feet while walking across the floor of his study, or rambling through the garden attached to his Indiana home. His residence is a wooded estate, where the author can roam at his leisure, and be as quiet as if he were a thousand miles in the wilderness instead of in the centre of commercial activity. He is not fond of lecturing, and, after the engagements which he already has of this character, he will accept no further ones, but retire to his home and complete his new Turkish romance.

SOMETHING more substantial than increased fame has resulted to the famous American generals who have turned their pens toward writing their memoirs, or who have had their experiences embalmed in literature. The large financial returns which General Grant's work brought for his widow are known by the public, and there is every prospect that she will be made the recipient of a third cheque in the early part of the year. General McClellan's book, while it has not, of course, reached the sale which the Grant volumes have enjoyed, is selling beyond even the anticipations of the publishers, who report a sale already of 43,000 copies. The advance orders for the book consumed over 15,000 copies, and the second week after publication proved even more profitable than the first. It is the expectation of the publishers that 100,000 copies will be disposed of before the work is "shelved," and, to accomplish this, the Websters have nearly 3,000 agents employed in canvassing the volume. The largest number of copies has thus far been sold in New Jersey, General McClellan's native State.

GENERAL JOHN C. FREMONT'S "Memoirs," of which the first volume has just been issued by Messrs. Belford, Clarke, and Company, is enjoying a boom that promises a handsome return for the author. One hundred thousand copies will be printed of the first volume, and a similar number of the second. An order just received by the publishers from one dealer in Ohio calls for 2,400 copies of the first volume. A larger part of the second volume of the work is already in print, and the remainder the author is daily engaged in completing. It is expected that this volume will be ready by the 1st of March. "We are employing care and time," said a member of the firm a few days ago, "in the preparation of the work, and shall not hurry the second volume in any way. General Fremont personally supervises the manufacture of his work, and is constantly fitting attention to every minute detail. He is very exacting, and nothing is done on his work without its first receiving his personal approval." The work, when completed, will consist of 1,280 pages of letterpress, and will be embellished with over 400 illustrations. A week before his death General Logan ordered that a copy of the work be specially prepared for him, to be bound in half morocco.

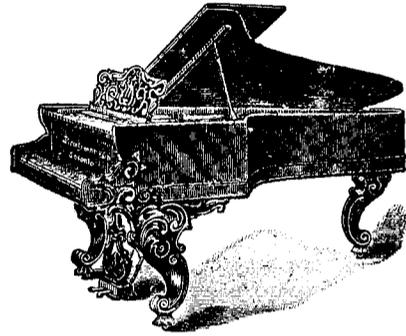
THE Trow presses are busily printing the second number of the new *Scribner*, which will be issued on February 1. Contrary to all expectations, it has been found necessary to print 125,000 copies of the second number to properly fill the demand, of which the publishers have already received substantial indications. It was my privilege yesterday to examine a complete set of advance sheets of the February number, and it required but a glance to see, what a more careful subsequent examination convinced me of, that the publishers had succeeded in overcoming the difficulties which they naturally had to contend with in issuing their first number. The printing of the illustrations is much improved, the work accomplished bearing comparison to any before the public. The leading place in the number is occupied by an article by Mr. J. C. Ropes, entitled "The Likenesses of Cæsar," which is profusely illustrated with reproductions of photographs in Mr. Ropes's unique collection. The "Reminiscences of Minister Washburne" is continued, and the "Glimpses at the Diaries of Gouverneur Morris" comes to a conclusion in a second paper. Among other notable articles is one on "Our Naval Policy," by Lieutenant J. R. Soley, forming an admirable supplement to Captain Greene's article in the January number. The second instalments of "Seth's Brother's Wife" and "The Story of a New York House" appear, the latter with well-executed illustrations by Frost, Edwards, and Hopkinson and Smith. "J. S. of Dale" begins a novelette, which is to run through four numbers, and there are also some striking short stories and poems by Octave Thanet, Louise Chandler Moulton, and others, with a review of Russian novels by Thomas Sergeant Perry.

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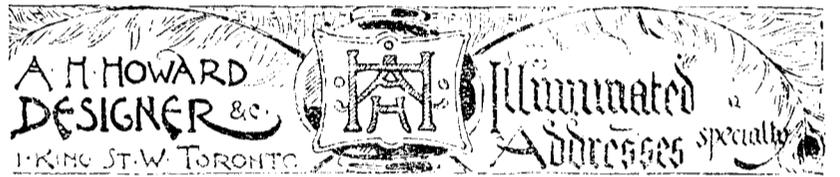
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