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Literary Notes.

The Irish Catholic, Mr. Tim Healy's paper, thinks the Irish Party will refuse to follow John Dillon as leader. It is expected that, in the Irish Catholic's opinion, Mr. Tim Healy is the proper man for the post.

In a recent number of the London Times, Mr. Edmund Purcell, the author of the "Life of Cardinal Manning" which has been so severely criticised, replies to his critics, and defends himself by saying that, if Cardinal Vaughan had seen the diaries, he would not have fallen into the error of declaring that they were not preserved for the purpose of publication.

The original subscribers to the Edinburgh Edition of Stevenson's works, for which the Messrs. Scribner are the American agents, are not obliged to subscribe for the seven new volumes which will make the set the only complete uniform edition of Stevenson's writings. They will, however, have the first chance, which is only right and proper. These supplementary volumes, like the others, are limited to one hundred copies for America.

Canon Jessopp's many friends will be glad to know that with the second edition of "Random Roaming," and other papers, the three-and-sixpenny edition of his works is now complete. These works, which have been acknowledged to combine much learning with great geniality, have been peculiarly successful. The good stories of "Aready," now in its fourth edition, still serve as plums for the sermonist, and the "Trials of a Country Parson" have lured the sympathetic reader through three editions. The record is headed, however, by the "Coming of the Friars," now in its sixth.

The Messrs. Scribner will publish early in March a volume of "Vailima Table-Talk," by Mrs. Strong and Lloyd Osbourne. Mrs. Strong, it may be remembered, was Mr. Stevenson's amanuensis, and Mr. Osbourne, as is well-known, collaborated with him in several of his stories. This "Table-Talk" was taken down while it was fresh in the memory of both, and with the consent of Mr. Stevenson, who submitted to being Boswellized—though he rather made a joke of it. The book is said to be most interesting, and there is every reason to believe it.

William Briggs has been so fortunate as to secure for a Canadian copyright edition S. R. Crockett's new book "Cleg Kelly, Arab of the City," which will likely be placed on the market in March. Appleton & Co have the book in the United States, and Smith, Elder & Co., in Great Britain. This is said to be the best thing Crockett has yet produced. Those who have enjoyed the adventures of Jiminy and Jaikie and our present hero Cleg Kelly in the sketches of "The Stickit Minister" could not fail to see that one of the author's strong points—dwelt upon by the critics—was his treatment of boy character. The progress and adventures of Cleg Kelly have proved entertaining during the year to the readers of the Cornhill Magazine, in which the story has been running as a serial.

Mr Clifford Smith, of the editorial staff of the Montreal Witness, whose contributions to the magazines, English and American, have marked him as a clever and promising writer, has made a collection of his short stories and placed them with William Briggs for publication. The initial story "Jean, the Bobbin Carrier" gives its title to the book. A pleasing feature of the stories is their variety of style and incident. Mr. Smith seems to write with equal ease and success in the realistic and in the romantic view. Some of the stories display a bright bubbling humour, and others, such as "A Daughter of the Church" (a story which our readers will remember was one of the prize stories of this magazine), strike a note of the deepest tragic pathos. Mr. Smith is especially happy in delineating his French-Canadian countrymen, and their quaint halting English is given to perfection. We bid our readers keep their mental eye on this book. It is bound to be popular. The publishers have wisely decided to issue it in paper at fifty cents as well as in cloth. We can't have too many such books in Canada.



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