

THE JULY MAGAZINES.

"LIPPINCOTT'S." Lippincott's Magazine it is understood that Mr. Lloyd P. Smith, who has been its editor from the commencement, will withdraw, and will be succeeded by Mr. John Foster Kirk, the author of "The History of Charles the Bold." Mr. Smith proved himself to be an able editor, and he gave the magazine a literary standing at the very start that placed it beside the oldest and best in the country.

The list of articles in the July number is as follows:—"Petticoat Influence on the Government of England," by Justin McCarthy; "The Winds," a Poem, by Cecil Clare; "Two Letters," a Tale, by Mrs. W. A. Thompson; "On the Theory of Evolution," Part I, by Professor Edw. D. Cope; "A Week among the Mormons," by Miss Annie Morris; "Shall we Despair of the Republic?" by Rev. Walter Mitchell; "A Ghost as a Modern Convenience," by Mrs. Margaret Hosmer; "Lake Superior and the Sainte Marie," by Isaac Aiken; "Epigram," by Robert M. Walsh; "The Loss of the Onida," by Humblythwaite; "Sir Harry Hotspur of Humblethwaite," a novel, Part III, by Anthony Trollope; "Negro Superstitions," by Thaddeus Norris; "Fairmount Park," by Malcom Macouen; "Miss Tiggy's Secret," by J. W. Watson; "Russia in Central Asia," by Charles Morris; "Our Monthly Gossip;" "Literature of the Day."

The paper by Thaddeus Norris on "Negro Superstition" is one of much interest. This is a subject with which Mr. Norris is perfectly familiar, and the anecdotes he relates are both curious and valuable. We make the following extracts from this article:—

Of course there is the universal horseshoe brand on the door of negro cabins as a bar to witches and the devil. There are also the "conjuring gourd" and the frog-bones and pounded glass carefully hidden away by many an old negro man or woman, who by the dim light of a tallow candle or a pine torch works imaginary spells on any one against whom he or she may have a grudge. There are also queer beliefs that are honestly maintained. One is, that the cat-bird carries sticks to the devil, and that by its peculiar note, "Snake, snake," it can call snakes to its rescue and drive away those who would rob its nest. Another is, that every jay-bird carries a grain of sand to the infernal regions once a year, and that when the last grain of sand is so taken away from the earth the world will come to an end; all of which, of course, is at variance with the Miller's calculations. Then there is a belief in a certain affinity and secret communication between themselves and wild and domestic animals. Many persons have observed a negro's way of talking to his dog or to a horse. "Aunt Bet" will say as she is milking, "Sten! arrou! now, you hussy, you. You want to git you foot in de piggion, do you?" and the cow with careful tread and stepping high will assume a more favorable position.

Among the mythical animals of the woods is the moonack. It is generally supposed to live in a cave or hollow tree. The negro who meets with it in his solitary rambles is doomed. His reason is impaired until he becomes a madman, or he is carried off by some lingering malady. The one who has the misfortune to encounter it never recovers from the blasting sight; he dares not speak of it, but old, knowing negroes will shake their heads despondingly and say, "He's gwine to die; he's seed de moonack."

Many of these superstitions, as the efficacy of the frog-bones and conjuring gourd, are no doubt handed down from their African ancestors. A few years back the rites of the "Hoodoo" were practiced and believed in in the city of New Orleans. From the description I have had from those who have witnessed the ceremony, it must have resembled the incantation scene in *Macbeth*.

Negroes are naturally suspicious of each other—that is, of some secret power or influence those of greater age have over them—and will entrust their money and health and well-being to white persons with perfect confidence, while they are distrustful of those of their own color. I cite the following as a case in point—its truthfulness I can vouch for:—A gentleman in Alexandria, Virginia, had an old servant by the name of Friday, who filled the office of gardener and man-of-all-work about his premises. One summer, Friday, from some cause unknown to his master, was very "ailing." He lost his appetite, his garrulity, his loud-lingering laugh, became entirely incapable of attending to his duties, and appeared to be approaching his last end. On questioning him closely, he told his master, with some reluctance, that he was suffering from a spell that had been put upon him by Aunt Sina, the cook, who was some years older than himself. When pressed hard for some proof, he said that he had seen her, one moonlight night, raise one of the bricks in the pavement leading from the portico in the street, near the gate, and place something under it which he knew was a charm, for he had tried several times, without avail, to raise the brick; and that he could not even see that it had ever been moved. Further that he had frequently heard Aunt Sina muttering something to herself which he could not understand, and on one occasion saw her hide something in her chest, which he was pretty sure was a conjuring gourd. All of this, he said, was a part of the spell; that all the physic he had taken was of no avail; that he was troubled with a constant "misery in his head," and was certain he was going to die.

His master, knowing how useless it would be to endeavor to reason him out of such belief, and being a practical wag, determined to treat Friday's case with a like remedy. He accordingly enjoined strict secrecy towards Aunt Sina as to any knowledge of his being bewitched, and put him on a course of bread-pills tinctured with arsenic. He then searched the garret, and finding a pair of old boots with light morocco interlinings, he cut out and drew distinctly, on two smaller pieces, a skull and crossbones encompassed by a circle. He further warned Friday of the evil effect that might ensue by passing over or near the brick under which Aunt Sina had deposited the charm, and promised to write to a celebrated Indian doctor who lived some thousand miles away and get his advice. Then he sent his old servant with a letter on some pretended business which would keep him away a few days.

When Friday had departed, with considerable difficulty and much care his master raised a brick as near as possible to the place where the charm was supposed to have been hidden, and carefully laying down one of

calabastic pieces of leather, as carefully replaced the brick.

In a few days Friday returned. Some heavy rain having fallen during his absence, all marks of disturbance in the pavement were effaced. Friday still continued to grow worse, and in a few days more his master produced a letter from a long envelope with a singular-looking postmark and mysterious characters on it, which he informed him was from the Indian doctor. The letter of this wise sachem, as his master read it to Friday, informed him that the conjuring gourd had no power of evil in his case, but that the person who had put the spell on him had hidden two charms; that if one of these could be found and certain conditions observed, the other could also; and if they were both alike the spell would be broken. The letter went on to describe the place where one of them was hidden. It was in an old churchyard, but the doctor could not say where the church was; it might be in America or England or France. The description of the church, however, was so graphic that by the time his master had read it through, the white of Friday's eyes had enlarged considerably, and he gaspingly exclaimed, "Fo' God, Maas Ant'ony! it's Christ church, here in dis very town!" His master here laid aside the letter, and bringing his fist heavily down on the table declared that it was; it had not occurred to him before. The charm, so said the doctor's letter, was under the topmost loose brick (which was covered with leaves) of a certain old tomb, the fourth one from the gate, on the left-hand side of the middle walk, going in. It was to be taken from under the brick, and by the bewitched, going out of the churchyard backward—all the time repeating the Lord's Prayer. He was to turn around when he reached the street and throw a handful of sulphur backward over the wall.

The day on which the letter was read to the patient, Aunt Sina was sent on an errand which would detain her all night; and when the moon was well up Friday complied with all the conditions, his master awaiting his return. Then a few bricks in the pavement were removed with much difficulty, and the other charm was found. They were compared by the light of a red wax candle in his master's office, and to Friday's joy, one was an exact duplicate of the other. "Now, Friday, drink this," said Maas Anthony, handing him a large tumbler of whiskey, into which he had stirred a teaspoonful of sulphur taken from the same paper as that he had thrown over the churchyard wall. "The spell is broken, and if you sleep well to-night you will be all right in a day or two. Remember, though, if you hint to old Sina anything about breaking the spell, she will bewitch you again. Now go to bed."

Of course Friday slept well. With his mind at ease, and under the influence of nearly a pint of whiskey, why shouldn't he? He soon recovered his health, his garrulity, and his loud laugh.

"PUTNAM'S."

The following are the contributions to the July number of Putnam's Magazine:—"The King's Sentinel," R. H. Stoddard; "Salmon-Fishing on the Nippissiguit," Thaddeus Norris; "At the Associated Press Office," William Aplin; "Love in Fiji—My Early Life Among the Cannibals"—Edited by T. M. Coan, M. D.; "Wild Bees," John Burroughs; "A Woman's Right: VII. The Camp Meeting," Mrs. M. C. Ames; "What they are Doing in Mexico," J. Henry Brown; "Fairly Island," Miss C. F. Woolson; "To Frances," T. Buchanan Read; "His Honor's Daughter," O. M. Ellsworth; "Pictures in the Private Galleries of New York: II. Mr. J. Taylor Johnston's Collections," Eugene Benson; "Disraeli as Statesman and Novelist," J. M. Bundy; "Rossetti, the Painter and Poet," W. J. Stillman; "A Disenchanted Republican—Letter from a German Traveller;" "Editorial Notes;" "Literature at Home;" "Literature, Science, and Art Abroad."

From the paper by William Aplin entitled "At the Associated Press Office," we collect the following bits of information that will be of interest to those of our readers who do not know exactly what the Associated Press is:—

The Associated Press has an army of correspondents, called local agents, scattered all over the civilized world. In thinly-settled districts, where news is likely to be too scarce to warrant the appointment of regular agents by special contract, the telegraph company, which is alike interested in the forwarding of despatches, takes upon itself the service of making its operators its office agents of the Associated Press. By such economical means the whole field of operations, coextensive with the telegraphic system, has been covered effectively with no less than fifteen thousand intelligent news reporters. All despatches from the local agents are sent directly to the headquarters at New York, where they are corrected and reproduced by a process of manifold writing, and the copies distributed to the several newspapers. The services of the telegraph are then required again—this time to scatter the news already collected to all points of the compass and the farthest ends of the land. The receiving telegraphers at other cities deliver their copies to the Associated Press agents, by whom they are again manifolded and sent to their individual papers, as in New York.

Ranged about at a dozen desks sit a dozen men, who are expected to know something of everything under the sun—the ports and products of every country, as well as every vessel by name. Parliamentary practice must be at their fingers' ends. They would be worthless without poetry and the dead languages, wherewith to correct politicians' bad Latin, and equally so without the living languages. Chronology is indispensable in the news business; hence Rollin, Gibbon, Hume, Hallam, and Motley must be learned by heart. That great English lawyer, Lord Campbell, said:—"There is nothing so dangerous as for one not of the craft to tamper with our freemasonry." Consequently these men must have studied law enough to master the statutes and rules of practice of all the States and all the nations. They must be able to "write up," understandingly, horse-races, regattas, and base-ball matches, as well as synods, conventions, and congresses. Like policemen and soldiers, they must have no politics, affections, or opinions; they must be stoically unconcerned in confagurations, murders, shipwrecks, and battles. Practical printers they must be, certainly, as well as practical electricians. Finally, they must have good sense and judgment, in order to know the value of news, and a good common-school education, that they may write it out intelligently. These extraordinary men are the manifolders. They edit the despatches as fast as they arrive, whatever the subject-matter may be, and at the same time write them out in good English, twenty copies

at once. As may be supposed, men having all these qualifications do not present themselves every day. How many has this office been obliged to turn away, who were weighed in the balance and found wanting—how many college graduates, philosophers, lawyers, yea, even editors, who like Fielding's hero, promised much in the prospectus, and performed nothing at all; who, upon trial, persisted in inventing new and non-existent geographical localities, like the Isle of Wright, the Straits of Andover, and the city of Cincinnati!

The regular Associated Press telegrams are what would be called, in Europe, "semi-official." The special despatch is colored to suit the particular journal, but the press despatch is strictly non-partisan, for it goes to papers of all politics and all religions. The local agents, on account of their presumed fairness, and because they have it in their power to bring despatches before so many readers, have the run of official records everywhere, often where the "special" would not be tolerated. The Government appreciates the power of the Associated Press. The Washington agent frequently has his news brought to him by the heads of the departments. But the Washington news is not always startling. The decisions of the Internal Revenue Commissioner, and the proposals of the Naval Constructing Bureau, are matters that the Government is more interested in getting printed everywhere than the public is to read. A waggish manifolded one headed one of these documents with the words, "Government Advertisement." Instantly a storm of questions came from the newspaper offices, as to who would be responsible for the bill. But the editors, on being informed that the matter was really telegraphic news for which they would be expected to pay five cents a word on the next Saturday, printed it with the other telegrams, headed, and garnished with head lines.

The notion prevalent in some quarters that the Associated Press is a gigantic moneyed corporation, grown rich by the sale of its news, and that its own bills are met with the profits received from others, need scarcely be seriously dealt with. The regular morning journals forming the Associated Press pay about fourteen thousand dollars each, per annum, for the news-service of this office; those having Sunday editions fifteen thousand. The evening paper (the *Express*) pays about eight thousand, as do also the *Post* and the *Commercial Advertiser*. The money paid gives a fair idea of the proportionate amount of news furnished. The evening papers pay rather more than one-third of the total bill, and receive four-ninths of the total amount of news.

Godey's Lady's Book for July maintains its ancient reputation as an authority on fashions and all other matters of special interest to the fair sex. It is illustrated with numerous engravings and fashion-plates, and presents an interesting variety of stories, sketches, and poetry.

The July number of *The Lady's Friend* has a steel-plate frontispiece, entitled "Summer Hours," a large double-page colored fashion-plate, and it gives all the newest notices about feminine attire, with a great variety of attractive reading for the hot weather.

Arthur's Home Magazine for July has something to please everybody in the family circle. The description of the latest fashions are numerous and are based upon the best authorities, and the miscellaneous articles in prose and verse are well adapted to please the popular taste.

The July number of *The Children's Hour* presents an attractive series of sketches in prose and verse that will be both entertaining and edifying to the little ones.

ROOFING.

READY ROOFING.—This Roofing is adapted to all buildings. It can be applied to STEEP OR FLAT ROOFS as one-half the expense of tin. It is readily put on old Shingle Roofs without removing the shingles, and without the damaging of ceilings and furniture while under repair. It is a great improvement. PRESERVE YOUR TIN ROOFS WITH WELTON'S PATENT ROOFING. I am always prepared to Repair and Paint Roofs at the lowest rates. Also, PAINT FOR SALE by the barrel or gallon the best and cheapest on the market. W. A. WELTON, No. 711 N. NINTH Street, above Coates.

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