

Some Stories of Literary Folk.



HAMILTON W. MABIE, the essayist and critic and associate editor of the Outlook, has been lecturing this season on a subject which he phrases "Life and the Artist" and which includes the subheadings as topics for different talks: "The Workshop," "The Workman," "Craftsmanship" and "Art." Mr. Mabie once said of his work as an essayist, "I prefer to describe my books as essays of interpretation of literature and nature," and he added:

The special significance of the essayist is his opportunity to lend the maturity of his knowledge of the best in nature and in literature to the young that they may profit by the suggestions in his guidance. This does not mean merely a reflection, exactly shown, of his experiences, not a diary of sordid things to avoid, but a sound, beautiful, poetic impression of actualities that will help the young generation to strike a normal balance of manhood and womanhood as it stretches out before them in all its problematic uncertainties; to point out the oasis where they can find shade and quench their thirst in the wilderness of literature, to make them listen to the divine morale that is in a myriad of voices around them in the field, by the stream, in the woodlands, on the mountain. And the essayist, to do this effectually, must find his own key in the sympathy of which he is a part in nature and in literature.

Mr. Mabie was born at Cold Spring, N. Y., in 1846 and has received degrees from four or five colleges and universities. Among his best known works are "William Shakespeare, Poet, Dramatist and Man," "Backgrounds of Literature," "Parables of Life," "Short Studies in Literature" and "The Life of the Spirit."

Gabriele D'Annunzio, whom many consider the greatest Italian author of modern times, is often caricatured. He is noted as possessing many of the eccentricities of genius. In 1900 he was elected a member of the Italian parliament, running on the platform of "the cult of the beautiful." He is about forty-two years of age, is quite bald and is very fond of fine clothes, his wardrobes being of almost fabulous



D'ANNUNZIO AND A CARICATURE OF HIM. extent. He has had more love troubles than most of his heroes and has been compared to Lord Byron in this respect. His country seat is one of the finest in the neighborhood of Florence, and in a room of this chateau he shut himself up one time to write one of his best known tragedies, so arranging the apartment that it could be entered only by a ladder from the outside in order that he might not be disturbed. Fond of ease and luxury though he is, he proves a tremendous worker when the inspiration is on him. Sometimes, like Balzac, he writes steadily for eleven hours at a time. The sea infatuates him, and often he can be seen riding along the sands at dawn. And, although he is an out and out pagan, he frequently shuts himself up alone in churches at night. For some time he will be seen frequently in society in Rome and in Florence; then for a long period he will court absolute solitude and be seen by scarcely any one.

The Rev. Dr. John Watson, who preached on a recent Sunday in the Fifth Avenue Baptist church, New York, sometimes known as "Rockefeller's church," is better known to the reading public as Ian Maclaren. He is pastor of the Sefton Park Presbyterian church, Liverpool, and in the same city is Pembroke chapel, whose pastorate the Rev. Charles F. Aked recently resigned in order to accept that of the church in New York which Rockefeller attends. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., arranged the plan by which the congregation of the Fifth Avenue church heard the famous Scotchman who wrote "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" and the other charming stories in "Scotch dialect which have been so popular in this country. Dr. Watson has several times visited America and preached, lectured and read from his works. He is a minister first and a writer of fiction afterward. Speaking of his methods of work, he once said: "I do most of my writing at night. It is secondary, you know. My church work has my attention first, and afterward, if I am not too tired, I spend an hour or two in the evening writing."

Dr. Watson's first charge was the Little Free Church parish in Logiehead, in Perthshire, now so well known as Drumtochty. He then formed the idea which years afterward he carried out in the book entitled "Beside

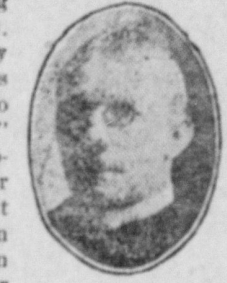
the Bonnie Brier Bush. He was once charged by some of his ministerial brethren with heresy, but the authorities of his denomination declined to consider the presentment.

There is an interesting contrast between Ian Maclaren and that other writer of Scotch dialect stories who is so popular in this country, J. M. Barrie. He, too, has visited America and met some of his admirers, but he is not, like Dr. Watson, a ready and an eloquent speaker. On the contrary, he speaks with difficulty and is reticent to the degree of bashfulness. The author of "The Little Minister" and "Peter Pan" is conscious of his limitations as a speaker and is perfectly well aware of his shyness. Indeed, he is not above poking fun at himself. On one occasion there



appeared in the Scots Observer a brilliant lampoon, in which Mr. Barrie was represented as attending a public dinner, keeping every one in roars of laughter with his unceasing stream of wit and epigram and finally ending up by making the speech of the evening. When a certain literary friend of Mr. Barrie's saw this wickedly clever piece of satire his indignation knew no bounds, and he rushed into print, demanding by all the outraged gods that the author of this infamous article should straightway disclose himself and be dealt with accordingly. But, alas for the well meaning friend, the author was none other than Mr. Barrie himself.

The Hoosier poet and humorist, James Whitcomb Riley, is extremely averse to attending social functions. Harper's Weekly relates that he was recently induced to attend a "literary" dinner in Indianapolis given in honor of a novelist of that city. Riley had been told off to take in to dinner the sister of his host, an excellent woman, though anything but "literary." The conversation touching upon the beauties of Chaucer, about whom a certain ad of the city was then cultivating a fad, a spirited discussion ensued, dur-



JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

ing when the bewildered sister caught from time to time only the name "Chaucer."

At last she whispered to Riley: "Who is this Mr. Chaucer they're talking about so much? Is he very popular in society?"

"Madam," solemnly responded Riley, "that man did something that forever shuts him out of society."

"Heavens!" exclaimed the worthy dame. "And what was that?"

"He died several hundred years ago," said Riley.

There are few busier men in the country than Dr. S. Weir Mitchell of Philadelphia, who at the age of seventy-six is bringing out his eighteenth work of fiction. To write so many books as that is quite a life task in itself, but Dr. Mitchell has attained perhaps as great eminence in the med-

ical as in the literary profession. Literature was his choice when a young man, but on the advice of a litterateur he dropped letters for materia medica. Later, when he became a pathologist of renown, he considered his own case and advised Dr. Mitchell to become Novelist Mitchell. The result is a novelist-physician recognized everywhere that the science of medicine is worthy of the term, while the physician-novelist has reputation wherever the American novel can hope for place. He now has not only eighteen novels to his credit, but several books of poems, short stories without number and over 100 works on scientific and professional topics besides.

Speaking of the writing of novels, Dr. Mitchell once said, "Every novel should be laid aside after it is written for two years, until some of the details have escaped the author's memory; then it can be reconsidered."

To do his literary work Lew Wallace built a library in the middle of his garden, a large building, with every arrangement for comfortable writ-

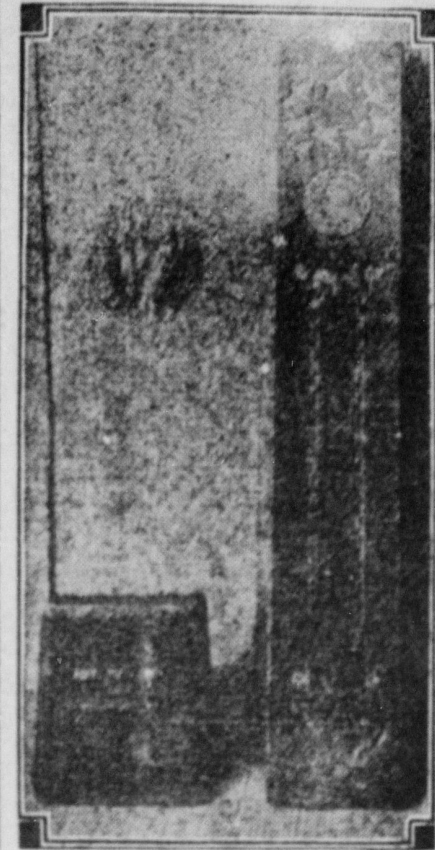
ing and with shelves for his thousands of books.

Since the general's death Mrs. Wallace has remained so devoted to the memory of her distinguished husband that she has kept everything in this building in precisely the same condition in which he left it. Even the book which he was last reading lies open at the page.

THE NOBEL PRIZE.

Mr. Roosevelt's Use of the Fund to Further Industrial Peace.

The fact that President Roosevelt did not appropriate to his own use the Nobel peace prize money, amounting to about \$37,000, but devoted it to the establishment of a fund for the promotion of industrial peace, has naturally occasioned comment. The award to him of the peace prize by the Norwegian parliament gave the president an opportunity to carry out a plan he had cherished of bringing into being a commission which should labor for the abolition of war between labor and capital in industry. The board of trust-



THE NOBEL MEDAL AND FINELY DECORATED CASE. Taken at first announced by Mr. Roosevelt.

vett to take charge of the Nobel peace prize fund was composed of five members—the chief justice of the United States supreme court, the secretary of commerce and labor, the secretary of agriculture, John Mitchell, representing labor, and Marvin Huggitt, representing capital. Senator Daniel of Virginia has introduced in the senate a bill which provides for the establishment of this commission under the laws and adds two members to it to represent "the general public." Authority is given to the body thus created to "receive the Nobel peace prize awarded to the president and by him devoted to this foundation and to administer it in accordance with the purposes herein defined."

The Nobel medal, which recently arrived at the White House, is a solid plate of gold about four inches in diameter, containing about \$250 worth of yellow metal. It bears on one side the profile of Alfred Nobel and on the other three male figures, two of them struggling in combat and the third acting as peacemaker. Surrounding the figures are the words "Pro pace et fraternitate gentium" (For the peace and brotherhood of nations). The picture shows this side of the medal. The diploma given with the medal and prize money is written in Norse and makes known the facts as to the award, name of winner, etc. The medal and diploma came to the president in a beautifully decorated silk covered box, which is also shown in the cut.

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Headache

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