

Stories About The Authors Of Indiana.

By EDWARD HALE BRUSH.



BOOTH TARKINGTON.

THE state of Indiana has become so fertile as a literary field as to cause much comment upon the fact. Other commonwealths are almost envious of the Hoosier State on account of its growing literary fame. Not content with producing a Lew Wallace, it also sent forth into the ranks of literature two very popular humorists, James Whitcomb Riley and the younger genius in making folks laugh, George Ade. It is the native state of Joaquin Miller and has produced Booth Tarkington, Charles Major, George Barr McCutcheon, Meredith Nicholson, Wilbur D. Nesbit and others whose literary stars are in the ascendant.

Indiana writers are noted for taking home scenes or types of character as subjects. This is especially true of Booth Tarkington, author of "The Gentleman From Indiana" and of "The Conquest of Canaan," the scenes of which are laid in the Hoosier State. Others of his best known works are "Monsieur Beaulieu," "The Two Van Revels," "Cherry," "In the Arena" and "The Pennant Lady." Mr. Tarkington, who was born thirty-eight years ago in Indianapolis and who studied at Princeton, once said that he had no literary success at all, after trying other lines, he struck Indiana subjects. While "The Gentleman From Indiana" was running in serial form the author received a great number of letters from people throughout the state who thought they saw in the first few numbers of the story evidences of disloyalty to Indiana. They advised Mr. Tarkington to go east, where he belonged, and called him everything from a snob to a traitor. Four county papers took up the same cry and abused him with as much ardor as if he had been running for office.

"I really hardly knew what to think of it," said Mr. Tarkington. "It never occurred to me to be disloyal, and I was glad when the story was finished and they saw that they were mistaken."

Though Wilbur D. Nesbit, author of "The Trail to Boyland" and "The Gentleman Ragman," was born in Xenia, O., he sprang into fame while a news-



threescore and ten years ago and the poet left Indiana with his parents for the Pacific coast when he was nine, he still has vivid memories of the days of his early youth in the Hoosier State. Mr. Miller proposes to visit his boyhood home on the occasion of his next birthday, which falls in August, and the people of the vicinity are going to give him a welcome at the time of his "home coming." Writing to George B. Lockwood, editor of the Marion Chronicle, the poet recently said:

"What I most of all things want to see is the old log home which my re-



JOAQUIN MILLER AS OLD MAN AND AS BOY.

vered parents built away back in the forties, and I want to see the beautiful river. I want to go fishing in it again. I want to go out to the old Miami village and see Jim Sasequas Shinglemeia and his two bright boys. They made me a bow and arrows. The arrows had keen, bright points, which they made out of an old barrel hoop with pap's file. And they were perfect. As proof of this there is scarce a single buffalo left.

"I want to walk down the old dusty corduroy state road. I want to go to Lafontaine bareheaded. I want to walk in the dust, with my pants rolled to my knees, just as of old. We can take some doughnuts in our pockets. Maybe we can steal a few apples from Bluebeard pirates harbored along the creek. Anyhow I want to make a day of it. I want to be a boy back on the old place once more before I die. Come along and bring a lot of boys and girls, and let them all be 'kids' once more, not caring a bean whether school keeps or not."

Mr. Miller has recently avowed an intention to take up his residence in Oregon and run for the United States senate.

James Whitcomb Riley is Indiana's best known poet and humorist, and the public expects at least a touch of playfulness in his poetic effusions, but he can write serious verse, as was shown in the poem he read at the unveiling of the statue of General Henry W. Lawton in Indianapolis. It was entitled "The Home Voyage" and was composed in honor of General Lawton's memory when the body of the hero was being brought home from the Philippines.

Dr. Henry van Dyke in a recent article in the Book News Monthly thus discussed the personality of the Hoosier poet:

Some men use their personality as an island. Others use it as a boat; it enables them to move around and see the world, without being lost in it. These last are the men of geniality—which is one of the qualities of genius—and James Whitcomb Riley is a person of that kind. Speaking of boats, we are inevitably reminded of that famous comparison of old Thomas Fuller's, in which he imagines a wit combat between Ben Jonson as a stately, ponderous Spanish galleon, and Will Shakespeare as a light, quick, moving English man-of-war. If we modernized the figure, and set, let us say, Mr. Riley and Mr. Kipling afloat, what shapes would our fancy give them? Perhaps the one would be a trading schooner, ready for adventurous voyaging in strange seas, laden with all sorts of foreign and mysterious merchandise and redolent of eastern spices; and the other would be a native built canoe, framed for the exploration of familiar and friendly little rivers, journeying with ever new delight of discovery through the woodland and the farmland of Indiana, stopping without fail at "The Old Swimming Hole," and tying up at night at some landing place along the Brandywine, within sight of a farmhouse, where William Leachman or Doc Sifers would be waiting for a good talk.

Right here at home, boys—jes right where we air! Birds don't sing any sweeter anywhere; Grass don't grow any greener'n she grows; Across the pastur' where the old pastur' goes— All things in earshot's purty, er in sight, Right here at home, boys, ef we size 'em right.

Charles Major, author of two of the most popular novels of the day, "When Knighthood Was In Flower" and "Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall," is also a native of Indiana. He was born in Indianapolis in 1854 and educated at the common schools of that city and of Shelbyville, where he now resides. He also studied at Michigan university. He married a Shelbyville belle, Miss Alice Shaw, in 1885. Mr. Major combines the practice of law with the writing of fiction. Among his stories, besides those mentioned, are "Bears of Blue River," "A Forest Heart" and "Yolanda, Maid of Burgundy." At Shelbyville he shares honors as a prominent citizen with a big chicken grower, and that his genius is not unappreciated in his home town is shown by the remarks of a friend, who is quoted as saying:

I have known Charley for thirty years and I have never yet heard a bad word spoken against him. I never heard a man in this town say that Charley was not as straight as a string and one of the best fellows in the place. He ain't stuck up about his money, either. He is as liberal as you get 'em, and there ain't nobody in town that can say that they ever did anything for Charley Major that they didn't get paid for.

A PLEASANT PROPRIETOR—WILBUR D. NESBIT paper worker in Indiana, and much of his writing has been done while residing in the Hoosier State. He married an Indianapolis girl, Miss Mary Lee Jenkins. Mr. Nesbit is thirty-six and very boyish looking. One is astonished to learn that in his brief career he has written over 5,000 poems. Naturally enough, some of these effusions do not evince a high order of genius, but some of them have won popularity. There was a time when the only way he could turn his poetic talents to profit was by writing rhyming advertisements. One such effort was turned to the glorification of an array of straw hats in an Indianapolis dry goods store. As a writer of "ads." in prose Mr. Nesbit had not been much of a success. He was already facing the danger of being "fired" when this "poem" appeared.

"Who wrote that stuff?" demanded the proprietor of the store at the sight of the morning's proofs.

"Er—Nesbit. I told him I didn't think it was—"

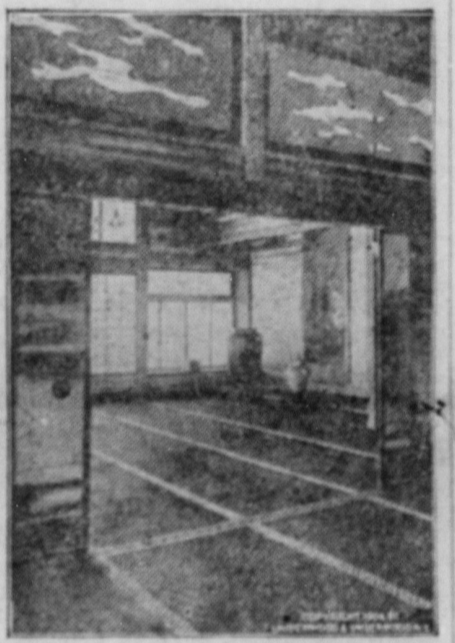
"Tell him to go ahead and write some more of the kind," broke in the proprietor, and thus out of a Hoosier dry goods store a poet was made.

George Barr McCutcheon has the good fortune to be a Hoosier born and bred, for he first saw the light on a farm in Tippecanoe county, Ind., in 1866 and was educated at the public schools of Lafayette and at Purdue university of the same place. He also worked on Lafayette papers during his early career as a writer. He is a brother of the cartoonist and illustrator John T. McCutcheon and is accounted a clever artist himself.

The scene of "The Sherrods," which won a \$15,000 premium from his publishers, is laid in Indiana and Illinois. Among his other works are "Castle Cranecrow," "Graustark," "Brewster's Millions," "The Day of the Dog," "Nedra" and "Purple Parasol."

Count Okuma, The Japanese Grand Old Man

WHAT is the feeling about America in Japan? and "What is the feeling about Japan in America?" are two questions that are being asked with a good deal of frequency in the respective countries, and the answers are various. "Japan is not looking for trouble," says Henry W. Denison, American adviser to the Japanese foreign office. "They want war with us, feeling that they would win," says an American who has lived fourteen years in Japan in a private letter to a well known New Yorker. At a banquet in Tokyo recently Vice Admiral Matsumoto stated that Japan would not reach the highest round of the ladder until she had had a war with England or America, adding that he preferred America, and thought that in a quick war Japan would soon compel her adversary to seek terms of peace. On the other hand, the words of friendship spoken by General Kuroki in his tour of the United States had a sincere sound, and most people in this country were disposed to take them at their face value. The fact that the anti-Japanese agitation on the Pacific coast, originating in the San Francisco school incident, was fanned into flame again by the riots in which Japanese workmen and restaurant keepers were attacked is by many held to show that the nation will have the Japanese problem to face in some form for a good while to come. The situation gives a new interest to the characters of the leading Japanese statesmen and awakens curiosity as to their attitude toward foreigners, especially our own nation. Much weight is attached under these circumstances to the views of Japan's "grand old man," Count Shigenobu Okuma, ex-premier and up to a few months ago active leader of the Progressive party. Count Okuma while the war with Russia was in progress expressed the opinion that if the Japanese won they would seek by observance of the utmost courtesy and cordiality toward foreigners to estab-



JAPANESE SECTION OF OKUMA'S HOME.

lish and beautify the position they had won by force of arms. He declared that his countrymen were a peaceful rather than an aggressive race, that the Chinese were absolutely unaggressive and that there was no such thing as a real "yellow peril."

Recently his party has taken an attitude of opposition to the government as to its friendly policy with America. Count Okuma, though no longer the active leader of the Progressive party, is still consulted by it as of yore. The present situation puts him in a position more or less antagonistic to America.

Count Okuma is likened by Henry George, Jr., who visited him a short time ago, to the statesman whom the

Democrats of America regard as the founder of their party, Thomas Jefferson. His political followers resort to his home at Waseda, in the outskirts of Tokyo, much as Jefferson's followers used to go to Monticello for their leader's advice. Like Jefferson, he is a man of fine personal tastes, of culture and fortune, the founder of a university and in private life somewhat of an aristocrat, yet is democratic in his political teachings. He regards with concern the concentration of wealth and of population and the sinister influence of trusts. In the interview with Mr. George he cited the fact that the Mitsui and Iwasaki families, the Vanderbilts and Astors of Japan, had fortunes of about \$1,000,000 each about thirty years ago, and this was thought a very large sum at the time, but they have since increased to about \$50,000,000 each. Count Okuma, who has now rounded his seventieth year, was a poor boy and in becoming rich has not forgotten what it means to be poor, having used his wealth in many ways for the benefit of his countrymen. He lives the simple life, and his residence is by no means the kind of a house an average American of his wealth and station would choose as a home. It has two sections—one Japanese, the other European. The latter is carpeted, with a large leather covered divan in the center and comfortable chairs of various kinds scattered about. There are tables and bookcases and similar furniture. The Japanese section is what Americans would call very plain and has sliding screens and papered windows. The home is surrounded, however, like every typical Japanese home, with a beautiful flower garden. Across the street from his estate is the University of Waseda, which he founded and endowed. Though "out of politics," as an American would say, the count is still a great power in the land, and his advice is sought by his ruler.

Pumice Stone Buildings.
In the Canary Islands many buildings are constructed of pumice stone, and in Ceylon a stone called "catbook," a species of pumice, is employed for the same purpose.

The Sacred Five.
Five is the great sacred Chinese number. There are five virtues, five colors (yellow, white, green, red and black), five household gods, five planets (Saturn, Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Mercury), five ranks of nobility, five tastes, five cardinal points (the middle, east, west, south and north respectively) and five tones.

A Wicked Worm.
The worm Testudo navalis has cost shipowners more money than all the wrecks that ever happened. Especially in tropical seas this worm destroys all wooden vessels.

The Teeth.
A few drops of tincture of myrrh in a glass of tepid water, used as a gargle, will help to sweeten the breath. Scrupulous care of the teeth and of the digestion will generally correct impure breath at once.

Parchment Paper.
Parchment paper may best be softened by spreading or rubbing with or dipping into a mixture of glycerin and calcium chloride, which will affect not merely the surface, but enter the pores. The distinctive indifferent character of the paper is not altered as by oil, which causes a stiffening of the paper, only to be softened by heat.

Piquet.
The most complicated of card games is undoubtedly piquet. It is also of considerable antiquity.

Waterfall Power.
If all the force of the two great waterfalls, Niagara and the Victoria falls, could be used to produce power, the power would be 50 per cent greater than that produced by all the coal at present dug from the world's mines.

Girl With Noisy Hose.
Miss Mary Wightman, "the girl with the noisy silk stockings," charged with stealing \$1300 from the Chicago branch of Hapgood & Co., where she was employed as cashier, was found not guilty by a jury in Judge Ball's court. She was so elated that she attempted to kiss the jurors. Pandemonium reigned, and the jurors fled, unskinned, while the excitement was at its height. The scene was finale of a startling trial. Miss Wightman, who is a graduate of Northwestern university, was charged with tampering with the books, misappropriating the money and giving it to a gambler. At the trial an employe of the firm testified that he believed Miss Wightman was dressing beyond her means, because he "heard her silk stockings."

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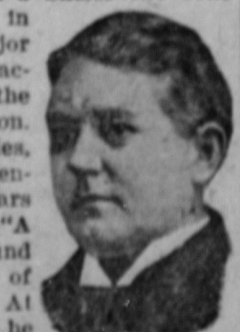
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