

Literary NOTES

AMONG the most important of the books announced by Messrs. Harper & Brothers for spring publication is a volume of political reminiscences by Colonel A. K. McClure...

Ainslee's Magazine offers in its April number four readable articles on matters near to the heart of the American people. In "The Islands of the Pacific" by Arthur I. Street...

A volume indispensable to students of government has recently been issued by D. Appleton & Company. It is entitled "The Theory and Practice of Taxation"...

The April Forum offers, among a baker's dozen of interesting contributions, a description of the new financial law by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Vanderlip...

It was the wish of the late Mr. Moody that his biography should be written by his son. Mr. W. R. Moody, who has in his possession all of his father's papers...

"The Picture Book of Becky Sharp" is a handsome book issued by Herbert S. Stone & Company as a souvenir of Mrs. Fiske's recent production of "Vanities Fair"...

To the Appleton series of educational books for home reading has recently been added "Stories of the Great Astronomers" by Edward S. Holden...

Frank M. Chapman, the well known ornithologist and writer, whose books upon birds have become standard authorities, is completing a new work to be entitled "Bird Studies with a Camera"...

"The Damnation of Theron Ware," by Harold Frederic, is being dramatized. The Market Place Theatre is likely to be dramatized. Arrangements have already been made for the dramatization of "Janice Meredith" by Paul Leicester Ford...

"The Immortal Garland," is the title of a new American novel which is said to treat certain phases of social, theatrical and literary life in a manner which is likely to attract much attention. The author is Anna Robinson Brown...

H. M. Caldwell & Company, New York and Boston, publish in attractive form an edition of Rudyard Kipling's "Departmental Ditties"...

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manufacture of Agnes and Egerton Castle's "The Bath Comedy," which is a play in three acts...

The tide of travellers which has already turned toward Paris will find much to interest them in Miss Tarbell's article in the April Scribner's, on "The Charm of Paris"...

Cram's Magazine, "a monthly journal of history, geography and topics of the day," has reached its fifth number. This publication occupies a somewhat different field from that of any other magazine...

The issue for last January of the bi-monthly American Journal of Sociology, published by the University of Chicago's literary "clearing-house" for the best sociological thought of all schools...

Albert Klossos is the name of a new aspirant for honors of the first class in the field of fiction, and the American public will soon have an opportunity for judging of his work...

The brilliant papers on "Social Life in the United States Navy," now running through the Woman's Home Companion, will be continued in kind in the May number with an equally attractive discussion of "Social Life in the United States Army" by Mary Breckenridge Hines...

The last issue of Collier's Weekly—that for March 24—was known as the South African number, on account of the large number of war sketches it contained. There were thirty-two pages, and every one of them had upon them a descriptive matter of live interest.

"Diana Tempest," a novel by Mary Cholmondeley, author of "Red Potatoes," is shortly to appear in a new edition, with a portrait of the author, and an introduction which will give a sketch of the author's life and methods. The publishers will be D. Appleton & Co.

"Would Christ Belong to a Labor Union?" is the title of a new book issued by Street & Smith, New York. The author is Rev. Dr. Cortland Myers, pastor of the Brooklyn Baptist temple, and he aims to instill by means of a story the lesson of the Golden Rule.

The new novel by H. G. Wells is entitled "Love and Mr. Lewisham," and it is said that Henry James, W. E. Henley and others have read it in manuscript and speak of it in terms of warm praise. It is to be published in the coming autumn.

In Everybody's Magazine for April is a most interesting description of the enormous steel works of the Carnegie company. The "simple explanation" in this issue details the method of manufacturing a ship by observation of the sun and stars.

Robert Hichens, the author of "Flames" and "The Green Carnation," is devoting part of his time to collecting the proofs of his forthcoming book, "Tongues of Conscience."

"The Lunatics at Large" is the title of an original and interesting novel by J. Storer Clouston, which will be published immediately by D. Appleton & Co.

Stephen Crane, who is living on a large estate in Surrey, is at work on a historical romance of Ireland for publication in the autumn.

It is undoubted proof of the intelli-

gent and keen interest taken by Americans in the Anglo-Port question about 5,000 copies of a book on the subject should already have been sold in the United States in addition to large numbers of cheaper volumes. "The Transvaal from Within" is the book referred to, and its English publisher is now preparing a cheaper edition of 100,000 copies.

DINING WITH VICTORIA. The Etiquette of Acceptance, of Conduct Upon Arrival, of Reception by Her Majesty, and of the Table. An American She Liked. From the Chicago Record.

Those persons who have the honor to dine with Queen Victoria receive a note which reads something like this: "The lord steward is commanded by her majesty to invite Mr. Carter H. Harrison to dine at Windsor Castle on Saturday, the twenty-seventh of November, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, at nine o'clock p. m., and to remain the night."

Inclosed with the invitation, which is written with a pen in old-fashioned script upon a large card, is a smaller card, which reads: "Paddington station, 5.10 p. m. Please hand this to the guard."

It is customary and necessary to respond at once to an invitation from the queen, and all other engagements must be cancelled. No lying but serious illness is considered a sufficient reason for declining to obey her commands, and they are not issued to sick persons.

Before the train starts the queen and the general who is visiting Windsor years ago, and upon Mrs. John Hay during the jubilee ceremonies last spring.

When those in the party have all passed in review they proceed in the same order to the dining room and each stands before his chair until the queen enters on the arm of one of her attendants, or in their absence on the arm of a maid of honor. She is always dressed in black or gray. If in black she wears white gloves. If in gray, black gloves. She carries an ebony gold-headed cane. Usually two East Indian servants in brilliant native costume follow her and wait upon her at the table.

Before her majesty takes her seat one of the court chaplains says grace. She never sits with her guests, but has a small round table at the end of the table, and seldom has more than one or two companions, who may be one of her daughters, or the senior maid of honor or lady in waiting. This is due to her majesty's feeble health. She cannot sit through a long dinner, and quietly slips out before the guests have half finished. Nor does she take the food that is served to them. A few plain and simple dishes are provided for her repeat—soup, fish, roast beef or mutton, with a salad and sweet.

His Majesty is a scotch drinker and takes a little Scotch whiskey in Apollinaris water. At the main table a long French dinner is served of ten or twelve courses. There is a waiter for every two persons, and he moves with military precision. His dress is a scarlet dress with brass buttons, trimmed with gold lace, blue velvet, short trousers with gold braid along the seams, white silk stockings, and patent leather shoes with gold buckles. The guests are in court dress and the gowns of the ladies must be cut in a certain way. American gentlemen and other commoners must wear black swallow-tail coats, white silk low-cut vests, knee breeches, black silk stockings and patent leather pumps.

The table service is gold plate purchased by George V., at a cost of several millions of dollars. It is large enough to dine 120 persons, but more than forty are seldom invited. It is said that the gold and silver plate in Windsor castle is worth at least \$10,000,000. Great chests of it are never used. This belongs to the government. The furnishings at Balmoral and Osborne houses belong to the queen's private estate. Among the decorations that invariably appear upon the table at state dinners are two immense regions of gold set with precious stones that were captured from the Spanish armada at the time of Queen Elizabeth, and a famous wine cooler that was presented to George IV., and is said to have cost \$35,000, often occupies the center of the table. A peacock made of gold and precious stones is a favorite of the queen. It was made in India and presented to her on the occasion of her fiftieth anniversary. Another of her favorite ornaments is a tiger's head of gold with immense rubies for eyes and diamonds for teeth. It also came from India and was a jubilee gift.

If her majesty is feeling well the guests find her in the drawing room

when they retire from the table, and there is usually a programme of music for their entertainment, which she thoroughly enjoys. Sometimes she asks a guest to sit by her side, and I know a pretty American girl whose hand she held in her own in an affectionate way for half an hour one evening, and whom she kissed on both cheeks as she retired at the close of the evening.

"I hope to see you again, my dear," said the queen of England and the empress of India. "I shall send for you to spend a day with me very soon, and want you all to myself," and sure enough she did, and the young Yankee damsel was not only with the queen all day, but drove with her in the park and slept that night in the room adjoining the imperial bedchamber. When the queen retires the party breaks up. The ladies may sit and gossip, but the gentlemen hurry off to the smoking room and are allowed to play billiards and drink her majesty's brandy and soda if they are so inclined.

THE PRICE OF INDIA RUBBER. Is It Due to the Scarcity of the Material? From Engineering.

The high price of India rubber is undoubtedly due to the shortness of supply; but what is this decreased supply due to? It is due to scarcity of the material, but is it the same as the previous periods of high prices, notably in 1884, a fall of 40 per cent, and more took place in the immediately succeeding years, seeing that no rubber from the attempted plantations of that date has come into the market? No, we must look around for other causes, and we think they will be found under two main heads. These are the shortness of native labor in the forests and speculation, though the former may be considered as the most important.

The Serings or Amazon, by whom the rubber in the Amazon districts of South America is entirely collected, are, comparatively speaking, a limited body of men, the total number of whom has been roundly stated at 10,000, though we do not vouch for this figure. Now, these men, like most others on the face of the globe, being free agents prefer to sell their labor to the highest bidder, and, owing to the fact that the coffee planters have been short-handed, there has been a spirited contest between the rubber and coffee merchants for the available labor. The consequence has been that the higher terms offered by the latter have seduced the natives from their former adherence to the rubber collecting business.

A very similar state of affairs has occurred more than once in West Africa, where there is competition for labor between the rubber and palm oil merchants. Market reports from this area have described the scarcity of either of these commodities at certain times to be due to the lack of labor. This condition of things on either continent is not one that can be easily remedied, as, owing to climatic causes, it is only certain constitutions that can successfully ward off the dangers to be apprehended. So much in a few words for what appears to us to be the cause of the present high price, and it will be seen at once that any amount of plantations will not prove appreciative. Of course, it is a question for consideration as to how long the rubber forest of South America will stand the increasing drain upon their resources, not only by ourselves, but also by the United States, Russia and Germany. At present there seems no reason for alarm, as there are large areas of ground, comparatively untouched, and there is ample scope for their exploitation under correct conditions. It is a pity that the law which was passed against the felling of trees in many parts of the watershed of the Amazon and Orinoco seems to be honored in the breach rather than in the observance, and this theme suggests itself as one upon which energetic and concerted action might profitably be taken.

At one time the best rubber came principally from the lower reaches of the Amazon, for the main reason that as it was nearest to the shipping port there was no necessity or object in surmounting the difficulties to be experienced in tapping the trees of the more inaccessible regions. Today, however, the area is being rapidly extended, and Bolivian rubber is quoted a fraction higher than Para. As the rubber may be stated to

depend largely, if not entirely, on climatic conditions, there seems no reason to suppose that as good rubber as that produced in the watershed of the Amazon may not be found wherever the climatic conditions are similar. This question of climatic conditions is an important—very important—one, and it does not seem to have received proper recognition at the hands of promoters of rubber plantations.

With enthusiasm untempered by an intimate knowledge of the subject, proposals have been advanced to plant the Para rubber trees in divers countries and in all sorts of climates. Now, though we do not wish to say that no success whatever has followed the planting of the Para tree (Hevea Brasiliensis) out of South America, yet in no case has the yield of the tree been equal to what is obtained in Brazil, or up to the expectations of the planter. The venture has not been a success, and as there is an obvious difficulty in regulating such a matter as the rainfall of a district, it behooves would-be planters to bear this fact as to the necessity of an adequate rainfall well in mind. The Para tree must stand in water for a great part of the year, and if this condition is not fulfilled no good results will ensue. We quite admit that the tree will grow, in a way, under other conditions, but our point is that it will not give a satisfactory yield of rubber.

Besides the moisture, there is the important point of the chemical constitution of the soil to be considered, though this is a matter which does not seem to have been seriously investigated. We are assured, however, by a South American resident of considerable experience that there is something about the soil of Brazil which is not met with in other districts. He says that he has planted and successfully raised the Para tree in Central America, but could not get a satisfactory yield of rubber, and he emphasized the importance of paying strict attention to this soil question in cases where the planting of the Para tree is in contemplation.

From what we have said it will be gathered that we are not inclined to look upon the cultivation of the Para tree out of its natural home in any very favorable light—from the standpoint, that is, of commercial success. With regard, however, to the replanting of denuded territory in Central America with the indigenous tree, the Castilla elastica, the case is different, and, though we are not particularly sanguine as to the probability of such schemes yielding any immediate return on the capital expenditure, yet there seems good reason to suppose that they may prove remunerative in the future, if not over capitalized.

Advanced One Number. "Does your wife let you sit in the easy chair she gave you Christmas?" "No, she sits in the one she gave me last year."—Chicago Record.

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