iterary

MONG 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, entitled "Our Presidents, and How They Are Made."

Colonel McClure's experience in journalistic and political life extends over a period of half a century. He has known personally many of the presidential candidates during that time, and has been in personal contact with every national convention. His book will include much information as to the inside workings of various campaigns not heretofore published, and will touch upon many of the famous political quarrels, among them those between Buchanan and Forney, and Cleveland and Dana, showing their effects upon the political careers of those concerned. It will also give much in-teresting detail on the electoral votes in the various campaigns. Coming at the opening of a presidential year, the appearance of such a work is of more than ordinary interest.

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 Paci-fic." by Arthur I. Street, we have a kaleidoscopic view of that remote world into which expansion has led us. "Net Results in Alaska," by Warren Chency, is a sane summary of chances and conditions in the gold fields. "The Indian Congress," by 'Wade Mount-fortt, is a pathetic picture of the last days of a dying regime. "Our Con-gressional President," by George Le-land Hunter, places the president's office, as it were, under the N-ray, thus revealing the inner workings of the congress-executive machine.

A volume indispensable to students of government has recently been issued by D. Appleton & Company. It is entitled "The Theory and Practice of Taxation," and records the fruits of prolonged study and inquiry indulged in by Dr. David Ames Wells. The history of taxation is carried forward from the early days; we are told how taxes were levied and collected in Greece and Rome, in the continental countries in the middle ages and finalw how they vary in the different countries of our own time; and following the historical chapters are philosophic views of the subject of taxation with much practical advice.

The April Forum offers, among a baker's dozen of interesting contributions a description of the new financial law by Assistant Secretary of the Representative Hopkins, of Illinois; a paper by James G. Whiteley, vicepresident of the International Congress of Diplomatic History, showing why the Hay-Pauncefote canal treaty is wisestinits unamended form; and a pawisestinits unamended form; and a pa-per by Major Symons, of the New York of the day," has reached its fifth num-

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 and is preparing a very complete life of the great preacher, has consented to write especially gy, the University of Chicago's literfor the Saturday Evening Post a series of anecdotal papers on his father's life and work, profusely illustrated with hitherto unpublished photographs. The first of these papers, entitled "Moody as Boy and Business Man." will appear in the April 7 number of the Saturday Evening Post,

"The Picture Book of Becky Sharp" is a handsome folio issued by Herbert S. Stone & Company as a souvenir of Mrs. Fiske's recent production of "Vanity Fair." It gives the cast of the players in the first performance, an autograph of Mrs. Fiske, a story of the play and a number of exquisite illustrations, full page and marginal. Of similar kind is the same firm's folio of portraits of Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, done on Japan paper in fac simile of the pen-and-ink and crayon originals by E. Gordon Craig.

To the Appleton series of educational books for home reading has recently been added "Stories of the Great Astronomers," by Edward S. Holden, being an attempt to put into simple language fitted to young minds the salient facts of astronomy. The book is written so that its chapters can be read aloud by parents to children, in the lieu of fairy stories or other works of fiction; and we will guarantee that the young auditors will find them fully as interesting as the wildest dreams

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 Cam-" Mr. Chapman's success in photographing live birds has not equaled, and the numerous illustrations which he has obtained for his new book are said to be of peculiar interest and value, "Bird Studies with a Camera" will be published by D, 'Appleton & Co.

"The Damnation of Theron Ware," tized. "The Market-Place" is also likely to be dramatized. Arrangements have already been made for the dramatization of "Janice Meredith," by Paul Leicester Ford. There were five bidders for the dramatic rights. "David Harum" is to be produced on the stage next May, and dramatists are at work on "When Knighthood Was in Flow-

"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 arten-The author is Anna Robeson Brown, and the scene is laid in large part in New York. "The Immortal Garland" will be published shortly by D. Appleton & Co

H. M. Caldwell & Company, New York and Boston, publish in attractive form an edition of Rudyard Kipling's 'Departmental Dittles," to which is prefixed an excellent portrait of the

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manufacture of Agnes and Egerton Castle's "The Bath Comedy," which is to appear in May. An admirer of the authors of "The Pride of Jennico" who has followed this new play of their's serially in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly says that there has been nothing to equal it since "The School

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," which conveys with singular success the characteristics of Treasury Vanderlip: a defense of the singular success the characteristics of 15 per cent. Puerto Rican tariff bill by Paris, which make these who know it well love it. The illustrations are by a number of the best known French

Cram's Magazine, " a monthly jourcommission, giving the ber. This publication occupies a someroutes and facts about the proposed what different field from that of any canals from the great lakes to the sea. other magazine; it is a combination of text-book, newspaper, review, scrap book and vehicle of belles lettres. There is something in it for every

taste. The issue for last January of the bimonthly American Journal of Socioloary "clearing-house for the best sociological thought of all schools," contains, amidst certain rather ponderous essays, a description of the model publie bath at Brookline, Mass., which

should be read by every city official. Albert Kinross 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 in what is said to be one of the most graceful and sparkling novels of today that the last year of the century has produced.

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

The last issue of Collier's Weeklythat 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 pictures or descriptive matter of live interest.

Breckenridge Hines.

"Diana Tempest," a novel by Mary Cholmondeley, author of "Red Pottage," 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. App.e-

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

The new novel by H. G. Wells is entitled "Love and Mr. Lewisham," and by Harold Frederic, is being drama. Henley and others have read it in it is said that Henry James, W. E. manuscript and speak of it in terms of warm praise. It is to be published the best they can: Her majesty is the in the coming autumn. In Everybody's Magazine for April

> enormous steel works of the Carnegie company. The "simple explanation" in this issue details the method of navigating a ship by observation of the sun and stars. Robert Hichens, the author of

s a most interesting description of the

is devoting part of his time to correct- ness. ing the proofs of his forthcoming book 'Tongues of Conscience.' "The Lunatics at Large" is the title of an original and entertaining novel by J. Storer Clouston, which will be

is enjoying life in Sweden, where he

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

published immediately by D. Appleton

publication in the autumn.

gent and keen interest taken by Americans in the Anglo-Boer question about 5,000 copies of a \$3 book on the subject should already have been sold in the United States in addition to large numbers of cheaper volumes. "The Trans-vaal from Within" is the book referred to, and its English publisher is now preparing a cheaper edition of 100,000

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. Saturday, the twenty-seventh of November, eighteen hundred and ninetyseven, 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. 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. Nothing but serious illness is considered a sufficient reason for declining to obey her commands, and they are not issued to sick persons. Before the lord steward sends out one of these invitations he takes care to ascertain whether the person to whom it is addressed is in England and able

"Mr. Carter H. Harrison accepts with great pleasure the invitation of her majesty to dine at Windsor Castle at nine o'clock on the evening of Novem-

to accept. The proper form of accept-

ber twenty-seventh." Upon arriving at Paddington station at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of the dinner the guest presents his card to the station master or one of the guards. and is escorted to a special car bearing the royal court of arms and furnished with unusual luxuriance. Sometimes when there are a number of guests there is a special train. Gentlemen are accompanied by valets and ladies by maids and the servants have their own apartments in the car. The ride to Windsor on the quickest trains occupies forty minutes and usually an hour. The distance is twenty-four miles. Upon arriving there the guests find two or three footmen and other servants. One footman is told off for each guest, takes charge of his luggage, escorts him to his carriage and looks after him or her, if it is a lady, until he or she is safely aboard the train for London the next morning. The entire party travels deadhead, and the expense is charged to the minister

of the household. The lord steward receives the guests as they reach the castle and directs them to their apartments, which include a sitting room, a bed room, a dressing room and a bath. When the guest is a lady there is always a maid in attendance. It is not considered proper to leave the rooms until called for, and the guests amuse themselves soul of punctuality. She keeps her appointment on the dot and expects her subjects to do the same. If a guest is ever late he or she is sentenced to perpetual banishment from the royal presence. No matter what his rank or influence, he never receives another invitation to the castle, and therefore the attendants are in the hablt of admonishing guests as to the necessity of being dressed in time. They have Flames," "The Green Carnation," etc., fully two hours and a half after their arrival and have no excuse for tardi-

Precisely at a quarter before a lady in waiting calls at the apartment of each lady guest, and a gentleman in to escort them to the reception room and present them to each other. Each is a favorite of the queen. reception room are thrown back to dis- If her majesty is feeling well the It is undoubted proof of the intelli- close the ! . . . a 1, in full court guests find her in the drawing room

dress, with his gergeous staff of officers, standing beside a stout, red-faced little woman, who sits on the edge of a great gilt chair. By her side are usually two or three princesses and maids of honor, and often one or more of her sons or sons-in-law. The guests then form a procession in the order of their rank and pass before her majesty, who offers her hand to them and murmurs a few pleasant words. Loyal subjects always kiss the seams on the back of her white glove, but she does not like to have the Americans do so, because she knows that this ancient custom is not in vogue in our country. Therefore, when she withholds her hand from an American guest it is an act of courtesy rather than a slight. Americans are usually informed in advance by their attendants of this peculiarity and are prepared for it.

There is no time for conversation. Only a few words are exchanged. Her majesty usually asks Americans about the health of the president and his wife and expresses her interest in their welfare. If there has been a notable incident or event in the Unitd States she may allude to it, for she keeps well informed concerning current events. Sometimse she invites a guest to take a seat beside her, which is a mark of unusual distinction that was conferred upon Mrs. Grant when she and the general were 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 behind his chair until the queen enters on the arm of one of her sons, or sons-in-law, 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 bony 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 roma near the door, and seldom has more than one companion, 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 rlain and simple dishes are provided for her repast-soup, fish, roast beef or mutton, with a salad and sweets. drinks no wine, but takes a little Scotch whiskey in Apollinaris water. At the main table a long Prench dinner is served of ten or twelve courses. There is a waiter for every two persons, and he moves with military precision. His livery is a scarlet dress coat 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 IV., at a cost of several millions of dollars. It is large enough to dine 120 persons, but more than forty are seldon invited. It is said that the gold and silver plate in Windsor castle is worth at least \$10 .-000,006. Great chests of it are never used. This belongs to the government The furnishings at Balmoral and Os-borne houses belong to the queen's private estate. Among the decorations that invariably appear upon the table at state dinners are two immense 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 occuples the center of the table. A peacock made of gold and precious stones gentleman is informed by his escort made in India and presented to her on whom he is to have the pleasure of the eccasion of her liftleth annivertaking to the table, and is properly in- | sary. Another of her favorite orna troduced. It is also shown on a dia- ments is a tiger's head of gold with gram the seat he is to occupy at the immense rubles for eyes and diamonds table. After these preliminaries are for teeth. It also came from India over the pertieres that bide the second and was a jubilee gift.

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 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 Ma terial?

From Engineering. The high price of India rubber is un-

doubtedly due to the shortness of supply; but what is this decreased supply due to? If it is due to scarcity of the material, how is it that after 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 Seringos, or natives, 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 youch 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 shorthanded, 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 appalia. tive. Of course, it is a question for consideration as to how long the rubber forests of South America will stand the increasing drain upon their resources, not only by ourselzes, 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 Le 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

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

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depend largely, if not entirely, on cli matic 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 ellmatic 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 an 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 Braziliensis) out of South America, yet in no case has the yield of the tree been found equal to what is obtained in Brazil, or up to the expectations of the planter. The venture has not been a success, and the sooner the fact is honestly recognized the better. It is not only a damp atmosphere, but the amount of damp that is of primary importance: in other words, the problem s a quantitative as well as a qualitative one, 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 conlition 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 satis-

factory yield of rubber. Besides the moisture, there is the im portant 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 some thing 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 Castillon 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.

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