

The Writer in British Politics.

The literary man in politics is a much commoner sight in Britain than in any other country in the world. Not only do the great universities of the three kingdoms have their special representatives in parliament, but eminent writers, artists, and scientists—such as the two Lord Lyttons, Tennyson, the Earl of Derby, Lord Kelvin, Lord Leighton, Sir John Lubbock, and John Morley—have of recent years sat in either house. Not all of these men have been very valuable accessions to the national legislature, but their occasional presence there has doubtless added something to the breadth and dignity of the assembly. Morley and Lord Derby and some other literary men have been of course practical politicians as well. The purely intellectual member of parliament, however, is regarded as something of a failure. Of this the London Spectator (September 29) says:

"The failure of the intellectual candidate is best accounted for by the phrase applied by one of the most distinguished literary politicians of the day to the case of Robespierre—the unhappy doctrinaire immersed in the intricacy of practise. A man who has led the cloistered life of the student, is ill at ease when he exchanges his seclusion for the cockpit of contending factions. Even in an academic constituency the academic candidate is at a disadvantage. But while the purely literary man seldom shines on the political platform, it by no means follows that those who live by their pen make bad candidates. On the contrary, we are inclined to think that the successful modern novelist enters on a political campaign with many positive advantages. He is almost of necessity a traveled personage, and his conscientious quest of local color from China to Peru has probably implanted in him a sense of our imperial responsibilities. He is pretty certain to have explored the slums, and to have made himself familiar with the various forms of philanthropic enterprise. Finance 'combinas,' 'corners,' company promotion—all come within his extensive view. The modern novelist, in short, is omniscient: having largely usurped the function of the dramatist, the preacher, the pamphleteer, and the historian, he is bound to know a good deal about everything, from metaphysics and the higher criticism to the manufacture of tin-tacks or the method of pilchard fishing. Take the question of the housing of the poor, and where could you find a better expert than Mr. Arthur Morrison? Or if agricultural depression were the theme of discussion, who would be better fitted to serve on a committee than Mr. Rider Haggard? Outside the ranks of trained engineers, who would be better equipped to assist the inquiry into the efficiency of machinery—say, water tube boilers—than Mr. Kipling? Lastly, for some, stimulating, and business-like criticism of our military system, where can we look even among service members for a better and sounder critic than Dr. Conan Doyle. We are very far from contending that the ability to produce a popular novel is a guaranty of parliamentary capacity. But we assert without fear of contradiction that the preparation involved in the writing of a series of novel dealing with the social problems of the hour constitutes a far better claim to the confidence of the electorate than the equipment of the company promoter or the professional politician."

The new House of Commons contains a large number of men who have a connection with literature and journalism. The London Academy (October 13) prints a partial list, which we give with some emendations. Among the journalists—some of whom are also authors—are the following:

Mr. W. L. A. Burdett-Coutts, correspondent of The Times; Mr. H. C. Cust, late editor of the Pall Mall Gazette; Mr. Murray Guthrie, founder of The Granta; the Hon. J. W. E. Scrtt-Montagu, war correspondent of The Times in the Matabele campaign; Mr. James O'Connor, formerly of The Irish People; Mr. Winston Spencer-Churchill, correspondent in various London journals; Mr. W. R. Cremer, editor of The Arbitrator, Sir H. Seymour King, proprietor of Home-ward and Overland Mails; Sir W. Pearson, Bart prop'r of The Sunday Sun; Sir Lewis Melver, Bart., contributor to The Imperial Gazetteer of India; Dr. T. J. Macnamara, editor of The Schoolmaster; Sir George Newnes, Bart., proprietor of The Westminster Gazette, The Strand, Tid-Bits, etc.; Mr. Henry Labouchere, proprietor and editor of Truth; Mr. W. R. W. Peel, war correspondent of The Daily Telegraph; Mr. F. W. Horner, editor of The Whitehall Review; Mr. J. Tully, editor of the Roscommon Herald; Mr. Henniker Heaton, proprietor of several Australian journals; Mr. L. Harmsworth, proprietor of The Daily Mail and other journals; Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., proprietor of The Athenaeum, etc.; the Hon. N. D. Elliot, editor of The Edinburgh Review; Sir John Gorst, former editor of a New Zealand journal; Mr. T. P. O'Connor, late editor of The Sun.

Among the leading authors—some of them also journalists—are these:

The Rt. Hon. John Morley, author of "Cromwell," "Rousseau," etc.; the Rt. Hon. W. E. H. Lecky, author of "History of European Morals," "Democracy and Liberty," etc.; the Rt. Hon. James Bryce, author of "The Holy Roman Empire," "The American Commonwealth," etc.; the Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, author of "The Foundations of Belief," etc.; Sir R. C. Jebb, regius professor of Greek, Cambridge, author of "Attic Orators," etc.; Mr. Gilbert Parker, author of "Pierre and His People," "Seats of the Mighty," etc.; the Hon. Lionel Walter Rothschild, author of "Avifauna of Laysan," and other work on zoology; Sir Michael Foster, author of "A Text-Book of Physiology," etc.; Mr. George Wyndham, editor of "North Plutarch," "Shakespeare's Poems," etc.; Sir William Rensell Anson, Bart., author of "Law and Custom of the English Constitution," etc.; Mr. P. M. Thornton, author of "The Stuart Dynasty," etc.; Mr. Henry Norman, late assistant editor of The Daily Chronicle, author of "The Peoples and Politics of the Far East," etc.; Sir Maucherjee Merwanjee Bhowagree, translator of "Leaves from the Journal of Our Lives in the Highlands" into Gujarati; Sir Charles M. Arthur, author of "Evidences of Natural Religion," etc.; Sir John Kennaway, Bart., author of "On Sherman's Track"; Sir E. D. Dixon-Hartland, Bart., author of "A Genealogical and Chronological History of the Royal House of Europe"; Sir John Leng, author of "America," etc.; Mr. William Allen, author of "Sunset Logs"; Mr. S. Buxton, author of hand book to "Politics"; Mr. T. R. Dewar, author of "A Ramble Round the Globe."

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Literary Notes.

Rudyard Kipling's new novel, "Kim," will begin in the December issue of McCURE'S MAGAZINE. This is a tale of life in India, and in the literary genus gives a profound study of Oriental life. This is the author's masterpiece, and it fulfills in its larger scope all the promise of his earlier and shorter works.

One of the most extraordinary, yet permanent, successes of contemporary literature was that made by Anthony Hope in the "Dolly Dialogues." America and England alike rejoice in the refined and subtle humor, the clear insight, the pervasive human interest of these conversations. McCURE'S MAGAZINE for December will contain the first in a series of "More Dolly Dialogues," in which all the charm of the earlier work is continued.

Fiction of remarkable interest will be abundant in McCURE'S MAGAZINE for December, with illustrations by the best artists. In addition to the first instalment of "Kim," by Rudyard Kipling, for which the author's father, Lockwood Kipling, and Edwin Lord Weeks contribute drawings there are short stories of life among the Indians, in the Latin Quarter of Paris, in Siam, stories of the rail, and of the Kindergarten, by Hamlin Garland, Frank H. Spearman, and Josephine Dodge Daskam, with drawings by H. D. Nichols, H. M. Walcott, and Jay Hambridge, while "More Dolly Dialogues," by Anthony Hope, will be illustrated by H. C. Christy.

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The "New Lippincott" Magazine.

The Christmas number of the "New Lippincott" Magazine publishes complete Amelia E. Barr's latest and best novel, entitled "Souls of Passage." The author says this story is the fulfilment of twenty years' intention, though only within the last twelve months has she felt that the time was ripe for launching her darling plot. It is certainly the best thing Mrs. Barr has done, not even excepting "The Bow of Orange Ribbon." The title, "Souls of Passage," element shows strongly on one side of the story which deals with picturesque reincarnation. There is a striking psychological incident that one cannot forget, but, above and beyond all, the novel is an intensely human story of Scotland, in which people love or hate, succeed or fail, live or die, in the most genuine sort of manner.

Miss Agnes Repplier contributes one of her charming essays, calling it "As Advertised." It hits at the oddnesses of advertisers, past and present, and is witty and satirical in Miss Repplier's own inimitable way.

"As Others See Us," by George Hibbard, is a bright little one-act drama, which may be played by one actor. It is appropriated at the holiday season.

"The Bluffing of Johnny Crapaud," by Patrick Vaux, is a vigorous and unique sea story of an incident that may happen some Christmas night in the twentieth century of England's history as mistress of the sea.

The "Walnuts and Wine" Department bristles with merry jest and funny happenings in prose and verse.

Half-a-dollar Well Spent.

If it is not your habit to buy an illustrated book for your family's Christmas reading, try the experiment. "TORONTO SATURDAY NIGHT'S CHRISTMAS," sixty pages, full of stories and pictures, will interest everyone and widen the vision of all as Canadians. Four pictures suitable for framing, one of which—"Raphael's Mother and Child"—is an exact reproduction of the costliest and best picture in the world. No where else can you get the same value! Five dollars' worth of the best art and literature for 50 cents. Get it from your newsdealer, or from The Sheppard Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto.

Under the Nerve Lash.—The torture and torment of the victim of nervous prostration and nervous debility no one can rightly estimate who has not been under the ruthless lash of these relentless human foes. M. Williams, of Fordwich, Ont., was for four years a nervous wreck. Six bottles of South American Nerve worked a miracle, and his doctor confirmed it.—23

Sold by Garden Bros.

His Parents Desired—Mr. de Trop (at the door)—"Is Miss Mabel at home?" Maid—"No, sir; but she says if that's a box of candy she saw in your hand ye might 'ave it." [Philadelphia Press.]

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GOOD MANNERS AT HOME.

Some of the Little Things that Go to Make Life Sweeter and Brighter.

Practical jokes are rarely indulged in by persons of nice perceptions, and teasing passes the bounds of good taste when it ceases to be a matter of pure fun on all sides. Inquisitiveness is always bad form. "Whom is your letter from?" "What makes your eyes so red?" are interferences with one's rightful privacy. A closed door should be respected and give assurance of seclusion.

One who is so disloyal as to repeat to any outsider, however intimate, anything to the discredit of the family deserves to forfeit all family rights and privileges.

There are no terms strong enough to condemn the vanity of parents who will allow a daughter's charms, prospects and advantages to be advertised in the public prints.

Society requires that whatever their private relations, husband and wife face the world as a unit, harmonious and with interests identical.

One thing good form imperatively demands—that by no mischance, no loss of self-control, shall family discords be revealed to strangers, children or servants.

An uncontrolled voice is always unmannerly and undignified.

A readiness to give up in little things is the most tactful appeal possible for a return of courtesy at other times when the matter may be of importance to us.

Personalities that are made to do duty as family jokes are never funny to strangers.—Mrs. Burton Kingsland in the December Ladies' Home Journal.

PUTMAN'S CORN EXTRACTOR

Dosen't lay a man up for a week but quietly and surely goes on doing its work, and nothing is known of the operation till the corn is shelled. Plenty of substitutes do this. Some of them are dangerous, no danger from Putman's except to the corn. At all druggists.

The class was having lessons in natural history, and the teacher asked: "Now, is there anybody here can tell me what a zebra is?" Tommy—"Yes, sir, I can." Teacher—"Well, Tommy, what is a zebra?" Tommy—"Please, sir, a zebra is a donkey with a football suit on!"—Tit-Bits.

Take time.—Jobson—"I have a claim against the Government. What lawyer would you advise me to retain?" Friend—"It doesn't matter whom you select, only so he's young."—[New York Weekly.]

Contemptible Weakness.—Ethe!—"I tole yer Tommy didn't amount to much." Adelbert—"I kin see he don't. De idea of a feller lettin' his mudder keep him goin' to school an' him over eleven!"—[Puck.]

Helpless as a Baby.—South American Rheumatic Cure strikes the root of the ailment and strikes it quick. R. W. Wright, 10 Daniel street, Brockville, Ont., for twelve years a great sufferer from rheumatism, couldn't wash himself, feed himself or dress himself. After using six bottles was able to go to work, and says: "I think pain has left me forever."—26

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