

## LITERARY TOPICS.

Mr. William Harvey Brown, the author of 'On the South African Frontier,' went to the west coast of Africa in 1889 as naturalist of an expedition sent out by the United States Government. At the time Mr. Brown was chosen to accompany the Government expedition he was connected with the United States National Museum at Washington. After an absence of eight years in Africa Mr. Brown returned to this country and wrote his book. He is now about to return to Rhodesia with his wife and make his home there. He owns a large farm near Salisbury.

Frederick Palmer, the author of the recently published book, 'In the Klondyke,' has gone to the Philippines as correspondent for a New York paper. This is by no means Mr. Palmer's first experience as a war correspondent, as his book on the war in Greece will bear witness. Mr. Palmer's book on the Klondyke presents the best picture yet given of the gold fields of the frozen North, and comes as a distinct relief to the flood of books about the torrid zone which the acquisition of tropical territory has forced upon the market.

'A Texas Ranger, or the Narrative of the Adventures of a Young Man on the Rio Grande Frontier' is the title of a book soon to be published by the Scribners. The author of the book, Mr. N. A. Jennings, is engaged in newspaper work in New York city, and is widely known among journalists as a man of marked individuality. His book is said to be as thrilling as a border romance, and besides being of value as a vivid account of actual happenings, is of interest as being the only history of a body of troops who were in many ways the prototypes of the new famous Rough Riders. In fact, Governor Roosevelt was a warm friend of the author, is said to have encouraged Mr. Jennings to write the book.

The Scribners have just brought out the little volume of newspaper stories which Jesse Lynch Williams has written. Many of these tales of newspaper life have appeared in the magazines, but the last story in the volume has never before been published. This story, 'The Old Reporter,' is the longest and most serious study of character development which the author has yet made, and is sure to win especial attention.

Mrs. Eliza Wharton, the author of 'The Greater Inclination,' was Miss Edith Jones before her marriage (to Edward R. Wharton, a member of an old and well-known Philadelphia family. Mrs. Wharton spends her summers at Newport, where she has a cottage, and her winters in New York, where she is well known in the aristocratic circles which make their headquarters around Washington Square. Before Mrs. Wharton came into the notice of the literary public as a writer of exceedingly clever short stories, she had gained a considerable reputation as a poet of more than ordinary ability.

'The Amateur Crackman,' is dedicated 'To A. C. D. — This Form of Flattery.' A Conan Doyle being Mr. Hornung's brother-in-law. 'Dorci' in Life, advances the novel theory 'That Mr. Hornung and Mr. Doyle collaborate on a great romance in Sherlock Holmes shall be set to catch Ruffians. Holmes is the only man who might do it, and even he would and it a doubtful and absorbing undertaking.' The book is now in its fourth thousand.

An elaborate illustrated biography of Oliver Cromwell similar in scope to the lives of Mary Stuart, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria and Charles I., already issued, is in preparation and will be published by the Scribners. Samuel Rawson Gardiner has been selected as the man best qualified to write the work, which will include much new material.

### TRAINING AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

Catholic Fathers Train a Young Animal for Draught Purposes.

African elephants were trained to work, in ancient times, just as their cousins in India are now taught to carry burdens and draw loads. In the menageries of this country and Europe the African elephant has proved no less docile and teachable than the Indian animal. Many persons have asserted, however, without good reason, that it is impossible to domesticate the African elephant and make him valuable for

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draught and portage purposes in Africa, where domestic animals are scarce and the elephant would be a great boon if he could be made to labor.

The few experiments made in Africa to train the elephant have generally failed, and on account, doubtless, of improper training the animal has a bad reputation he does not deserve. In Uganda, however, an elephant was thoroughly domesticated several years ago by the natives, who utilized his strength in their daily toil. Other efforts in East Africa to train the animal to work are now in progress and promise good results; and on the west coast at the Catholic mission of St. Anne at Fernan Vaz, the fathers have just made a successful effort to domesticate a young male, and though he has been in training only a year he is now employed in the labors of the mission.

The young animal was purchased soon after he was caught from the natives of the Pahouin tribe who live in the Gaboon region, near the west coast. The fathers decided to do their best to make the young fellow useful. At first he was placed in close confinement. He showed fear and repugnance at the sight of the negroes, seemed to prove that his captors had maltreated him. In his prison he got his first idea that the white men were his masters, for he found he was unable to destroy the walls that hemmed him in, and after a month he gave up all attempts to escape, and day by day grew calmer, until at last he was quite docile and contented. In a few weeks he began to take food from the hands of the fathers, and then permitted himself to be caressed on the head, but invariably resented the familiarity when any one touched his trunk.

After two months of prison life the next stage of training began. In Asia sharp, iron-pointed sticks with which to prod the wild animals are prominent in the process of taming, but the fathers of the African mission prefer a milder regime. They began by tying a rope around his neck and then inducing him to walk, while one of the fathers led him. When he refused to follow he was pushed gently but firmly from behind. Sometimes he was stubborn and then the rope was drawn tightly around his neck. If he still resisted the fathers got a grip on his budding tusks, and this always brought him to terms. After awhile any one of the fathers was able to lead him as he would a horse.

As he was destined to see a great many negroes all his life, it was desirable that he cultivate more friendly relations with them. So efforts were made to induce him to follow negroes when they held his rope. His grievances against them, however, was still a sore spot in his memory, and at first he refused to have anything to do with them. It was found he would permit negro children to lead him, and by degrees little children being replaced by large ones and then all children by adults he grew to like negroes of all sizes and ages. Then he would do for anybody all that he had been trained to do.

After his day's training it was often difficult to make him enter his prison yard again, but when ripe bananas were used as a bait he was enticed within the inclosure without difficulty. For two months the fathers drilled him in nothing except walking behind his leader. When the lesson was thoroughly learned they put a sort of collar on his neck, to which a piece of wood weighing seventy pounds was attached, and his daily exercise he had to drag this weight along the ground. Having advanced so far towards civilization the young fellow received the name of Fritz. The weight he drew was gradually increased until he was able to haul a large load.

To-day Fritz is an accomplished and willing draught animal, perfectly gentle and greatly attached to those who treat him well, and one of the most useful attaches to the Fernan Vaz Mission. He is often employed also for riding purposes. The experiment of the fathers has been a complete

success, and probably no better method of training and utilizing the African elephant can be devised than that which they employed to make Fritz a useful animal.

### MILLS IN THE SCOTCH HIGHLANDS.

The Project to Use Waterfalls to Generate Electric Power.

Waterfalls are being used more and more to produce electric power. Switzerland has no coal with which to make steam to run her industries, and so her waterfalls have been the driving force. They are now beginning to be used still more effectively to produce electricity as a motive power. The rapids and falls of the upper Rhine are now generating electricity which is used in the mills of that region. A large enterprise is also on foot for the production of electricity in the Scottish Highlands by means of water power. It may not be so very long before the prediction of Lord Kelvin that 'the production of electricity by means of waterfalls will some day attract a prosperous population to the Scottish Highlands' will come true.

The British Parliament has before it the project to obtain electrical power, equal to 38,000 horse power, by means of the chain of lochs along the border of Perth and Argyll counties to the west of the Grampian Mountains. The most important of these lochs is Loch Erchie, which has a length of about seventeen miles, its waters discharging into Loch Rannoch and then into the Tay. It is proposed to build a large dam at the extreme south of the loch, turning it into a great reservoir, and then to pass the accumulated waters far below in the valley through an aqueduct to the electric plant, where the water power will be used to generate electricity enough to drive many large mills. It is proposed to follow the same course with all the lochs between the Grampians and Loch Leven. Thus a series of reservoirs, at high elevation, will be supplied, and the fall of water to lower levels through the aqueducts will feed the stations producing the electricity. The fall of water in some cases will be 900 feet, and that at Loch Erchie alone is expected to produce electricity amounting to 14,000 horse power.

In our Western mining regions the process of producing and reproducing ores is being considerably cheapened by the utilization of water power to produce electricity for driving the machinery. This is a recent feature of our mining operations and is a new economy that is diminishing expenses. Great Britain has been very slow to adopt electricity as a motive power, but is fully convinced at last of its economy and merits, and electric streets cars are beginning to appear on the streets of a few cities. In January last the experimental line that has been building in Liverpool was started. It is two and a half miles in length, has a double track, and as the line is already successful, it is expected that electricity will supercede horse power on the entire street railroad system. Electric street cars were also introduced on the streets of Glasgow in October last.

Germany has been much wide awake, and while electric street cars in England are still in the experimental stage, sixty-eight cities of Germany have introduced them with great success, and in thirty-five other cities or districts these railroads are now in course of construction. Most of the industrial cities of Westphalia and the Rhine province are connected by a network of electric roads which serve not only for passengers, but also for freight traffic.

### Birds Fod of Play.

Some birds, like all children, like to play and Australia and New Guinea produce the 'bower bird,' which builds regular playhouses. These houses are not a part of their nests, but are constructed usually in the shape of covered archways of little boughs two or three feet long, eighteen inches high, and about as wide. They use these houses simply for their games, as if they were clubhouses. Generally these playhouses are decorated with brightly colored shell and feathers, just as children decorate their playhouses. Another interesting bird is the 'weaver.' It seems to be fond of making enormous nests merely for the purpose of exercising in the art of construction. Supply these birds with strings and straw and they will use them up rapidly, and their fabric is woven with

a perfectness that is astonishing. In some countries it is the custom of the weaver birds to colonize and build one big flat topped platform two or three yards across, which is so admirably put together as to shed the rain as well as any roof could do. Under this roof they make individual pocket shaped nests, bringing up under this unique structure a large and interesting family of little weavers. There is another bird called the 'tailor,' which, instead of weaving its nest, incloses it in big leaves and stitches the latter together with plant fibres, just as one would sew a piece of cloth.—New York Sun.

### SEE GOT EVEN.

The Revenge of a Girl Whose Sweetheart Wrote her a Long but Narrow Letter.

One day a smart young man got a long piece of ribbon paper out of a stock ticker and wrote a letter on it to his girl. As he wrote he rolled the paper up so that the outside of the roll contained the closing remarks of the letter, which were:

'Of course you will not repeat what I have told you in this letter about Helen. It was given to me in strictest confidence and I wouldn't think of telling any one except you.'

To find out what this was the girl was compelled to unwind the letter and wind it up again, starting at the end. But she could find nothing in it about Helen, although she read it twice very carefully and looked along the back from one end to the other. And it was a most bothersome letter to read.

She brooded over that letter several days planning her revenge. At length she came to a decision. She got a large square piece of cardboard and started her letter in the very centre of it, writing in an ever-widening circle. Her very first sentence was: 'Dear Jack, if you persevere in reading this letter you will find it something you greatly wish to know. If you do not read it you will never know it.' There was something he did wish to know, and only she could tell him, so he buckled down to it. At first he turned the paper around slowly as he read and in a few minutes almost toppled over with dizziness. He rested and tried it again, but was compelled to stop, for his eyes burned and his head ached. After another rest he placed it on the floor, and, stooping over, walked slowly around it, reading as he went. The first evening he was compelled to stop before he had half finished it and before he had come to the desired information.

The following night he tackled it again, and in the course of an hour's work, as hard as any he had ever attempted, he came upon this sentence almost near the end: 'This is what I wanted to tell you. Don't ever again try to be funny with me—I can get even with you every time.'

The young man didn't finish the letter, but he vowed to himself that he never would try to be funny at her expense in the future.

### Light and Shade.

'Take away women,' asks a writer, 'and what would follow?'  
That's easy. The men.

'Some men can take new furniture and make it look as if it was made a century ago,' says a journalist. So can children.

Clara: 'What shall I sing for you, Jack?'  
Jack: 'Have you a song with a refrain?'  
Clara: 'Yes.'

Jack: 'Well, then, please refrain.'

Mr. Wilkins: 'Arthur, you used to say you loved the ground I walked on.'

Mr. Wilkins: 'Yes, I know I did; your father owned all the land in that vicinity.'

Editor (to aspiring writer): 'You should write so that the most ignorant can understand what you mean.'

Aspirant: 'Well, what part of my paragraph don't you understand?'

'Harduppy tells me he never destroys receipts bills.'

'No; he's more likely to have them framed and hung up in his parlors as curiosities.'

Poppin (just returned from America): 'When I was in New York, I stopped at the best hotel.'

Budley: 'Is there costly, wasn't it?'

Poppin: 'No; I only stopped to admire it.'

Pete: 'Jim, do you know the height of impudence?'

Jim: 'I don't know the interpretation of the word impudence.'

Pete: 'Well, it is taking shelter in an umbrella shop during a thunderstorm.'

Family Doctor (solemnly): 'Your wife is very ill—do you want to know the worst?'

Husband (who had been there before): 'Certainly, certainly! Tell me the worst—'

is it to be Brighton, Hastings, Paris or the Riviera?'

Dick: 'I wish we had a great big dictionary in the house.'

Father (proud of his son's thirst for knowledge): 'Do you want to look for something?'

Dick: 'Yes; there's some jam on the shelf that I can't reach standing on the chair.'

Southern, the comedian, was extremely sensitive to interruption of any sort. Seeing a man in the act of leaving his box during the delivery of one of the actor's best speeches, he shouted out: 'Hi, you, sir, do you know there is another act?'

The offender was equal to the occasion, he turned to the actor, and answered, cheerfully: 'Oh yes—that's why I'm going.'

It was a lecture delivered by a learned purveyor of liver pills, and illustrated by diagram of the frame of man. 'That,' he



He knows,  
His patron knows,  
and everybody knows  
that this can contains  
the purest, best, and  
most delicious Coffee  
that expert buyers can  
procure. It's  
**Chase & Sanborn's**  
**Seal Brand Coffee,**  
that's the reason.

explained, pointing out a totally different spot, 'is where man's liver is.'  
'Excuse me,' observed the man in spectacles, 'but I am a surgeon, and that's not where the liver is.'  
'Never you mind where his liver is, reported the lecturer. 'If it was his big toe or his left ear my pills would reach it, and shake it for him. On that you can bet your gig-lamps.'

## DISEASED KIDNEYS

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No Kidney Diseases are Found Where  
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Brunswick Testimony—Cure of  
a Prominent Public Man.

OTNABOG N. B. Apr. 24.—Some little time ago, a report appeared in an Ontario newspaper, stating that Kidney Diseases (including Bright's Disease, Diabetes, Dropsy, Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, Urinary and Bladder Troubles, Diseases of Women, and all Blood Impurities) were decreasing rapidly, in all sections in which Dodd's Kidney Pills were used.

This statement was read by thousands of our people, and by some (who did not know the magical virtue of Dodd's Kidney Pills) it was doubted. The discussion grew warm, and it was decided to investigate, in some locality here, where the pills are in general use, to ascertain whether or not, similar results attended their use in this part of Canada.

A committee appointed to hear evidence concerning the point in dispute, got together a list of names of persons who had been afflicted with Bright's disease, Diabetes, Dropsy, or other forms of Kidney Disease. These people were questioned and they all testified that they had been cured by Dodd's Kidney Pills. One gentleman answering a question as to whether or not he knew anyone who had had Kidney Disease, and had not used Dodd's Kidney Pills, said, 'I do not. They are all dead.'

The evidence of Commissioner G. J. Warren, of Wickham, who was cured of Kidney Disease, by Dodd's Kidney Pills after twenty-five years' suffering carries conviction with it. It cannot be doubted. It is the solemn declaration of one of our most popular public men.

Dodd's Kidney Pills are sold by all druggists at fifty cents a box, six boxes \$2.50, or they will be sent, on receipt of price, by The Dodd's Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

### Open to Discussion.

Scrivener: 'I've just finished the novel that will be the most talked of book of the year.'

Friend: 'What makes you so sure it will be successful?'

Scrivener: 'Why I've got a title for it that there are nine different ways of pronouncing.'

Young men try to air their knowledge

old men try to avoid airing their ignorance.

True happiness is found in pursuing something; not in catching it.

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