

A FAVORITE AUTHOR.

The Best Sellers to Be Found in the Pages of a Favorite Classic.

Many readers remember what old Rogers, the poet, said: "When I hear a new book talked about or have it pressed upon me, I read an old one." Happy the man who finds rest in the pages of some favorite classic! I know no reader more to be envied than that friend of mine who for many years has given his days and nights to the loving study of Horace, says Oliver Wendell Holmes in the *Atlantic Monthly*. After a certain period in life it is always with an effort that we admit a new author into the inner circle of our intimates. The Parisian omnissage as I remember them half a century ago, they may still keep the same habit of angular and I know, used to put up "angry Comptes" as soon as they were full.

Our public conveyances are never full until the natural atmospheric pressure of sixteen pounds to the square inch is doubled in the close packing of the human sardines that fill the all-accommodating vehicles. A newcomer, however well mannered and well dressed, is not very welcome under these circumstances. In the same way, our tables are full of books half read and books we feel that we must read. And here come in two thick volumes, with uncut leaves, in small type, with many pages, and many lines to a page—a book that must be read and ought to be read at once. What a relief to hand it over to the lovely keeper of your literary conscience, who will tell you all that you will most care to know about, and leave you free to plunge into your beloved volume, in which you are ever finding new beauties and from which you are refreshed, as if you had just come from the cool waters of Heliicon!

The stream of modern literature represented by the books and periodicals on the crowded counters is a turbulent and clamorous torrent, dashing along among the rocks of criticism, over the pebbles of the world's daily events; trying to make itself seen and heard over the hoarse cries of the politicians and the rumbling wheels of traffic. The classic is a still lakelet, a mountain tarn, fed by springs that never fail, its surface never ruffled by storms—always the same, always smiling a welcome to its visitor. Such is Horace to my friend. To his eye, "Lyda, de per omnes" is as familiar as "Pater noster qui es in celis" to that of a pious "Cathold." "Inter vita," which he has put into many English, his Horace opens to us Watt's hymn book opens to "From all that dwell below the skies." The more he reads, the more he studies his author, the richer are the treasures he finds. And what Horace is to him, Homer or Virgil or Dante is to many a quiet reader sick to death of the unending train of bookmakers.

Stamps of the Old Stripe.

The great men of the good old days used to tag on the hustings and around the fireplaces where they were electioneering about how they worked all day in a corn-field or at wood-clearing and educated themselves at night by the light of a brush-head.

Peace to the tradition. There are students here who are discounting the early effort of the departed great.

A majority of the students of the Northwestern University are poor young men. They are educating themselves for the ministry. They don't have time to play any of the pranks which are played at Ann Arbor, Yale, and Harvard.

There is one young student—a theologian—who has a job of palling a cow twice a day for a capitalist. He makes enough money out of this job to pay his room rent. There are several others who "set type" in the local newspaper offices two or three days in the week and reduce their expenses by that means. And they are studying for the ministry. There's another young man who carries a horse for a business man, attends to his own studies during the week, and preaches in a school-house on Sundays. Between the stable and the school-house he makes enough to pay for his education.

These are not romances. The penitent who pins his salvation on the preaching of such men as these will not be far away on the mountain when he is called.—Chicago Tribune.

Wedding-Present Extortionists.

Our East Indian cousins are limited by legislature in the quantity and quality of wedding gifts. The bridegroom is provided with his share as well as the bride—a most equitable arrangement. The father or guardian of the bride has to bestow a little nuptial offering upon the father of the bridegroom, the amount of which is limited by law. The bridegroom gives his mother-in-law a little gift as he touches the fringe of her dress, and the bride prostrates herself before her mother-in-law with an equal gift. The number of dinner parties given by the bride's family must not be more than five, and the number of guests be less than twenty-five. For some unaccountable reason, instead of the grandparents living all their substance to the first child which appears, the bride and her family must make presents to the husband's family. The only occasion on which the father of the girl seems to be remembered is whenever the son-in-law makes him a visit he must carry him a gift. Presumably the son-in-law's visits are made only on rare occasions and after protracted intervals.

THERE is a lucrative opening for medical men in Iowa, "not as practitioners, however," says the *Medical Review*. The Iowa Legislature, which adjourned about the middle of April, passed what is called the pharmacy bill, conferring upon physicians the right to dispense liquors, and placing upon them no restraint whatever. They do not need a permit, like the druggists, nor is there any supervision of their manners of prescribing in the sales they make. There are about 5,000 doctors in the State, and if this law is to remain in force the number of "docs" will soon be beyond computation.

AT Ofen, Hungary, a woman has died who had not for thirty years gone outside her house. She was the daughter of well-to-do parents. Thirty years ago she was about to be married. Her lover, "to test her obedience and love," desired her on a certain feast day not to go into the streets. She agreed, but broke her promise and went into the town. The next day her lover broke the engagement, and thereupon she made a vow that never again during her lifetime would she leave her house—and she kept her word.

Bibliomaniac Gladstone.

It seems that, like many other bibliomaniacs, the Right Hon. William E. Gladstone has attacks of madness about once in so often. He had one of those "spells" on him the day before I left London, says Eugene Field in the *Chicago News*, and the way he rampaged around the bookshops in Oxford street was simply delicious. The first place he entered was Westall's. I happened to be there, and I watched him closely, for I wanted to see whether, while under the evil influence, he was like other bibliomaniacs I knew. He planted himself in the middle of the shop, and cast his eyes slowly around the shelves of books that lined the walls. Of course all the buyers paused when they became known that Gladstone was present. I saw a superb picture—that grand old man, sleek and quivering with excitement, rolling his splendid eyes upon those musty treasures. Suddenly he raised his majestic left arm and described, as it were, to the left of his "parabola," "Send me those," he said. Then he raised his equally majestic right arm, and made an equally graceful and sweet and apt little direction, saying, "Send me those, too." Then he hurried out of Westall's and plunged into another bookshop hard by. The whole business was done in three minutes. Westall knew what the old man meant; at any rate, he began taking down books and volumes and tomes by the score, while a clerk went out to hire a dray.

"That's the way he always buys," said Westall. "It's as good as £50 every time he comes into a book shop."

THE world over there have been observed about 100 species of mosquitoes, but in our temperate regions there are not so many, indeed, more than ten species. It is hardly yet determined whether their existence is for the better or worse of mankind, but a gentleman has placed at the disposal of the American Museum of Natural History the sum of \$200 to be paid in three prizes for the best essays on the destruction of mosquitoes, flies, and other insects. We would suggest universal compulsory vaccination with the expectation that in the course of time the mosquitoes would all die off of blood poisoning.—Dr. Foothill, *Monthly*.

HOW LONG will a human body remain in the earth before it decays until it cannot be distinguished from the surrounding clays, is a question as yet undecided by the scientists. Much depends upon the character of the soil and the different elements of which it is composed. In countries abounding in limestone, or, again, in regions thoroughly saturated with alkaline waters, human flesh will retain a natural color and firmness for an indefinite period of time. The bags of India have yielded up bodies fresh and natural as life that had been buried in their slimy depths for centuries. It is said to be an historical fact that the bodies of three Roman soldiers were found in a peat bog on the Emerald Isle in the year 1569 A. D. fresh and life-like, although they had been buried almost sixteen centuries.

NO LAND on which the sun shines possesses greater natural advantages than our own, but there are portions of the great grain-bearing West and fertile South where atmospheric influences prejudicial to health militate against them, in some degree, as places of residence. Heavy rainfalls and the overflow of great rivers, which upon their subsidence leave dark vegetation exposed to the rays of the sun, there begin malarial fevers, and there also the inhabitants are periodically obliged to use some medicinal safeguard against the scourge. The most popular is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, a preventive that has for over a third of a century afforded reliable protection to those whom it has been used. It is a safe and well-tempered medicine for fever and ague, has taught to subdue it for them. Whether intermittent or remittent, malarial fevers are conquered and averted by the superb anti-periodic and fortifying medicine as they are by no other preparation in use. Use it, and abandon impure local bitters.

THE board of health in San Francisco is busy discussing the problem of how to combat leprosy. This disease is said to be constantly making greater inroads upon the white population and the advisability of establishing a lazaretto is seriously considered. At a recent meeting the board appointed a committee to examine into the matter, to ascertain the cause of the rapid increase of leprosy, its contagiousness, the extent of its inroads upon the white population and the best methods for its removal.

A CORRESPONDENT of a Calcutta paper says that a neem tree was recently the scene of a curious gathering. It appears that the tree has a number of white spots on its trunk and branches. The people of the neighborhood adorned it with red powder, and offered fruits, spices and sweets, on the supposition that the goddess of small-pox had taken up her abode in it.

ITALY has turned out a torpedo ram that can take rank with naval blasters of the Sullivan class. She is called the *Fieramosca*, and can, it is claimed, fire a 48-pound projectile through twenty-six inches of solid iron.

WE moved here recently, and the druggist said he didn't have any Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyers, but when I said I wouldn't have any other, he said he would get some in a few days, and so he did. I know what Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyers will do, and will not give my children any other.

Mrs. J. D. Blair, *Pittsburgh, Cal.*

AN obstinate farmer in New Jersey, who refused to pay toll, because the road was in bad condition, saw his folly afterward, when on being sued he had to pay costs amounting to \$5. The toll was a few cents.

Six *None's* *fixed*, will be sent by Cragin & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., to any one in the U. S. or Canada, postage paid, upon receipt of 25 Dobbins' Electric Soap wrappers. See list of novels on circulars around each bar of soap for sale by all grocers.

QUALITIES of which, as a rule, are important among women: The largest factory in the world is near Paris, where 20,000,000 are annually produced.

AN ASTORI woman, seventy-three years of age and a confirmed invalid, is willing to run a mile race with any man of his age for a purse of \$10,000.

A MAILING CLERK in the Orlando, Fla., postoffice found a live, venomous snake in the waste basket.

A MULATTO boy, in charge of the Natchez, N. H., telegraph office,

Teetering with Another Brother's Wife.

TALKING of camp meetings, last season, during the presiding elder's visit to Sing Sing, a grove meeting was held. The presiding elder occupied the pulpit and commenced to preach. As his discourse was very interesting, one young minister, who occupied a chair directly behind the speaker, concluded he could hear better in the audience, so going down the aisle he seated himself on one end of a plank. The planks were placed on three rests, but some one had pulled this plank off from the rest at one end. Mr. V. leaned against a tree and had closed his eyes for meditation when a very heavy sister arrived and seated herself on the opposite end. In an instant her end of the plank went down, while the young clergyman shot several feet into the air. The speaker turned red and choked, but finally went on, while the audience almost burst, trying to hold its laughter. As soon as the exercises of the morning were over, the presiding elder approached the bewildered brother and with a waggish severity said:

"This won't do. When I go to your place I shall feel under obligations to tell your wife I saw you teeter in meeting with another brother's wife."

Confirmed.

THE favorable impression produced on the first appearance of the agreeable liquid fruit remedy, Syrup of Figs, a few years ago, has been more than confirmed by the pleasant experience of all who have used it, and the success of the proprietors and manufacturers, the California Fig Syrup Company.

FOR the decade 1880-'90 the duel statistics of Italy record for the entire kingdom 2,759 duels, most of them military. The hotter the weather the more duels, while in very cold winter spells, the figures tapered off. Thus seven-eighths of the whole number took place in summer and one-eighth in winter. Only fifty deaths resulted out of all these duels, ninety of which were fought with the sword, 2,480 with the sabre, and the rest with the pistol. Ordinary quarrels produced 780; press and political discussions, 1,322; love, 183; religious questions, 29. Most of the duels took place at Naples and the fewest at Venice.

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This article is a carefully prepared physician's prescription, and has been in constant use for nearly a century. It is a medicine to which we are subject, more distressing than mere eyes, and none, perhaps, for which more medicines have been tried without success. For all external inflammation of the eyes it is an infallible remedy. If the directions are followed it will never fail. We particularly invite the attention of physicians to its merits. For all Congreations, Colds, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Inflammations, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Lumbago, Sciatica, more thorough and repeated applications are necessary.

For Internal Pains, Diarrhea, Colic, Spasms, Neuralgia, Fainting Spells, Nervousness, Sleeplessness are relieved instantly, and quickly cured by taking inwardly 20 to 60 drops in half a tumbler of water. 50c. a bottle. All Druggists.

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Send ten cents for new *Laugh-Book* and full instructions. **ALL FREE** to R. MCALLARD & CO. (Successors to Wm. Conard & Co.), P. O. Box 715, Washington, D. C.

The Disability Bill is a law. Soldiers disabled since the war, widows and orphans are entitled to a pension of \$13 per month, and their dependents \$10. When you get your money, send it to Joseph H. Quincy, 41st Street, Washington, D. C.

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