

MILLIONS OF BOOKS.

STATISTICS OF AMERICA'S LARGEST LIBRARIES.

Rapid Increase of Books in Recent Years—The Inestimable Service Rendered to the Cause of Education—Interest is Rapidly Growing.

For the Book-Worm.

Collection of books called libraries are rapidly increasing in size and number, and they furnish evidence of an advanced stage of civilization. We need not here trace their history from the clay-leaved books of Babylon, or from the catalogued collections of Sardanapalus at Nineveh, and shall only speak briefly of the libraries of our own country. In the early years of this century, the annual report of the Harvard College library, consisted almost wholly of a record of the acquisition by gift and by purchase of a few dozen books. That library now adds from 10,000 to 20,000 volumes a year to its collections. Sixty years ago publishing books in this country was scarcely looked upon as legitimate business, and publishers did not rank with grocers and dry goods merchants as business men, but there are to-day several publishing houses, every one of which has several millions of dollars invested, and the publishing business now holds first rank in the commercial world. About 5,000 new books and reprints of old books are now issued annually by the printing houses of the United States, and about the same number in Great Britain. All this is done notwithstanding the fact that thousands of periodicals and magazines are also published. The diffusion of so much information by means of papers and magazines seems not to interfere with nor diminish the number of books asked for. In the ten years from 1883 to 1893 the number of periodicals devoted mainly to literature increased from 423 to 1,051, a gain of 628, and the number now is 1,100. Of the "trade" class, or periodicals devoted to special departments of industrial activity, or to special callings, we have an increase during the same period from 146 to 611. The papers and magazines treating of agriculture and related subjects alone number 400. It is safe to say that the most useful and most called for literary contributions upon nearly all subjects are now found in current periodicals. A book is soon out of date and needs revision, while the most recent knowledge and best of latest opinions find their way into the magazines and reviews. Rufus Choate once remarked, "The only immortality is a book," but books were not so numerous in his time as now. Only a score of those printed in the eighteenth century survive to be much read. One century does not seem to demand many books from the preceding one.

The Number of Books.

The question is often asked, "How many different books or works have been issued since the invention of printing?" Any answer to such a question can only be a guess, and involves an accurate definition of a book. The world is full of "books which are not books." Many books privately printed, dime novels, directories, business catalogues, air maux, bucolic poetry privately printed for relatives and friends who do not like to refuse it, and certain local public reports and documents can hardly be classed as books. Then vast numbers of books (probably as many as have survived), have perished in fires or have been destroyed by mice, mold and insects, or have gone to pieces owing to worthless paper and binding. The only estimate yet made by competent authority of the number of books issued since the invention of printing, but not inclusive of such as above mentioned, is 12,000,000, and this assumes an average of three volumes for each work. It may be "the irony of fate," or what Aaron Burr styled "the unrelenting malice of destiny," which causes the volumes of 400 writers out of every 500 to slumber in oblivion on library shelves. Only a few authors even escape the sad fate of surviving their own literary reputation. The quickness and cheapness with which books can now be printed must greatly increase their number in the near future, and John Fiske may have been a prophet when he surmised that "two hundred years hence the catalogues of existing books will occupy as much space as our entire libraries do to-day."

Poor Book Paper.

In the material world there is nothing permanent but change, and the modern paper maker has "bulldozed wiser than he knew," and thus constituted himself a destructive literary censor. Book writers will no doubt regard his criticism as severe, though they cannot question its efficacy. Wood pulp, generally loaded with tale and other available impurities, makes a paper that is worthless for permanent records, though it serves an ephemeral purpose for newspapers and periodicals, and for the cheap books which swarm like bacilli from printing houses. This paper quickly rots and crumbles. When exposed to the air it seems to undergo a slow process of burning, and turns to a reddish yellow. The writer has samples of it in papers which are only ten years old, but which even now are as brittle as though they had been charred. Before the middle of the next century, books made of such paper, no matter how carefully kept or handled, will go to pieces. In order to have books last a thousand years, they should be printed upon linen rag paper. But there will manifestly be a great gain to the public in printing ninety-five out of a hundred of all new books upon wood pulp paper, so that physical laws may quietly consign them to material oblivion, though probably no sooner than the world will have forgotten them.

Kind of Books Needed.

Books are made for readers, and not the readers for the books, and any intelligent person has a right to inveigh against the masses of ungrammatical imbecility which, in milk and watery floods, deluge book stores and libraries. One day when leaving the Boston Public Library, Emerson observed, "I have copies of all those books which are of real value upon the four walls of my own little study." With the rapid increase of books it would seem that a marked change must soon take place in the book-making world, especially in the preparation of books relating to human knowledge. For genius, of course, no rules can be prescribed. The man who can create a Tam O'Shanter, a David Copperfield, a Becky Sharp, a Don Juan, or a Baby Bell, will always be welcome. But in the specialization of knowledge we need monographs which will clearly show all that is known to-day upon the topics treated. Exhaustive or even thorough treatises upon such topics as Gold, Glaciers, Silver, Aluminum, Locomotives, Brickmaking, Wheat, Tramps, and thousands of other subjects would be most welcome. A book of this class prepared by one entirely familiar with his theme would give its readers valuable information gleaned possibly from a thousand authorities consulted by the author. The day has passed when even a Humboldt can find time to make himself familiar with more than a single branch of science, and no one but a specialist can find the time even to glance at the chemical and other scientific rubbish put upon paper by even so great a man as Swedenborg. What we need is the actual knowledge that the race possesses to-day upon topics of great interest and that in clearly written and compactly printed monographs.

The Library an Educator.
Man possesses a three-fold nature, physical, intellectual and moral, and in his proper education these elements of his being all require attention and judicious training. As an art, teaching involves a wise selection of the means used in imparting instruction and culture. In early childhood the individual acquires knowledge and some discipline by the active and constant use of his senses. The school supplements this exercise of his faculties by observation by aiding him to master the printed page, and to acquire the elements of certain knowledge common to the race as language, arithmetic, geography and history, knowledge which is absolutely necessary in all the practical relations of life. The use of the printed page which is emphasized in our schools, opens to the student in libraries and reading rooms, and in papers and magazines, the recorded observations of all mankind, and a record of the spiritual life of the race. The chief value of a college course of study is its guidance to a wise use of a library, and the "higher education" is largely continued after school days by communing with the master spirits of all time who have left us their best thoughts in books. The most priceless legacy of any nation is its literature, for in it alone we find a revelation of life in its actions and hopes. The earlier universities were simply assemblages of learned men about libraries, and students were then, owing to a scarcity of books, obliged to attend such schools. In a broad sense, the newspaper and magazine, together with the 5,000 public libraries and the innumerable private ones, may now be said to bring the university to our homes and firesides. Better than ever before are we able to keep in touch with the thoughts and activities of all races and all peoples. As our lives become more cosmopolitan we necessarily rise to higher levels. Our libraries and current publications are our most important educational factors, and the colleges do their best work when they teach the student to be self-directive and self-reliant in using books, for that assures his continued progress.

Large Users of Books.

In the high schools, seminaries, colleges, universities, normal schools, agricultural and business colleges, law, theological and medical schools, there are now about 400,000 students, and 20,000 teachers and professors, and the public and private schools of the country employ during last year about 450,000 persons as teachers. In addition to the above, there are 350,000 clergymen, lawyers and physicians, editors, and other professional people, and easily 200,000 persons who have education and leisure, making in all a million and a half of persons who have some books of their own, and who use books. In 5,000 public libraries of the country there are now not far from 25,000,000 of bound volumes.

The Great Libraries of Chicago.

The library of the University of Chicago is a general one and will grow in the direction of the needs of that institution. It already contains 300,000 volumes. The City Public Library is largely a circulating one, and will always be rich in recent popular books and in current periodicals. As a library for general readers, it is already one of the greatest in the country, numbering over 200,000 volumes, and its handsome new library building is nearing completion. The Newberry Library on the North Side is a reference one, is well endowed, and will no doubt become one of the greatest book depositories of the world, especially for rare and valuable works which constitute original sources of information upon art, science, and history. It already has over 100,000 volumes. The Crerar Reference Library, which is to be located on the South Side, is manifestly well endowed, and will soon begin a growth which will be watched with deep interest by the whole world. Its managers, in consultation with the trustees of the City Library, and of the Newberry Library, may decide to make it largely scientific in character, and especially rich and complete in recent works upon every department of science. An opinion seems to be quite general that these three great public libraries will ar-

range to occupy somewhat different fields. Should such an understanding be reached, these combined collections of books, in a future by no means distant, will only be equaled by the great collections of Paris and London.

DUANE DOTY.

AN IRONCLAD CANALBOAT.

The Quaint and Unique Warship Found in the Navy of Holland.

One of the oldest war vessels in the world belongs to Holland. It is a canal boat ironclad, a perfect and completely equipped war ship in miniature. To come upon it suddenly as it lies alongside the big barracks in one of the canal streets of Rotterdam, tied up at a quay on which strut half a dozen little Dutch soldiers almost as toy-like as the war ship, produces the impression of looking into the window of a toy store set out with Christmas gifts for children.

She is about forty feet long and fifteen broad, and her upper deck is between three and four feet above the water line. Her general appearance is something like that of a Hudson river lighter. But though she looks so much like a toy at first glance, a close inspection shows that she was built for business, and there is a grim look about the black muzzle of guns peeping out of her little turrets and the machine guns in her tops that commands one's respect.

Her sides and deck seem heavily armored and there is nothing showing on her deck but the two little turrets, one fore and one aft. She has two tiny masts, about twelve feet high, and a smokestack between them. Her bulwarks are not more than a foot and a half high, but as she is not likely to encounter any heavy, rolling seas, and as any of her crew who might fall overboard could easily walk ashore, anyhow, this seeming lack of usual safeguards doesn't matter. In everything visible about her she is as spick and span as a line-of-battle ship, and the marine who paces magnificently four steps and a turn about her decks is as martial as though he trod the deck of the New York. The sailors about her decks have many rows of bright brass buttons on the lapels, sleeves, and front of their jackets, which add to the toy-like appearance of the whole outfit, says the New York Sun.

A canal-boat ironclad is a valuable part of the defensive armament of Holland, and would be very effective in some emergencies. The whole country is criss-crossed with canals only a few hundred yards apart and about every street of every town, except Utrecht, has a canal running through the middle of it. The canals in the country are everywhere several feet higher than the surrounding land, and a war ship in the canal or a regiment on the tow-path would have a strong vantage point. It would be a great sight to see the canal boat in action, but she would probably give a good account of herself.

Of course, Holland's navy is by no means confined to canal boats. She has about 150 men-of-war, of which about twenty-five are ironclads, and some of them rank with the vessels of other navies. Americans are interested at seeing displayed in the most conspicuous place in the naval department of the famous Rijks museum, in Amsterdam, the handsome piece of plate presented by the people of New York to the Dutch war ship Van Speijk when that vessel lay in the Hudson at the time of the Columbian celebration, and anyone who might be disposed to smile at the little country and her canal-boat war ships has only to spend an hour in that museum viewing the spoils of war taken by Dutch sailors from the British, the Spanish, and other nations, to have his opinions toned up to a degree of great respect.

No Excuse.

A Prussian princess, having married the Duke of York—of course not the present Duke—resided in England, where she attracted much attention on account of her original way of doing things.

Once, to commemorate the Duke's birthday, she gave a ball at his country house, and invited his London tradesmen to come to it, sending them two guineas apiece to pay carriage hire. A company of strolling actors begged the Duchess to be present at their performance in a barn. She attended and carried all her servants, who were Germans.

The next day an itinerant Methodist was to preach a charity sermon in the same barn. She was asked to attend, and consented. Her servants, on receiving orders to be present, excused themselves on the ground of not understanding English.

"Oh," replied the Duchess, "but you went to the comedy, and you shall go to the sermon."

His Field of Practice.

The late David Dunn, the former patriarch of the Androscoggin Democracy, who practiced law at 80, and in extreme old age loved to linger about courts, was in attendance, a few months before his death, at the session of the Supreme Court, and an old friend asked: "Do you practice much now, Mr. Dunn?" "Yes, sir, a great deal," replied Mr. Dunn. The questioner looked a trifle surprised, and Mr. Dunn quietly added: "Most of the Christian virtues, however."

The Law and Engagement Rings.

An important decision has just been pronounced in Vermont, as to engagement rings. A young man sued to recover one that he had given to a young woman who, after accepting the ring, repudiated the engagement. The judge decided that it must be returned or else that the recipient must fulfill the conditions under which it was presented. The English courts some years ago decided that an engagement ring is not recoverable under any circumstances.

OIL FOR STEAMSHIP FUEL.

A Product Which is Said to Be Unaffected by Heat or Cold.

A form of petroleum fuel which will not be affected by high temperature, and neither in a coal bunker nor in store in hot climates will there be any tendency to liquify or give off vapor, is said to be now obtained by a process of manufacturing according to Mr. Weygang's patent of 1894; indeed, eminent authorities report very favorably on the record already achieved by it. The percentage of petroleum in the fuel can be, it is claimed, regulated to a point. Cost would mainly depend upon the local price for petroleum. Until tests upon a fairly large scale have been made the matter of cost in comparison with coal cannot be definitely fixed, but it may be assumed that relatively there would be a considerable advantage in the price on the side of the petroleum fuel, and there would also be the more important factors—viz, lessening space and lesser quantity to handle—advantages which naval authorities and steamship owners fully appreciate. The importance of the fact is emphasized that this process for fuel making is of the simplest character, and requires neither heating nor boiling, and can, therefore, be carried out economically on a very large scale with little labor. The uses for so serviceable an article at every coaling port in the world must be enormous. It will be especially acceptable to the Indian railways, where native coal for mixing purposes is equally as good as the best steam coal, and in many other economic ways the fuel will be suitable, considering the long distances and the huge quantity of the coal that has to be handled and stored, and particularly so going away, to a very great degree, with the smoke nuisance, which makes railway traveling in India most disagreeable.—Invention.

DEFENDING A GUILTY MAN.

How Far a Lawyer May Properly Go in Defense of a Client.

"The matter of confidences between counsel and client is one of great interest and importance," said a well-known jurist and ex-judge the other day.

"As to the duty of a lawyer on the trial of a case where he has been informed by his client that he is guilty, the best and most controlling example is that of Charles James Phillips, the eminent British barrister, who in many directions was rated in his time as second only to Lord Erskine.

"He was defending Courvoisier, who was indicted for the murder of Lord Russell. During the trial, on the examination of a very important witness for the people, the accused was much overcome, and in the intensity of his emotion communicated either to Mr. Phillips or his solicitor the fact that he was guilty of the crime.

"Mr. Phillips immediately asked for an adjournment of the case, and for a consultation with the judges. The consultation was granted, and Mr. Phillips stated to the bench that the accused had confessed his guilt, and requested that the judges point out to him his path of duty. The judges, after deliberation, stated that he would have a perfect right to make such legal and logical deductions from the evidence as he thought tended to the exculpation of the accused, but it would be unprofessional to state to the jury any personal belief of his innocence.

"In his argument to the jury Mr. Phillips, carried away by his emotions and imagination, did state to the jury his own personal belief in the innocence of his client, and this statement of his occasioned much criticism afterward."

A Plain Case of Not In.

The office boy with his legs wrapped around the legs of the chair, was tilted back in the corner reading a soiled copy of "Stump Fingered Dick; the Dandy of the Plains," when a visitor entered. The boy had heard his step through the hall and was calmly expecting him when the door opened.

"Is the boss in?" inquired the visitor. The boy looked at him with almost a contemptuous expression and was slow to reply.

"I said," snapped the visitor, "is the boss in?"

"I heard you," said the boy with a half sneer.

"Well, I want to know if the boss is in."

"That's a purty question to be askin' me, ain't it? Don't you know he ain't?"

"How should I know?" inquired the astonished caller.

"By lookin' at me. Joe reckon I'd be balled up here readin' this book if the old man was in? Well, I guess not, hardly. Come around to-morrow." And the boy once more plunged into the amazing adventures of his hero.

Probably.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath," and sometimes it brings a smile to take the place of the vanished anger.

"Where is this box to be sent, sir?" inquired the long-suffering clerk in a confectioner's shop of the somewhat irascible proprietor.

"Dear me, is there no one in this place capable of attending to anything but myself?" retorted the gentleman addressed, in a tone of great irritation. "Where have you put that slip of paper? Oh, here it is. Mark the box for Mr. James Brown, Grayside, Mass., and mark it distinctly."

"Yes, sir," replied the clerk; "and what sort of candy is—"

"Mark it 'Mixed!'" shouted the proprietor, interrupted again in the writing he had hastily resumed. "Mixed—M-I-X-E-D."

"Yes, sir," said the clerk, pleasantly. "I think I should have spelled it that way myself."

Then the confectioner laughed, and silence reigned once more.

GOWNS AND GOWNING.

WOMEN GIVE MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WEAR.

Best Gowns at Fashionable Fashions, Fyrolon, Mayhap, and Yet Offered in the Hope that the Reading May Prove Beneficial to Wearyed Womanhood.

Gossip from Gay Gotham.

New York correspondence:

ENDING into the godet skirt that which is its due, is but confessing that it is the only skirt really worth having. But just as women generally are rejoicing over its beauty, along comes a terrifying monster to interrupt and end the rejoicing. This dreadful creature is nothing else than an embodiment of the fact that it takes about as much outlay to properly line and stiffen a dress that includes a godet skirt, as it does to furnish the gown itself. But one experience with such wholesale use of haircloth as these handsome pleats necessitate is required to convince as to this point, but this very fact is almost sure to give to the style a longer life. It offers to women a chance for a new employment, for it seems possible for some enterprising woman to secure the assistance of a dozen or so dressmakers and keep posted as to the women who have lately had godet skirts made. She might then follow them up and for a small compensation teach them how to sit down gracefully. The management of these skirts is soon learned, but at first they give the same trouble that the variety show comedian reported of the watermelon. "You can't," said that joker, "reasonably expect to sit on a slice of a ripe watermelon and have it resume its former shape." It's just so with godets, if they're not managed right.

There is nothing that approaches the set of these skirts, according to current standards, and they are found in all sorts of materials. In the jaunty dress beside the initial it is a tan-colored cloth that is combined with nut-brown velvet. The skirt is of the former, trimmed with braid, and the velvet gives bodice and sleeves. A jacket effect is produced on the bodice by a trimming of wide black satin ribbon, which is extended to form the belt, tying behind in a large bow. To show how generally this shape is applied, the next pictured dress, though of the same general cut of skirt is composed of admiral blue velvet made princess and trimmed with fur. It fastens at the side and the left jacket front laps over. The jacket fronts, epaulettes and the bands on either side of the skirt are of silver-gray cloth set off by soutache braiding.

Very brilliant red is to be a popular color for the coming season, though it does not seem in as good taste for warm weather, blue sky and green trees, as for the grays, whites and cold of winter, but what cares fashion for that! A straw is seen that seems to suggest that the wind is going to blow the way of scarlet skirts as a correct wear with bodices of any color. At every turn of fashion it will be noticed that some one color is accorded a freedom of wear with all other shades. Some years ago gold, and, later, bright butter yellow had this vogue. Bright yellow kid gloves were once the thing with any shade or kind of dress, then at one

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A GODET IN VELVET AND FUR TRIMMED.

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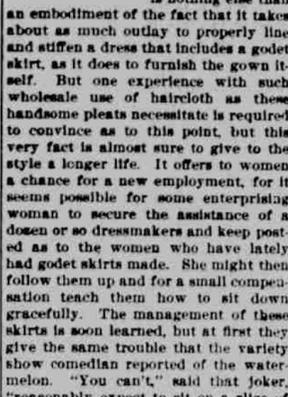
STIFFENED INTO BOUNDED PLEATS.

time cardinal red was the general favorite, and no matter what was worn a red ribbon, slippers or hat could be added and be all right. Last season turquoise blue seemed the shade that appeared with all gowns by its pres-

ence giving a touch of style to the whole. This winter violet, chiefly in the little flower itself, is the color that by common consent is admitted to companionship with all other colors, whethers the effect is harmonious or not.

For the present reds are scarce and browns abundant. Costume number three is oak-brown, in woolen suiting, its skirt trimmed around the bottom with brown silk passementerie. Organ pipe folds take up the skirt's fullness behind, the whole being stiffened. Heavy brown silk lines the fitted bodice, which hooks on the side and is trimmed in front with two boxpleats of the goods coming over a passementerie yoke. On the sides are two Figaro fronts made of jet beads, and the plain belt is adorned with two rosettes and two embroidered tabs.

The godet in all the glory of fine fabrics is shown in the fourth picture, where it comes from moire brocaded with chrysanthemums and richly embroidered with jet in front. Two black velvet tails hang from the belt. The



GRANDEUR ATTAINED.

bodice has fitted lining which is draped with accordion-pleated old-rose chiffon, and is richly garnished with jet points and a passementerie of the same. The very full elbow sleeves are of velvet, and show a trimming of pleated old-rose chiffon, headed by black velvet bands. Before dismissing this dress, a trick resorted to by the wearers of rich costumes may be mentioned. Their opportunity came when skirts became wide about the knees, and when dressmakers finally refused to put in pockets. They then resorted to the old fashion of a bag swung under the outer skirt. It hangs a little below the knee and is big enough to hold handkerchief, pocketbook, powder puff, etc. To reach it, the outer skirt is lifted, and the swagger dame does not mind this because she wears a petticoat that she is glad to show. The operation of reaching the bag is a little startling to those about her, but performed confidently it will end in securing their admiration, at least for the petticoat.

The final costume that the artist contributes is made from heliotrope velours garnished with spangled dahlia velours. Its skirt is laid in three organ-pipe folds in back and is quite plain. The waist has fitted lining and fastens at the side, the front having no darts and hanging over the belt of spangled velours, which is trimmed



ANOTHER EXAMPLE IN ORGAN PIPE FOLDS.

with bows at the sides. The draped, square yoke is of spangled velours and straps of the plain velvet come over the shoulders. Sleeves of spangled velours have double epaulettes, one plain, one spangled. Such sleeves as these show that, though sleeves are being draped more and more elaborately, their balloon effect is being diminished. While now as many as six yards can be gotten into a pair of sleeves, the sleeves resulting really seem smaller than the puff-extended ones of last year.

A good many girls just fold the fullness of their sleeves over their chests when they put on a coat. Of course the sleeve simply cannot go into any coat sleeve, but it crushes them less to fold them flat to the front, and then button them down under the coat. Besides, a little extra fullness over the chest does not really matter, so many a girl who would have fits right out if any one suggested padding to her lays over her sleeves with much complacency and rejoices in the gain of roundness that shows when the outer coat buttons up.

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Mrs. Charity Green celebrated her 108th birthday in the Home for Aged Colored Women at Boston the other day.

The number of unmarried women in England and Wales exceeds the number of unmarried men by a majority of nearly 200,000.