BAAC'S LITERARY OPPORTUNITY.

fust Now He is a Petnise's theest, but He grants landed at the barge office the

May Develop Some Day-What's your loy the doin down t'

hen he'd got his growth, an I declare poorly fa'r way t' kerry aout his ma's observation and pointed out to their more stolid male companions various observation as the party moved along. time; sees 'em real informal day in an

"Do tell!" gasped the postmaster, with an expression of the greatest and most flattering amazement on his sharp fea-

"Yes, sir," said Mr. Sargent, seeing that he had made a decided impression on his listener. "I was raound with Isaac quite a little spell one mornin, but lawzee, I couldn't stand no sech flusterin, hurryin times as he hes right along! Twould kill me right off, or anyways ! shouldn't never be fit for anythin agin after a week o' sech work! But Isaac likes it, an seems t' feel real easy an onconcerned baout gettin raound. There's one thing his ma an I would like t' hev changed though, that's th' short rations o' time they give him t' git from one place t' another an back agin."

"Hes t' hurry, doos he?" inquired the

"He cert'nly doos," replied Mr. Sargent, crossing his hands on his knees and surveying the effect meditatively as he talked. "Isaac's a likely boy at learnin, an they'd orter give him a little more of a chance, seems 's ef."

"Well, naow, what is Ike doin precisely?" inquired the postmaster after a pause, during which he had waited patiently for Mr. Sargent to give some more definite information as to his son's pursuit, which had always been shroud-

ed in mystery. "Why, I ain't cal'latin t' tell ye jest th' name they give t' a boy in Isaac's p'sition," remarked the father prudently. "It w'd strike ye kind o' queer, same as it did me fust off, till Isaac explained baout it? I ain't deemed it hardly wise t' tell his ma even jest yet, for she's kind o' notional, an 'taint a pooty name no two ways 'baout it! But it appears 't it's customary, an don't mean what ye might s'pose or anythin like it. What Isaac doos is t' kerry what he tells me they call 'proof'—the literary folks do back an forth betwixt them that writes an them that prints. Jest think o' that! Right in with 'em all, Isaac is!"

"Do th' folks that he works for set much by him?" inquired the postmaster

in a tone of great respect.

"Th' printin folks set a heap by him," replied Mr. Sargent. "It's 'Isaac' here an 'Isaac' there all th' time with them. Isaac says th' writin men don't seem t' take much to him, but I told him that ef he was a good boy an did his work well they'd git so they'd feel real friendly to him an be glad t' see him whenever he come in, same as th' printin folks are.
An I said t' him, sort of encouragin, for thought he seemed kind o' daoubtc, what a good thing ful, 'Why, Isaac, what a good thing it w'd be for ye ef some o' them writin' folks sh'd take a real shine t' ye an have a little talk with ye naow an agin whilst they was finishin up their writin for ye t' take off (for Isaac says they never hev it done when he gits there hardly). P'r'sps they might kind o' set forth t' ye haow they write, an so on, says I. Isaac didn't seem t' think 'twas likely, but I do, an so doos his ma!

"When a boy," said Mr. Sargent, rising as he heard the sound of the approaching coach, "hes a chance like Isaac's, ther's no knowin what may come t' him!"-Youth's Companion.

Men Who Abuse Privileges.

Chambermaids at swell hotels soon become great students of human nature. It does not take them long to size up either the social or financial standing of

For instance, one showed her acumen in this direction the other day when I happened to call her attention to the array of six towels on the rack over the washstand in the bathroom.

"Think that extravagant?" said the bright young woman. "Well, don't you make any mistake!" "But it most cost the house a lot for

laundry bills," I ventured. "Not a bit of it," she replied vivaci-"Most of our trade here is first class. No one ever uses a lot of towels unless they are not used to them at home. Men who are accustomed to the luxuries of life do not take advantage of the supply. It is only the class who usually wipe their faces on roller towels who abuse our generosity.'

And doubtless the girl knew what she was talking about.—New York Herald.

An Unsuccessful Persistent Suitor. One of the most persistent suitors who ever proposed and was rejected was the eccentric Cruden, compiler of the con-cordance to the Bible. Miss Abney, who had inherited a large fortune, was the subject of his attentions. For months and months he pestered her with calls and letters. When she left home, he had papers printed, which he distributed in various places of worship, asking the congregation to pray for her safe return, and when she returned home he issued others asking the worshipers to return thanks. Miss Abney never became Mrs. Cruden.—Brandon Bucksaw.

Sweet Potato Flour.

A St. Louis woman has perfected a patent to cover the process of making "sweet potato flour." The processes are those peeling the potato and kiln drying the peel so that it will keep for any length of time as a food for live stock; of drying and grinding the potato into three distinct grades of flour, and also of slicing and drying it in the form of women besides you "Saratoga chips."—New York Telegram. —Texas Siftings.

man's Berked Immigrants.

A picturosque party of Italian immiother day. There were about a dozen men and six or eight women. The men ston, Jeromo, saked the Hilldale post- were clothing of a rough, buff colored oter one stormy night, white he and material, with scarfs and caps of bright-Jerome Bargent waited for the ceach to arrive. Mr. Sargent land returned from a visit to Boston the day before, and it was variety reported in the village that 'he'd had great doin's daswn b'low with lim.

"Basae," replied Mr. Sargent in a tene of ill concealed pride, "is right in the midst o' things, I ken just tell ye! M' wife, she's allus held to it that Isaac hed got I'be some kind of a litrary feller when he'd got his growth, an I declare ers found in their quaint appearance. for't, it does appear's of he was in a The women apparently had the keenest jects as the party moved along.

At Rector street they saw a flower stand, and half a dozen of the women gathered about it and gave vent to volu-ble expressions of delight. They dragged some of the men before the stand and gesticulated violently. The men tried to pull away from them, but could not After awhile some pieces of money came out of the men's pockets, and with much eagerness and chattering the women selected one flower apiece. The ven-dor took his pay out of the handful of American silver tendered him, and the party moved on, both men and women as joyons as a lot of school children.— New York Times.

A Friend of the Farmer.

The hop growers of Otsego county have discovered what naturalists have long been trying to make farmers understand-that skunks, instead of being their enemies, as they formerly supposed are among their most useful friends. As one hop grower expressed it, "Nowadays we protect skunks as carefully as we do song birds."

Hop yards, it appears, are infested by a certain kind of grub which gnaws off the tender vines at the root, and this grub is the favorite food of the skunk. As a general thing the skunks sally

forth at nightfall, but now and then they are to be seen at work in broad daylight The proceeding is an interesting one to

watch. The skunk begins his quest on the edge of the yard, where he cocks his head over a hill of hops and listens. If a grub is at work upon one of the four trailing vines, his quick ear is sure to hear it. At once he begins to paw up the earth, and presently he is seen to uncover the grub and swallow it with unmistakable relish. Then he listens again, and if he hears nothing proceeds to the next hill. And

so he goes on till he has had his fill. Now that the skunks are no longer molested, they have become comparatively fearless. Sometimes, we are told, they keep up their operations even while the cultivator is driven between the rows.—Cor. New York Tribune.

The Work of a London Writer.

"T. P." stands alone among popular journalists in that practically all his work is done for one paper, The Weekly Sun, of which he is the founder and editor. He knows as well as any one the value of his own pen, and he takes care to write the most important parts of the paper himself and to append his famous initials to a'l his work. A casual glance through a number of the paper will serve to show the amount and variety of his there were not so many obstacles about

First there is a review of the "book of the week," which invariably extends over five closely packed columns. This article, always conspicuously brilliant, would be a good two days' work for any writer. Then there are the editorial notes from one to two columns; an interview with some celebrity, one column; theatrical critiques, two or three columns, and lastly a few paragraphs on the correspondence page. All these are signed "T. P." Yet Mr. O'Connor contrives to keep in the forefront of the political battle and also to write an occasional book.-London Tit-Bits.

Two Charges.

There was a suit tried in the United States circuit court at Raleigh some years ago in which a Baltimore commission house was plaintiff and General Bryan Grimes, who led the last charge at Appomattox, was defendant. Judge Bond, who presided, was strongly antisouthern during the war and a citizen of Baltimore. The late Governor Fowle, who was a very eloquent lawyer, represented General Grimes, and in his appeal to the jury laid full stress on the character and record of his client and dwelt eloquently on the "last charge at Appomattox." Coming out of the court, timber.—New York Tribune. he said to the opposing counsel (now Judge Fuller of the United States land claims court), "Fuller, that last charge at Appomattox has got me the jury." "Yes," said Fuller very quietly; "and that last charge of Judge Bond has got me the verdict." And so it proved .-Green Bag.

Various Sources of Silk. Silk worms are not the sole source of the production of silk; it is also obtained from several vegetable substances, but of an inferior and less durable description. Excellent colored silk is obtained from the prepared and finer fibers of the bamboo, which is much in demand for clothing in tropical countries from its lightness and porosity. Another form of silk is obtained from the pods of the silk cotton tree, of which there are several varieties in existence, the material obtained from them being known as vegetable silk.—Brooklyn Eagle.

It All Depends.

"How long," says a contemporary, "can one live without air?" It depends on the air. Most people

could live a long time without some of

the airs which have been popular during the last twelvemonth.—Exchange. No Reference to Allusions. She-You are always sneering at wom-

en who talk too much. Are you hitting He-Not at all. There are lots of women besides you who talk too much.

A RETORT COURTEOUS

I'd anytohised to him over and offen.
What a good firsts bey should be,
Here temper and tested to notice,
And taughty ways to fee.

He Scienced, souts and union.
With carnett eyes of bine.
Then: "I don't fink I'll try it. I'd ravvet to like you!"
-D. Lummis in Kere Field's Washington.

Friendship Hetween a Horse and a Dog. A plumber at Narraganeett had a horse Il years old, which was used for carry ing around his master's material wh that was necessary, but spent most of its time in a small pasture. A fox terrier, also belonging to the plumber, was an inseparable companion of the old horse. When the old horse was harnessed to the cart the dog was on guard to see that nothing was stolen from the cart. In the pasture the dog was always sniffing around the horse and was never so de-lighted as when the horse would begin to roll in the grass, which it often did, ap-parently to please the dog, which would ump about in every direction and bark

At night when the horse was put in the barn the dog always entered with its friend and slept on the animal's body. One day the neighbors heard the most dismal howls coming from the pasture and found that the old horse had died There was the terrier on the dead body. howling out its sorrow and misery. The dog remained with the body until it was removed for burial. - New York Tribune.

A Pocket Life Saving Apparatus.

In 1874 Lieutenant Brunel of Dieppe introduced his pocket life saving lines, of which already upward of 3,340 are being used in France, where they now rescue annually some 285 lives. Nevertheless these admirable inventions are almost unknown in our empire. Brunel's small pocket line consists of a wooden float, round which some 90 feet of stout cord is wound. The other end of the cord terminates in an efficient grapuel armed with four small hooks. The whole apparatus complete weighs only five ounces and is the most convenient of all life saving lines. Hence I urge its adoption everywhere, especially for officials and others engaged about our coasts and inland waters. These appliances could be profitably retailed for about 1s. 6d each, and any one can make them. -London Vanity Fair.

A Magnetle Detecter.

A clever contrivance has been invented for the detection of small pieces of magnetizable metal, such as needles. tacks, steel and iron chips, etc., that may have entered the human body unawares and hidden themselves in the skin or deeper tissues. The instrument was devised by Dr. J. B. Williams and consists essentially of a partially astatic combi-nation of small magnetic needles suspended within a glass tube, the tube being covered with tinfoil to minimize electric action, except for a small space through which the needle can be ob-served. It is claimed that the instru-ment is sufficiently delicate to detect the presence of one-eighth of an inch of steel or iron wire at a distance of six inches from itself.—New York Telegram.

What You Shoot In China.

A naval officer once told the writer that pheasant shooting in China was very fair and would be really good if to enjoying it comfortably. He said that the people were so numerous that if you members are welcome. F. P. Brown, Sec. let a gun go off almost anywhere in China you were pretty sure to hit a Chinaman. They seemed easy, however, to Chicago Short Line deal with, a small present as damages sending them away in a contented state of mind, and indeed this naval authority did say that they would sometimes try to get in the shooter's way en purpose to get these damages.—Macmillan's Maga-

Imitation In the Matter of Dress. Imitation is one of the most marked characteristics of human nature, and in nothing is this more noticeable than in the matter of dress. To the desire to do as others do may be attributed the prevalence of almost all the fashions that have existed since the days when our primitive ancestors donned their unpretentions fig leaves.-London Tit-Bits.

Metal Ties For Roadbeds.

Numerous metal ties have been invented and many railroads have tried them, but all have proved unsatisfactory. The principal objections to them are based on their cost and their nonelasticity. A track laid on metal ties wears out rolling stock much faster than one laid on

Tempting Providence. "Mary Jane," said the Dakota farmer to his spouse, "it seems like flyin in the face of Providence to name the boy Elijah. It sounds too much like the old feller in the Bible that was carried away by a cyclone. I don't think it's a proper name at all fer this country."-Indianapolis Journal.

Government "Deadheads."

In some of the departments at Washington there are so many clerks that the useless ones stand in the way of those who are disposed to work. The working clerks are a splendid force of experienced and capable men, but the Tite Barnacles are found everywhere.-Pittsburg Post.

It is a common thing for actors and actresses on the road to send money orders to themselves at coming places on their route lists, which is often the only care for the future many of them will

Catullus Luctatius killed himself in a peculiarly painful manner by swallow-ing coals of fire and supplementing them with a piece of redhot iron.

Art, so far as it has the ability, follows nature as a pupil imitates his master, so that art must be, as it were, a descendant of God. - Dante.

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