

## Literary Crumbs.

The December number of the *Century* contains the first chapter of Wolcott Balestier's new novel, "Benefits Forgot." The story is very entertaining and of goodly promise.

"The Last Voyages of the Admiral of the Ocean Sea," is the title of a new history of Columbus' voyages. The author, Mr. Mac Kee, has presented in clear outline the man and his work, being guided by the personal memoirs of Columbus, and not by the words of critics and maligners.

Our own Marion Crawford is on American shores once more, and he will doubtless remain during the spring and possibly a great part of the summer. His first intention was to give but two or three readings while in this country, but if the wishes of the American public prevail, the two or three readings will be lengthened to thirty or more. Mr. Crawford, as a reader is most charming and interesting, and if reports be true his personality is doubly attractive and draws many to him. The author of "Gruffenstein" and "Zoroaster" will be ever welcomed by his own people—the Americans.

"The Influence of the Sea Power upon the French Revolution and Empire," by Capt. A. L. Mahan, U. S. N., is attracting a great deal of attention. It is a naval history of Europe from 1793-1812 and gives interesting accounts of all the navies of Europe, especially the French navy, and of all the battles. His description of the battle of the Nile, is for clearness and vividness, one of the best written naval battles ever described. The work is in two volumes and to students interested in such subjects the volumes will be found rich in facts, and the studies so entertainingly presented as to make the chapters delightful reading.

A new book has been issued styled "Fa-

miliar Talks on English Literature," embracing the epochs of that literature from the conquest of Britain to the death of Sir Walter Scott. It is not intended as a cyclopedia, but simply to arouse interest in the great names of the buried past. It is very interesting. Mrs. Richardson, the author, says, "hand-books of literature, especially those used in schools, have been too much like graveyards, where a series of stones record the life and death and principal events relating to an author, ending with a few lines from his work as a sort of epitaph. I think this method has made the study of literature uninteresting." The author uses constantly the term "our English authors," and impresses upon her American readers, that it is their language, and in it they can justly take a pride.

The Whittier memorial services which were held at Haverhill a few days ago, were attended by a great gathering of men and women distinguished in the literary world. Will Carleton read an ode composed for the occasion, of which the following are the closing words:

Greet him in heaven! Make his reception grand,  
O, earth-born poets of the father land!  
You who with blindness blotting every joy,  
Sang, and still sing, the funeral dirge of Troy,  
Meet one, who earthly passions risen above,  
Worshipped a God of justice and of love!  
You who with epics decked the heights of Rome,  
This western poet glorified his home;  
Drink from his placid spirit's gentle rills,  
O, sad-faced exile from fair Florence hills;  
You who, bard of eternity and time,  
Made even the loss of Paradise sublime.

Greet him as friend and peer,  
Thou, prince of Stratford—England's flaming star,  
Thou, laureate loved, who lately "crossed the bar;"  
Thou, Concord sage, by whose great heart and head,  
Philosophy and poetry were wed;  
Swan of the Charles, who in progressive calm,  
Gave to the world life's thrilling trumpet psalm;  
And you who are the brightest and the best,  
With intellect as well as goodness blessed,  
And all who humbly toiled from day to day,  
With but the hope of heaven to light your way,  
Hail him as comrade dear!  
And Grant, oh God, his spirit may extend  
Through all this earth, till days and nights shall end;  
Our citizen, our poet and our friend—  
The starry-crowned Whittier!