### MARK TWAIN IS ALL RIGHT

Story of Heavy Financial Losses Not Well Founded.

FICKLE FAME OF LITERARY PEOPLE

The Work of a Prolific French Author-Death of Llizabeth Oakes Smith-Latest News and Gassip of

Literary Circles.

Apropos of the recent Lotos club dinner to Mark Twain. I happened to hear of a remark made by a member of the club to a friend who asked as to the special significance of the dinner:

"Well," said the Lotos man, "everybody naturally feels sorry for Mark in his recent losses, and the dinner was given to show him his friends."

This, in part, confirms the rumors which have been rife in New York for some weeks past. These rumors represent the genial author as having suffered heavy financial losses during the stringency, and these losses, it is said, brought him back to New York from abroad. Just what truth there is in these reports it is difficult to state. One thing is certain: Mark Twain continues living in New York, making the Players' club his home, while his family remains in Italy. When the humorist left America, somewhat over a year ago, he leased his Hartford house and gave it out that he would not return within three years, his intention being to educate his children abroad. He had not been gone more than six months when he suddenly stepped off a French steamer on a New York dock, stayed in the city a fortnight and returned to Italy. A few weeks ago he again came back, and has remained in New York. This week the announcement is made that he has sold out his interest in the publishing heuse of which he has been the senior member, and has retired absolutely as a publisher.

TAt the same time, even if Mark Twain is financially embarrassed, he certainty has resources not common with every man. He has made a deal of money out of his own books, the profits which came to him from General Grant's book were large, his elegant home at Hartford and his country house in New York state are both valuable, he still receives very high prices for his work, and altogether I can hardly believer that Mark Twain is suffering, or will suffer. He has always been deemed rich, and correctly so. and if he has suffered losses he is in no immediate danger of becoming a pauper, I fancy.

### The Fame of Literary Peop'e.

As a matter of fact, I think it would surprise some of our best known writers to learn how little their names are known, and the limit of their fame. Those of us in the literary atmosphere can hardly realize this, but occasionally we run across the most striking evidences of it. And yet, after all, the fact is not so much to be wondered at. This country of ours is a very big land, and few authors are fortunate enough to have their fame sung through it. In fact, I question very much if there are five living authors who can truthfully lay claim to a national reputation. Out of our 65,000,000 of people there are more millions who have never heard of Mr. Howells, for example, than there are millions to whom his name is than the familiar. is illiar. Robert Louis Stevenson's le is confined, in the minds many of these millions, to his "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," and thousands who have seen the play never heard of the author's name, just as millions know of our national hymn "America" to thousands who know that its author is Samuel Francis show that its author is Samuel Francis Smith. A striking example in this connec-tion is the familiarity of millions with the hymn "Nearer, My God to Thee," yet not 10 per cent know its author's name. Every one almost knows "The Sweet By and By, and yet how many could give the name of the author of its words, to say nothing of the fact that he is living practically un-known to the world? Perhaps of living women writers Mrs. Frances Hodgson women writers Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett may be said to be the mose gener-ally known by name, but only in connection with her "Little Lord Fauntleroy." I ven-ture to say that Will Carleton's name is known in thousands of cases where the name of Thomas Baily Aldrich has never been heard of. I believe that the names of Oliver Wendell Holmes and Lew Wallace are more thousands for the Manine the thoroughly known today in America than are the names of any two male writers. Men like Longfeliow, Whittier and Lowell pos-sessed really national reputations, but, with the possible exception of Dr. Holmes, of the possible exception of Dr. Holmes, of what poet of today can this be said? Litter-ary fame is a mighty uncertain quality, and one never realizes its narrow limits until one moves around among all classes of peo-ple and tests the matter. The Writer of French Courts. One hundred thousand volumes of "The Famous Women of the French Court" have Famous Women of the French Court" have now been sold in America alone, and yet how little is known of their author, Imbert de Saint-Amand. Still, his personality is a very interesting one. From the very first volume issued in this country from his pen, "Marie Antoinette and the End of the Old Regime," he has been favorably received. Perhaps it is the conviction of scholarship and the air of familiarity with the scenes and the air of familiarity with the scenes described imparted by these volumes that has caught the public fancy. M. Saint-Amand's life has been such as to equip him peculiarly for the work. He is a nobleman. Amand s life has been such as to equip him peculiarly for the work. He is a nobleman, a baron, and son of an eminent French mill-tary officer. His mother was the daughter of General Vicomte Domon, who commanded a division of cavalry at Waterloo, and whose name is inscribed on the Arc de Triomphe. M. Saint-Armand has pursued at the same time a diplomatic and a literary career. He is now a minister plenipotentiary of the first class, and takes part in this capacity in the work of the ministry of foreign affairs in Paris. It was during the discharge of his official duties that the suggestion of writing up the famous women of the French court came to him. The idea of writing the vol-umes on "The Women of the Versailles Court" occurred to him in 1870, during the commune, while the offices of the ministry were established provisionally in the halfs of the palace of Versailles, his *A*ssk being situated in the very midst of the secnes in which the events he describes took place. He decided to write his series on "The Women of the Tuileries" while gazing at the runs of the palace ware he had assisted He decided to write his series on "The Women of the Tulleries" while gazing at the runus of the palace, where he had assisted at the fetes given under the second empire. The engenness with which these first volumes were received encouraged him to go on, until now over thirty volumes have appeared from his pea. Of these nineteen have thus far been translated and published in this country. country.

yet this little knot had gathered to lower into the ground the remains of one of the most gifted and beautiful authoresses of hor time. Had Elizabeth Oakes Smith died thirty years ago she would have received a column of oblituary in the newspapers: last week she passed away in North Carolina, and it was four days after that the papers heard of it and gave her six lines of notice. The world knew not that she was living until she was dead. she was dead.

"The work dead. The enduring quality of literary fame is not less painful to contemplate than is its narrowness somet mes in the case of authors of the most popular order. I remember an amusing instance of this kind which hap-pened to a literary may who approached the chairman of the reception committee of the inding club of one of our largest clues to give a reception to Marion Crawford. The liter-ary man took it for granted, of coarse, that the name and works of the author of "Dr. Isaacs" were familiar to a man of intelli-zence. But he was mistaken. "Well, I hardly know," said the commit-teeman: "the receptions we have given to women have not, as a rule, been very suc-cessful. But we might make the attempt once more." Enwann W. Box.

### Books and Periodicals.

"World's Congress of Bankers and Finau-clers" comprises a series of addresses upon selected financial subjects and also a series of papers on banking in the several states and territories prepared by delegates espe-cially appointed by the governors. This volume forms in itself a brief epitome of financial ideas and history, particularly that branch relating to banks, and coming from bankers hailing from every section and representing diverse opinions and views, is practically a complete version of the science as seen through the medium of the banking business. Rand. McNally & Co., Chicago.

A series of essays in pamphlet form has A series of essays in pamphlet form has just been published, embracing the subjects of "Taxation of Large Estates," by Richard T. Colburn; "Monetary Situation in G er-many," by Walther Lotz; "Rolation of Eco-nomic Study to Public and Private Charity," by James Mavor, and "Silver as Money in the United States," by Arthur Burnham Woodford, Ph. D. The latter contains valu-able statistical tables and charter under the top able statistical tables and charts relating to the quantities of gold and silver coins issued in the past four centuries. American Acad-emy of Political and Social Science, Philaemy of delphia.

bWhen looking 'round for a book for the toy, a good one to tarry with is "The For-unes of Toby Trafford," by J. T. Trobridge. The story is about a boy who was forced to make his own way in the world, which he did by letting boats to parties by the hour, and his business finally grew to such dimen-sions that he finally became captain of a steam excursion boat. The boys in the book are real live boys and not angels, and the recital of some of their pranks is very amusing. For sale by Megcath Stationery com-pany, Omaha.

"The Complete Sportsman." by Howland Gasper, is a manual of scientific and prac-tical knowledge designed for the instruction and information of all votaries of the gun In this treatise the writer aims to familiarize the sportsman with the habits of the game he pursues and with the methods of hunting it as well as the most reliable methods of distinguishing the various game birds. The engravings, letter press and everything about the volume express a high degree of excellence and will make the work the more appreciable. Forest and Stream Publishing Co., 318 Broadway New

York. The Altruist Interchange for the quarter beginving October is filled with news and in-formation related to philanthropic work in all departments of life. Its columns appeal particularly to those who have abundance at their disposal. The Altruist Interchange company, 41 East Twenty-first street, New York.

York. A new edition of King's Handbook of New York City is announced. It is not a reprint of the old book, but in fact a new book, show-ing the great metropolis in 1893. As many as 300 new engravings and eighty pages have been added while most of the pages have been reset and the whole text revised and remodeled. The magnitude and grandeur of this city of cities has no better exponent than its gallery of over 1,000 illustrations and review covering a like number of pages. Print, paper and binding, as well as low price, only \$2 per copy, commend it as a fitting volume for any library. It is a practically exhaustive treatise, well indexed in twenty-four closely-printed pages and its information is authentic. The general makeup, style, workmanship and completemakeup, style, workmanship and complete-ness of "King's Handbook of New York City" will be acknowledged by every one as fully commensurate with the importance and magnitude of this foremost of American cities. It is edited and published by Moses King, Boston, Mass. "Letters of James Russell Lowell," edited by Charles Eliot Norton, will afford the ad-mirers of this poet an opportunity to see him as he appears in private correspondence, under less restraint than necessarily adheres to utterances issued for the public car. These letters cover almost every period in his long career, beginning from his eighth year, and touch topics of every imaginable character, interspersed with bits of personal criti-cism and statements regarding men of the ime that invest them with a rare interest His lucid style renders the letters very read-able and attractive. As a complete work the collection is in a sense biographical as well as historical, casting brilliant flasher of light upon the events of his day. The work is in two volumes, comprising an index of subjects, and is bound in cloth. For sale by Megeath Stationery company, Omaha. One can spend few more delightful hours than in going through the pages of "Shepr s World's Fair Photographed," consisting of nearly 300 separate large-sized engravings taken from a collection of original copy-righted photographs authorized and per-mitted by the World's Columbian exposition. These comprise photographs of the original buildings, the state buildings, the buildings of foreign nations, the court of honor, ex-hibits, the warship Illinois, the lagoon and temptes, gardens, pavillons, fountains, statues, besides the Midway plaisance with Its varied scenes and picturesque groups. It is altogether a pictorial reproduction of the fair, accompanied with a verbal description as good as a series of lectures and the fine letterpress, heavy calandered paper, the thick cloth covers with leather back and corners makes a book superb as well as sub-stantial—a wor? fit to remain in the house-hold for generit ens as a fit souvenir of the greatest exhilition a all history. The ele-gance of this volume will also justify its use as a parlor ornament, where it will prove of inestimable value in beloing to entertain. Glose Bible Publishing company, 723 Chest-nuistreet, Philadelphia. Parts four and six of "The Book of the Fair" have come to hand, fully up to the high standard of the original numbers. As a model art work alone this series possesses exceptional value, and as an instructor and exceptional value, and as an instructor and record, a souvenir of the mest stupendous show that has ever been witnessed, it will be invaluable. For permanent good this series will no doubt go further in educa-tional influence than a visit to the fair itself, as in place of transitory views, it offers its quota it such shape that the mind may dwell at leisure, assimilate information and acquire impressions to better advantage dwell at leisure, assimilate information and acquire impressions to better advantage. The aim in this series seems to be to repre-duce in print the exposition entire, present-ing within reasonable limits the whole realm of art, industry, science and learning all in accurate form, and just as here exhibited by the nations. In the work the best talent of not only the artist, but the author as well, are manifest with a result justifying the highest approbation. When completed the forty numbers will cover 1,000 imperial folio pages, 12x16 inches, issued at the rate of \$1 forty numbers will cover 1,000 imperial folio pages, 12x16 inches, issued at the rate of \$1 a number. The Bancroft company, Audi-torium building, Chicago. "The Delectable Duchy" comprises a series of studies and sketches presenting a view of life along the Cornish coast. It is anony i mously written by "Q." It is quite unique in its picturing and colloquial reproduction of this much isolate 1 people. Macmilian & Co., New York. lo., New York.

chairman of the republican state convention of 1892. It is really a speech on the silver question rather rabid in denunciation of the atministration and more rhetorical than argumentative. Conner Printing company, Winfield Kan.

"A Book of Strange Sins," by Coulson Kernshan, may have been written with good intentions, but its stories arn really weak, distorted sermons. There is httle to fascinate any but the morbidiy included, and the will read it to their own injury, as its ju ments are ill-founded and misleading. It not, as some may imagine from the title picture of sins, but a group of graphic but sermonizing tales. Ward, Lock & Bowden limited, 15 East Twelfth streat, New York.

sermonizing tales. Ward, Lock & Bowden limited, 15 East Twelfth street, New York. "Told by the Colonel" is a charming set of short stories by W. L. Alden. These stories are full of humor and satire, and bristle with fine points brought out in such a droll way as to excite the risibles of the reader all through the book. The stories are distinctly unique and will find a place of their own in the galaxy of American humorous litera-ture. J. Selwin Talt & Sons, New York. In the line of humorous post of the Cali-fornia Review for November has a very unique production in "The Six' Missoo," by Major W. A Elderkin. Both this poem and the sketch "The Worst Boy in Town," by Charles Howell, are distinctively wostern in humor and style. "Glimpses of Florence," by Mrs. S. A. Brockway, is also entertaining and the general selection of material makes a very readable number. California Review company, Oakland, Cal. "An Unknown Heroine" is an historical episode of the war between the stars, by L. E. Chittenden. The scene of the story is laid in the Shenandoah valley and the story In the Schemandoah valley and the story is recounts the rescue from impending death of a wounded union soldier by a southern woman, whose husband, a confederate soldier, was at the time a prisoner of war. The facts, which appear to be well authen-ticated, would in a work of fiction appear to be improbable, if not impossible. Rich-mond, Croscup & Co., 9 East Seventeenth street, New York.

Blue and Gray for November is not as Blue and Gray for November is not as fully illustrated as its predecessors, but in subject matter it ranks up to the usual high standard of excellence attained by this re-pository of patriotic literature. The un-known naval officer, "Union Jack," con-tributes his serial, "With Farragut on the Hartford," with a description of the great battle below New Orleans. General George E. Dalton contributes an article on "Points of Dispute Regarding Chickamauga," which will interest survivors of that memorable battle. The editorial department discusses the silvor debate and the question of su-premacy of state or nation. Patriotic Amer-ican company, Philadelphia.

"As We Go," by Charles Dudley Warner, comprises a number of desultory essays on American topics, a good deal of it nonsense, or better designated capricious spurts dressed in select, choice language and here and there a real idea flashing to relieve the monotony of its uniform elegance. The style is really entertaining to those reading for a pastime, but the student will find it telling him what he already knows, and may, perhaps, be pleased to see his own ideas endorsed. Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by Megeath Stationery company, Omaha.

x dx C. C. Goodwin, editor of the Salt Lake Tribune, has just published a novel treating of the mines in Nevada, with its scene shifting to Africa. The story is broad, charitable and deeply interesting. The characters have a certain freshness and individuality. about them that is irresistible. The industry of mining is idealized, of course, as "The Wedge of Gold," is fiction and not history. It is really refreshing to read a good story outside of the beaten track of love and romance. In the first chapters, which serve as a sort of introduction, the author says Below the surface of the story which makes his book is a deeper story of what may be per ormed by brave hearts when they leave the ruitful fields behind them and turn with all heir hearts to woo the desert that turns her forbidding face to them at their coming and holds, closely hidden within her sere breast, her inestimable treasures." These few words show the character of the book better than anything we can say. The volume, by the way, is handsomely bound in brown and gold. By the Tribune Job Printing company, Salt Lake City, Utah.

TXTXTXTX "The City of St. Louis and Its Resources," published by the St. Louis Star Sayings, is an example of western art and enterprise seldom equaled. It combines in its work a history of the city, beginning with the estab-lishment of Laclede's Trading Post, as it was called at that time, being in the year 211 764. The review of the prominent institu ions and biographical notices of its leading citizens embraces a vast compendium of in formation. Among the early citizens we ob-serve that prominent mention is made of Mr. S. S. H. Clarke, accompanied with Mr. S. S. H. Clarke, accompanied with a portrait presenting an excellent like-ness. The pages are of atlas size, combining with the fibest calendered paper and superb engravings the very best letter press-in fact its workmanship and taste could not be excelled. If any fault at all may be found with the production it is the unconsidered of attention given to perthe prependerance of attention given to per-sons over the institutions representing the city. St. Louis Star-Sayings, St. Louis, Mo. Prof. F. J. Goodnow's work upon adminis-tratize isw, first announced so mapy years ago, has finally appeared from the press of Putnam's (New York) and well repays the Putnam's (New York) and well repays the waating enforced upon the public, both as regards its contents and its typographical makeup. The book comes in two volumes, the first dealing with the administrative or-ganization of modern governments, and the second with the legal relations of these administrative organs. The arrangement is systematic t) the extreme, following with logical preciseness the classification of administrative organs that has been worked out with so much minuteness and with so much thought an care by Prof. Goodnow. It is impossible in a newspaper review to go into the subject matter or to criticize the into the subject matter or to criticize the treatment, but it is enough to say that for accurate information concerning the history, orga ization and methods of the adminis-trative departments of the four great mod-ern governments-England, France, Ger-many and the United States-no other sin-gle work in any language offers the student the advantages here found the advantages here found. The Forum, which its readers regard as the foremost of periodicals, reduces its price, the foremost of periodicals, reduces its price, beginning with the December sumber, from \$5 to \$3 a year, from 50 cents to 25 cents a copy. This is the most noteworthy reduc-tion in periodical literature that has taken place—perhaps that can take place. Maga-zanes of fiction and adventure, the illustrated monthlies, were within everybody's reach even before the recent reduction in the price of some of them. But no periodical of the of some of them. But no periodical of the class of the Forum has ever been sold for 25 cents. It becomes the cheapest by half of all great reviews in the world, and it re-mains the largest of all periodicals of its mains the largest of all periodicals of its kind, and its character is in no way changed. This reduction of price puts the Forum casily within the reach of every reader who cares for it—of every man and woman who desires to keep abreast of the times. The Docember number, for example contains the following sixteen articles: "Are Presidential Appointments for Sate?" William D. Foulke: "Necessity for Immediate Tariff Reduction," A. Augus-tus Healy: "A Plan for an Automatic. Nonfor Immediate Tariff Reduction," A Augus-tus Healy: "A Plan for an Automatic. Non-Political Tariff Hon. W. J. Coombs; "Fran cis Parkman and His Work," Julius H Ward: "Child-Study; the Basis of Exac Education," President G. Stanley Hall; "Israel Among the Nations," W. E. H Lecky; "The Beginning of Man and the Age of the Race." Dr. D. G. Brinton; "Need Not of "More Money," but Better Exchange," T. G. Shearman: "How to Deal with a Filibuster-ing Minority," John B. McMaster; "Use of Rich Men in a Republic," Frederic Har-rison; "Mr. Goldwin Smith's Views' on Our History," Woodrow Wilson; "A Plan to Free Our Schools from Polities." Dr. J. M. Rice; "The Most Popular Novels in America," Hamilton W. Mäble; "Lasting Results of the World's Fair," Alice Free-man Paimer; "The Fair's Results to the City of Chicago," Franklin H. Head. The Forum Publishing Company, New York.

CONTINENTAL **CLOTHING HOUSE** 

# Great December Clearance Sale

The all absorbing topic in Omaha has been Our Great Sale of

## **Overcoats and Ulsters**

We have sold a great many, but have more to sell and emphatically assert that nowhere in this city can first class clothing be bought at any such prices as we will name for our great December Clearance Sale.

2,500 Overcoats and Ulsters from the Thompson, Willis & Newgent stock yet remain to be sold; this with the balance of our regular stock made up for this season, makes this the greatest bona fide sale ever known.

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Men's Overcoats, Ulsters and Suits will not average over 60 cents on the dollar.

## **Men's Ulsters**

Black Freize Ulsters, cut extra long, all wool lining	. J	
and shawl collar worth \$18.00,	price at this sale !	\$12,00
Handsome Oxford mixed beaver Ulster, shawl collar sizes 34 to 44worth \$12.00, Brown mixed Shetland beaver Ulster, cut full length	price at this sale	8.00
with shawl collarworth \$16.50,	price at this sale	10.00
All wool blue chinchilla Ulster, wool lined, wide collar worth \$12.00,	price at this sale	7,00
Diagonal chinchilla Ulster, extra heavy wool liningsworth \$10.00,	price at this sale	5.00

## **Men's** Overcoats

Tailor-made brown Kersey worth \$22.	oo, pri	ce at this	sale <b>\$15.00</b>	
Black Melton wool lined Overcoats	oo, prie	ce at this s	sale 9.00	)

### The Talk of Literary Circles.

Francis Parkman's papers and letters are to be collected and, together with a bi-ography, will be publish id in a volume some

time early next year. The Whittler blography is not to be ready much before next February. Those ministers who are not quite sure of their ground upon considers of build

Those ministers who are not quite sure of their ground upon occasions of baptism, mar-riage, christening and funerals are to have a book called "Pastoral Offices," by Rev. Dr. William H. Furness,

Anna Katharine Green has moved perma-mently to New York, and is devoting her

nently to New York, and is devoting her time to a new novel and a play. The story of "How I Came to Write 'Look-ing Backward'" is to be told by Edward Bellamy in an article to be published in one of the popular monthlies. Jerome K Jerome is to have out very soon a new book of short stories under the title of "John Ingerfield and Other Stories." "Oulda" thinks that the new novel upon which she is now engaged will be, in all respects, the best piece of fiction she has over done.

with English girls the books of Rosa With English girls the books of Rosa with the Carey, "Edna Lyalt," "The Nonchette Carey, "Edna Lyali," "The Duchess," Miss Braddon and "Mrs. Alexander" continue to be the most popular and the most widely asked for and read. It was last week that a small knot of peo-

ple gathered in a country graveyard on Long Island. It was difficult to determine which was the most forlorn-the weather, the graveyard or the people assembled. And

Co., New York. The Confederate War Journal for Novem-ber presents on its outer cover a portrait of John W. Ellis, governor of North Carolina from January, 1859, to July, 1861. A promi-nent feature of this number is "The Capture of Fort Bonelson," as described by Brigadier General John B. Floyd. C. S. A. Confed-erate War Journal, Lexington, Ky. An illustrated catalogue of colonial and

An illustrated catalogue of colonial and United States premium colns, gold, silver and copper, with prices paid, has just been issued. In this pamphlet we learn that \$900 to \$500 is being paid for specimens of the United States silver dollar of 1804 with fillet head and large eagle. John Fitzgibbon, 31-33 Broad street, New York.

"Whither Are We Drifting!" is the title to a political pamphiet by W. P. Hackney, ex-state senator of the state of Kausas and

NEW PUBLICATIONS. "THE DAMNED THING."

By AMBROSE BIERCE. A marvelous tale in Christmas Number of TOWN TOPICS. (A great Double Number, Out December 7th.)

Give your new sdealer an order for it at once, o acod price 25c in postage stamps, or \$1 for 3 mo trial subscription. Including this Christmas No., Town Topics, 21 West 23d St. N.Y. Desidedly the Sect of this remarkable series of prize novels, and out to TALES FROM TOWN TOPICS.

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Black beaver, elegantly trimmed Overcoats ..... worth \$15.00, price at this sale 10.00 Brown Kersey Overcoats, best trimmings......worth \$18.00. price at this sale 12,00 9.00 Black Melton, plaid worsted linings......worth \$15.00, price at this sale 5,00

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Suits and Overcoats at 50 cents on the dollar. Don't spend a dollar until you have visited the Continental. We can give you more for your money at this sale than you have ever dreamt of.

