CURRENT LITERATURE.

Graduates of Harvard, and for that matter all admirers of President Eliot, will be delighted with the handsomely engraved portrait which has been gotten out by John A. Lowell & Co. of Boston. This portrait seems to have caught the features of the venerable Harvard president at the best and has been reproduced in illustration of an article contributed to the current Century Magazine in preference to the photographic pictures that are so common, but beside this also so commonplace.

"Pathfinders of the West," by A. C. Laut, being the thrilling story of the adventures of the men who, as this author says, discovered the great northwest—viz., Radisson, La Verendrye, Lewis and Clark. The author in her foreword says: "It naturally rouses resentment to find that names revered for more than two centuries as the first explorers of the great northwest must give place to a name almost unknown. It seems impossible that at this late date history should have to be rewritten. Such is the fact if we would have our history true. Not Marquette, Jolliet and LaSalle who discovered the west, but two poor adventurers, who sacrificed all earthly possessions to the enthusiasm for discovery and incurred such bitter hostility from the governments of France and England that their names have been hounded to infamy. These were Sieur Pierre Esprit Radisson and Sieur Medard Chouart Groseilliers, fur traders of Three Rivers, Quebec." The author is intensely enthusiastic and handles the subject in a convincing and entertaining manner. Published by the Macmillan company.

"What Happened to Johnston," by J. P. Johnston, is a story of twenty years of hard work in the business world. The story is a sequel to "Twenty Years of Hustling," by the same author. Published by Thompson & Thomas, Chicago.

The Frederick A. Stokes company are the publishers of a volume of illustrated "Gilhooleyisms" by Lord Gilhooley (Frederick H. Seymour). The "Gilhooleyisms" are new, and a pen and ink sketch accompanies each, so there is no limit to the amusement a reader may derive.

"Forms of English Poetry," by Charles F. Johnson, L. H. D. This volume contains the essential principles of the construction of English verse, and its main divisions, both by forms and by subject matter. The American Book company, publishers.

"The Making of Meenie," by Edith L. Gilbert. The same entertaining family of two brothers and two sisters appear in this book as did in "The Frolicsome Four," although the interest centers about "Meenie," a waif, whom a kind neighbor of the mother of the "four" has befriended and installed in charge of twins, to whom the rough but capable girl becomes devotedly attached. The humor is excellent and the character drawings show unusual knowledge of children and how to attract and entertain them. Lee & Shepard, publishers.

"The Princess Thora," by Harris Burland, with illustrations by Cyrus Cuneo. A highly imaginative romance of the frozen north, containing a vivid account of the remarkable experiences of the Silex expedition in its search for the north pole. Published by Little, Brown & Co.

"American Wives and Others," by Jerome K. Jerome. There are twenty-five humorous sketches, profusely and humorously illustrated by George McManus. The author takes a shot at "these and various other things," much to the delight of the reader. Certain it is no one will find time or inclination to take a sleep while reading this book. The Frederick A. Stokes company, publishers.

"Arbitration and The Hague Court," by John W. Foster. This work has been prepared in response to a resolution of the Mohonk arbitration conference, asking the writer to present to the public the present phases of the subject of arbitration. The author discusses this subject, which is of so great importance to the civilized world, in a logical manner, going over each phase of the subject, step by step, and presenting each in separate chapters. Published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

"Grammar School Algebra," by A. W. Potter, is a work well adapted to open up the subject in a simple and comprehensive manner, and lay the foundation for more extended work. Published by American Book company.

"The Wandering Twins," a story of Labrador, by Mary Bourchier Sanford, is the story of two children, a boy and a girl, twins, who had started on a search for their father. They, after a terrible voyage, found themselves landed at a fishing station. The good fishermen and their wives are as kind as they can be to the little unfortunates, but they have many adventures and exciting times. It is prettily illustrated, and, best of all, has a happy ending. A. C. McClurg & Co., publishers.

"Amy Dora's Amusing Day, or the Naughty Girl Who Ran Away," by Frank M. Bicknell. This is a humorous and entertaining little book, as the title would indicate. While it may be a little nonsensical, yet it is just the kind of a book to while away a "blue" hour. The pen and ink illustrations are by Florence Scovel Shinn. Henry Altemus company, publishers.

"Swen," an idyll of the canyon, taken from "The Sky Pilot," by Ralph Connor. This beautiful piece of literary work is printed in two colors with marginal decorations on every page. Published by Fleming H. Revell company.

"Hobbes," by Sir Leslie Stephen, is one of the volumes of The English Men of Letters series. It is a very interesting volume, giving a sketch of the life and the accomplishments of this useful man. Published by the Macmillan company.

Two of the latest books by Rev. Charles Wagner are "My Appeal to America," published by McClure, Phillips & Co., in which he especially speaks of the pleasure of his visit in America, and urges upon all the value of a simple, true life, and "The Voice of Nature," in which the author takes for discussion the most commonplace and every-day occurrences, and describes them with that clearness and minuteness that only he is able to do. Published by J. S. Ogilvie company.

Above books at lowest retail prices. Matthews, 122 South Fifteenth street.

INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING

Department of Labor and Commerce is Gathering Figures for Statistics on Topic.

Robert M. Durham, special agent of the Department of Commerce and Labor, is in the city from Washington, gathering some special statistics relative to the comparison and relation of wages to the increased price of domestic food supplies. "I am not here on any sort of investigation pertaining to the Beef trust," said Mr. Durham. "My business is simply to ascertain the cost of living as compared with wages among the laboring classes. These figures will pertain particularly to the years 1903 and 1904. My dealings are almost wholly with the employers of labor and the retail dealers in food supplies. I shall visit all the building trades, packing houses and railway shops and offices to ascertain the average amount of wages paid, and will then visit the various retail establishments selling supplies entering into the household and general domestic economy. It is not even a part of the census statistical department although statistics of this character were gathered in 1901 and 1902, but the results were not as satisfactory as is now desired by the Department of Commerce and Labor. It is barely possible that these statistics may have something to do in the abstract with the Beef trust investigation, but not directly so. Neither has it anything to do with the gathering of statistical information relative to manufacturers and manufactures. It is, in brief, an entirely distinct and independent investigation which is going on continually to the information of the department and may ultimately interlock with other statistical data gathered under the direction of the department. I shall remain here about two weeks in the work."

Mortality Statistics.

The following births and deaths have been reported to the Board of Health during the twenty-four hours ending at noon Thursday:

Births—James Walker, 606 North Sixteenth, boy; Patrick K. Walsh, 1921 South Fourteenth, boy; Charles Rosso, 3610 Jones, boy; W. H. McKinzie, 1812 Burt, girl.

Deaths—Mary Dujardin, 2506 South Thirty-second, 34; Mary V. Kunz, 2702 South Twenty-first, 46; Elisabeth Grace, 2577 Cuming, 59; Dr. Henry Clay Van Gieson, 4826 Davenport, 65; Michael Purcell, Omaha, 80.

Harry B. Davis, undertaker. Tel. 1226.

Bee Want Ads Produce Results

CARPENTER'S PANAMA LETTERS

Beginning with Sunday, March 12, The Bee will publish a series of up-to-date letters from Panama about the canal and isthmian matters from Frank G. Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter sailed from New York for Central America some weeks ago and he is now somewhere on the ten-mile strip of land belonging to Uncle Sam, through which the great canal is being cut. He is well equipped as to photographers, letters of introduction, etc., and he will spend enough time there to learn what the situation is and to describe it for our readers.

Among the letters Mr. Carpenter will write will be one describing the great canals of the globe and comparing them with Panama. His wide travels well fit him for this description. He has within the past few years visited in person the Suez canal, the Manchester ship canal, the Kronstadt canal, which forms the European entrance to the northern part of the empire of the czar, and also the big ditch that Kaiser Wilhelm dug to let his navy quickly out to the ocean from the Baltic. He has also seen the other great canals of Europe, including those of Holland, and has traveled upon the Grand Canal of China, which, next to Panama, is one of the great works of the world.

Another letter will discuss the big problems of the Panama canal, including the Culebra cut, the Bohio dam, showing the enormous work to be done, and tell through the mouths of the government engineers, how it may be accomplished. He will also take up such questions as "Labor at Panama," giving some idea of the number of men needed for the work, their wages, and whether American workmen can profitably be employed there. This letter may require a visit to the island of Jamaica, where so many thousand negroes were secured by the French for their work.

Our Ten-Mile Strip and how it is policed and governed will also be an interesting topic, and another will be the "Baby Republic of Panama" and how it is governed, including a chat with its president upon its resources and possibilities.

The health conditions will also be described, and in fact everything connected with Panama and the canal, from the standpoint of live American interest.

After leaving Panama Mr. Carpenter will probably go to Jamaica, and thence to Cuba, where he will describe that island and its industries as they are in 1905.

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