OUR LITERARY LETTER.

Edgar Fawcett-Post and Novelist Modern culture has so extended itself among the masses-at least in Great Britain and the Northern United States-that repectable, nay, even elegant verse-making is to be reckoned among the ordinary ac-

complishments of the time. In the pages of our current magazines and newspapers original poems not unfrequently appear which, fifty years ago, would have won for their authors notoriety, if not fame, but which are now permitted to pass, undiscussed and unhonored, into speedy oblivion.

Genuine poetry, however, animated by the soul of thought and the fervors of imaginative vitality, can never, while the world continues, become "a too commo thing;" nor can the highest culture of form and expression ever be finally mistaken for that weirdly miraculous "light"-the

Still, between the rise of any new poetical aspirants, and the judgment to be pronounced upon them in the end, a long, dreary interval of erroneous decrees and utter misconception may prevail, during which false standards are set up and worshipped, while the Baal and Ashtaroth of

shipped, while the Baal and Ashtaroth of artistic superstition reign in the temples of the only true God.

Upon just such an epoch have we fallen. Swinburne, although a truer poet never lived, did much to inaugurate this period of anarchy, both by the improper choice of his subjects, in too many cases, and by his possibly unconscious subordination of the "solid eternities" of thought to fluent beauties of expression, and the unceasing alliterations of a music only too voluptuously sweet, harmonious and enervating.

At the opposite pole of this half chaotic world of much recent poetry, we find the iconoclast, Walt. Whitman. The bare fact that ravings so incoherent have been seri-

that ravings so incoherent have been seri ously considered, and found to possess the "large utterance of the early gods," (!) is preof sufficient of the disorganizing elements at work in our art circles, from the heated, turbid, uncertain atmosphere of which we pass with a sense of relief to any poetry founded upon the "good old models," and breathing the wholesome airs of simplicity and truth.

Not among Centennial performances espreintly can we discover any motels of

O' Mr. Lanier's "Cantala" more than but who can fail to regret that his elaborate "Palm of the West," containing, as it does, sufficient raw material of faucy, invention, and dramatic p ssion for many or-dinary poems, and forcible as it is in parts, (witness the soliloquy of Columbus, and the carnest, straightforwardness of the concluding stanzas,) should, nevertheless, belong in its general structure and "in-forming spirit" to this modern, fantastic school, so that the clear, suggestive, power-ful passages, which alone constitute its po-etry, are beheld through a medium as brill'antly vague as those ocean vapors that wander across the water between sun-sitting

Some of our younger authors (thank Heaven) have not been carried away before a tide of artistic innovation, but abide constantly and faithfully by the "ancient land-marks." Prominent among these is Ed-gar Fawcett, of New York city, whose name for the past eight or ten years must have been familiar to the readers of our

best American periodicals.

Hitherto he has chiefly distinguished himself as a picturesque and vigorous lyrist, the strange versatility of whose imagination and fancy has been admirably illustrated by a poetic manner, adapted with rare taste and insight to the nature of the topics he has treated; now lucid, simple, pure as the style of Wordsworth in such brief chef Cauvres as "The Phantom of Delight;" now full of color, verve and technical perfection of detail, as in the clear cut, delicately claborated miscellanies of

A single quotation, characteristic of his Wordsworthian manner, is all that we can produce here, but it exemplifies the juste milieu, the "golden mean" of a genius both subtle and strong:

TO A TEA ROSE. "Deep folded flower, for me your race
Bears what he kindred blooms have borne
That gleam in memory's vistas—
A charm, a chastity, a grace,
The lovellest roses have not worn
Of all your lovely s sters!

Half tinged like some dim yellow p ach, That's gus its rea home siter.

Your creamy oval bud lets each
fa'e outer petal backward curl
Like a young child's top in laughter.

'And yet no mirthful trace we see, Of gentiest reals ation;
No, that you sometimes seem to be
(If one might say it of a rose)
In pensive meditation!

"Ah! how may earthly words express
This placid sadiless round you cast,
Delicate, wagne, unspokin?
As though some red progenitress,
in some old garden of the past,
Had had her young heart broken!"

The blended archness, grace, and pathor The blended archness, grace, and pathos of these lines seem to us exquisite.

But Mr. Fawcett, in addition to his lyrice, has published quite a number of clever prose essays and sketches, besides two novels of the usual length, the first of which appeared under the title of "Purple and Fine Linen," in 1873. The reception of this tale both by the critics and public was the reverse of encouraging. It had the honor, in fact, of being the "worst abused book of the season," owing not so much to the inartistic structure of the work which frequently betrayed the "prentiss hand," as to what a dissenting reviewer called the as to what a dissenting reviewer called the "conspicuous moral taint" in the conduct of the plot, and the conception of the chief

To Helen Dobbell, the heroine, Mr. Faw-cett designed painting a woman of much inherent nobility of nature, soiled and lowered by contact with an hundred de-

inherent nobility of nature, soiled and lowered by contact with an hundred debasing conventions, yet capable of earnest, uncalculating love and of any sacrifice on its behalf.

Unfortunately, however, the reader's sympathy is weakened by the ill-regulated manner in which Helen pursues her purpose of conquering a faithless husband's heart. Carried on by inpulse, and matered by passion, she condescends to subterfuges and devices of the most ignoble sort, and finally throws aside her womanly self-respect, and the last vestige of feminine dignity, under circumstances which, if they interest, also somewhat revolt us! We do not pronounce her character, as drawn by the anthor, altogether contradictory or in consistent; but would merely affirm that such a personnge had better not be portrayed at all. Despite her good, or even great qualities, (au fond.) we find her society distasteful, her peculiar views upon amportant social topics unsettling and illusory, and her conduct in the main decided by "not for edification to the lashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North, and the fashitonable watering places North, and the fashitonable watering places North and made to unfold its events quite naturally in the fashitonable watering places North and uncalculating love and of any sacrifice on its behalf.

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Very different from "Purple and Fine Linen" is Mr. Fawcett's second novel, just published by Messrs. Hale & Son, of New York. It is called "Ellen Story," and is not ling more than a social drama at one of the Isanionable watering places North, and made to unfold its events quite paturally in

not a trace of turbid effort, or of "strained originality," about this straightforward, entertaining and delightful tale. Here is a brief outline of the plot:

Miss Ellen Story, a fatherless young lady of New York city, belongs to the vast army of impecunious virgins, and therefore, in the accepted fashionable sense, is "a nobody." But the gods have been so far kind as to bestow upon her an uncle. Mr. Elliott cannot claim a drop of the sangre azzura, but bestow upon her an uncle. Mr. Elliott cannot claim a drop of the sangre azzura, but he has dabbled successfully in stocks, and having thrown out his line baited with a golden bait, he hooks, in due time, an aristocratic maiden, who, also, in due time after marriage, blesses him with a daughter, developed, when the tale begins, into as wide awake a husband-hunter as even the battalions of blooming Gothamite spinsters could pretend to exhibit.

Miss Bessie Elliott, petite and rather pretty, accompanies her mamma, (who "was a Chichester you know,") during the dog days of a certain summer, to Saratoga or "Long Branch"—the place not being specified; but, sad to relate, the aristocratic mother and daughter are birdened with the society of Miss Story, who, as a temporary invalid, needs, in her uncle's judgment, the tonic breezes of the sea. Not nent, the tonic breezes of the sea. Not

ment, the tonic breezes of the sea. Not the shadow of an apprehension disturbs ma mere, or the charming Bessie, that their poor relations could interfere with the plans of either; they only find her a bore, and a needless incumbrance!

Yet, physically and mentally, Miss Story is not a common girl. Large, and well developed, with fluent, graceful curves, her figure has a Juno like attractiveness; while figure has a Juno like attractiveness; while of her features the author says, "the eyes were strange eyes, almost black-lashed, and the pupil was tinged with a vivid violet, whilst its encircling iris was of faintest whitish blue." A sweet suggestion of depth came from this contrast, blended with a clearness brilliantly limpid. They were eyes in which we might fancy the cold, pale color of Scandinavian heavens; eyes that gave the same effect of shading as when we scan the vague amethyst of some winter sky from horizon to zenith; eyes in which one could dream that one saw

"La lactes Tachant l'agure du ciel d'hiver." "As for her mouth, it was more mobile than small; her nose was of classic correctness, and her forehead perhaps too broad and low to be in proper keeping with the oval delicacy of cheeks and chin." Intellectually, she was bright, witty, and full of discernment, of far more than ave-rage culture; bold, frank, out-spoken, in her opinions, yet always delicately and proudly feminine; a hater of stupid conventionalisms, but as chastely reticent and self-respectful, whenever circumstances demanded it, as any haughty young Diana! Enter to this heroine, (as the stage directions say) the hero, Mr. Archibald Vanderhaven Howard, a young man of ancient Knickerbocker family; favored by nature with "m usticke and hair of a rich gold

hue, golden brown eyes, of the colcur de tibac d'Espogne; and by fortune with a clear income of thirty thousand a year! Petted and pampered from his youth up Mr. A. Vanderhaven Howard's opinion of h mself is not specially character z:d by numility; but, neverticless; having a fair al-lowance of brains, and some strength of principle and morale, he shows to advantage among the society snobs, the Sam Gardiners, Jack Vandervoosts, Robbie Roscoes, and "foolish Frankies," who are

perforce his companions. Still, Mr. Howard, partly through thoughtlessness, partly through ennui, becomes associated with an experiment indefensible in every way, but in the develop-ment of which a large part of the interest of the narrative consists.

He himself refers to the matter thus: Two of my companions have recently made a curious wager, which concerns me

"One has bet the other that if I select from the present occupants of this hotel any young lady who has until now been treated with a general rude indifference, and extend towards her, during the space of three weeks, all the devoted attention I am capable of showing, this same young lady will have become, at the end of that time, a prominent belle, and will number

her followers by the scores. "Of course there are to be such modifying conditions to the wager, as the youth of the lady selected, and her lack of any positive personal ugliness. For the rest, I am to make her the fashion, and society is to discover whatever hidden graces my ca-price of courtesy may show forth."

To this atrocious plot Miss Story falls an innocent victim. "Archie" speedily discovers, however, that he is playing with

One by one the unique charms of the girl's

person, and the still greater charms of her character and intellect, are beautifully un-folded, and he who owns the "blood of all the Howards" is startled at the warmth and rapidity of his heart throbs in the society of this fair, piquant, impecunious parcenu. Surprised at the attentions offered her, Miss Story is by no means overwhelmed. She "holds her own" with a serene dauntlessness, and a gracious, womanly self appreci-ation which offerly amaze and confound the snobs and snobesses around her. Mean-while, there is a side drama progressing of decidedly volcanic tendencies. Miss Bessie Enfort had marked The Howard as her special prey; and now to behold that her special prey; and now to behold that "captivation" with a genealogy reaching upward to some Dutch Adam in the midst of an Eden of—cabbages. And oh, chmax of eligibility! with \$30,000 per annum and a stone front in the Yankee Belgravia, appropriated by her insignificant cousin, that bold creature with "lustreless hair," like bad "molasses candy," and the "walk and eyes of a cat." Heavens! it was too much to be endured to make and in silence. to be endured tamely and in silence. Therefore Miss Bessie attacks her papa upon one of his periodical visits, insisting that her lete noir should be immediately ordered back to the city, but manages the affair so clared by fair so clumsily, because of her too open spite and chagrin, that Elliott pere not only refuses to do her bidding, but cruelly "laughs her to scorn." Then the infuriated, and, we may add, infatuated young lady, sits a whole flock of slanders flying should her cousing parts but slack! like

about her cousin's ears, but, alack! like about her cousin's ears, but, alack! like curses, they "come home to roost." These lies are traced to her so directly that even she feels her "little game" is up. And what accentuates defeat is the clever device by which the slandered person uncovers the perfidy of Bessie, revealing it in the first instance to the very man the latter desired to influence, Mr. Archie Howard.

Two of the three weeks have now slipped by. Miss Story is, par excellence, the belle

nst be particularly commended. It dis-uses certain clear, crisp and brilliant ality, which proves that the author has idled with excellent results such French iters as De Balzac, and Mad. Dudevant. es, with Saxon force, and suggestive

While upon the minor personages of his le, no less than the principals, he has tale, no less than the principals, he has "wreaked" much power of observation, and a keen worldly knowledge, the poet nature manifests itself in his vivid descriptions of scenery. Illustrative passage after passage had we marked for quotation, but space fails us; and we can only entreat our readers to linger over pages 159, 200 and 201. The latter word-painting is impressive to a very unusual degree.

One more excellence of this book before we conclude.

It consists of the Rochfaucault-like sharpness with which a worldly truth or philosophical thought is launched out, almost in the form of epigram!

For example: "There is an ocular surgery by means of which one woman will sometimes disse

"Ah! cruelest and most trenchent of all ealpels—what is quite like you?"
"A woman under the eye of a woman, is among the few examples nature ever gives us of human intelligence dealing with what it perfectly understands."

"Imagine a man who has been raised from infuncy in blood-red spectacles, and does not know it! "Are not blue sky and green trees lovely things?" somebody asks of him. "Green trees, blue sky," sneers the spectacle-wearer. "O! the idiot! does he dream there is anything but red in the world." PAUL H. HAYNE. -

Gubernatorial Canvass—Further Appointments. The following additional appointments have been agreed on between Gov. Vance and Judge Settle: Statesville, Iredell county, Friday,

August 11. Mocksville, Davie county, Saturday, August 12. Yadkinville, Yadkin county, Monday, August 14.

Dobson, Surry county, Tuesday, Angust 15. Winston, Forsythe county, Thursday, August 17.

Danbury, Stokes county, Friday, Ashboro, Randolph county, Monday, August 21. It is requested that further ap-

pointments be made in the counties of Randelph, Moore and Cha ham to the 28th of August. then go to Mt. Airy, Georgia, rail, and enter Clay county about the

5th of September. Hon. C. J. Jarvis and Gen. J. M. Leach have appointments in the West, commencing at Waynesville, Haywood county, on the 16th.

FAYELTEVILLE DISTRICT. Conference of Methodist Episcopa [Star Special Report.]

ROCKINGHAM, N. C. Aug. 2. The Fayetteville Methodist District Conference met at this place last night. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. B. C. Phillips, from the 3d chapter and 2d verse of Habukkuk. The subject of the sermon was "Revivals," and the preacher divided his subject into three departments, viz: The nature, the neessity and the means of a revival. He said a revival required an increase of spirituality in the church. His sermon was replete with sound scrip-

The Conference proper was opened this morning at 10 o'clock. Reports from the various circuits on the subject of Sunday schools was the order

of the day. At 11 o'clock an earnest and eloquent sermon was delivered by Rev. W. V. Sherrill on the subject, "Profit of saving a sinner from the error of his way."

AFTERNOON SESSION. The subject of Sunday schools wa considered further.

Rev. T. W. Smith, from Fayetteville station, reported an interesting Sunday school which had been kept W. II. Holland, from the same

olace, reported forty-six schools in the Mission Schoo', which was doing Rev. B. R. Hall, of the Robeson Circuit, reported twelve schools, some of which were prosperous.
Rev. T. W. Guthrie, of the Lau-

rinburg Circuit, reported that there was much interest manifested in the cause on his circuit, but that the schools generally went down in win-

Rev. J. Wheeler, of the Rockingham Circuit, said that but little advancement had been made on last year. There were four schools kept up the year round. The school at

but he hoped they would be re-

vived. Dr. Asberry, from the Montgome-ry Circuit, said there were nine schools within that jurisdiction. Some interest was felt, but not so much as should be.

Rev. L. H. Gibbons, from Carthage Circuit, reported seven eff cient and prosperous schools. Rev. B. C. Phillips, from Jones-

boro Circuit, reported eight schools, most of them not flourishing. After several stirring speeches on the Sunday school work, the Confer-

Rev. J. S. Nelson, P. E., presides, and Rev. John T. Wyohe acts as Secretary,

— At a meeting of the Charlotte Merchants' and Farmers' National Bank, Dr. J. H. McAden, one of the Directors, was elected President, and J. R. Helland Cashier, was elected a Director, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Col. Brem.

COMING LETTER.

What it is Said to Contain-Sound Ourrency, Reform and Pence. The Philadelphia Times of yesterday publishes a dispatch from Saratoga from Mr. Cathoart, one of its editors, containing what purports to be an abstract of Gov. Hendricks' letter of acceptance of the Demo-cratic nomination for the Vice-Presidency. The following is the Times'

with the statement that while the nan has descended from a truly repnomination was totally unexpected and sincerely not desired by him, yet he cannot fail to appreciate and accept the compliment under the peculiar circumstances of the case. Next he will stand squarely on the plat- ily, "that the breath of suspicion form as erected at St. Louis, as he is never fell from the lips of any man," in full sympathy with the purposes as expressed there by the party. He then shows why he considers the question of reform as the most prominent one now before the country -the corruption that prevails throughout all the departments of government, the distressed condition of all classes dependent upon the industries of the country, etc., and he says that these reforms will have to commence with a respect for the Constitution and laws and a restoration of the Constitution, with all of its amendments, to their normal opera-

He says "the necessities of war cannot be pleaded in time of peacethe right of local self-government, as guaranteed by the constitution, must be restored everywhere, and the imperial government, as it has pre-vailed, must be abandoned if our institutions are to be preserved." He then takes the edge off Hayes' civil service utterance: "Reform cannot be accomplished by a change of any one man, even though it be the President. It requires an utter abolition of the corrupt system of administration. The President cannot be held responsible for all the abuses that prevail. The system which has fostered the leaders of the party, and which they have fostered, must be abandoned before there can be a Gov. Vance and Judge Settle will tion of executive and administrative recovery. The improvement was,

Here is his view of how the "money question" ought to be stated: 'Our financial system needs reform. It has been based upon expedients, The laws of commerce, which are as fixed as the laws of nature, must be respected. Gold and silver are the FOR the GOOD of ALL real bases of value. While a return to specie payments is desirable, and no man more desires it, and currencies of different values is an evil that cannot long be endured, yet a return to specie payments by a forced contraction of the enriency cannot be successful consistently with the interests of the people, any more than permanent prosperity can be based upon expansion. As the re-sumption clause in the act of 1875 attempted to fix a time for a return to specie payments, without any provision for the same, and as it was a forced measure for mere party purposes, it ought to be repealed, as declared by the platform. Wiser policies looking to resumption ought to tural doctrine, and was delivered be adopted, based upon public economies, official retrenchments, and especially the promotion of the prosperity of the interests of the people. The restoration of an economical and pure administration will of itself go far to establish the public credit and an equal value to all the currencies.' In regard to the schools, Governor

Hendricks says: "Any man or party that involves the schools in a political controversy is an enemy to the free school system. Any man or party that excites antagonisms between the sections of our country is an enemy of the country. All classes and races should be made to feel and know that they will be protected in the enjoyment of all rights recognized by the laws and Constitution, and the government of the United States should not be a partisan to the tron-bles that may arise in localities, but within its constitutional powers should be the protector of the rights and safety of all. But the true and reliable security for harmony and peace in all localities, and between all classes, is to place a party in pow-er whose interest it is to promote harmony and peace, instead of a party that seeks to make political strength out of scenes of violence and bloodsned," He is in harmony with the platform on the Chinese question The letter concludes with the expression of Governor Hendricks' gra tification of his association on the tick-et with a gentleman who is so dis-tinguished for his earnest and efficient labor in the work of practical

sketch of Col. Thomas Kenan. "A Duplinite" sends the Raleigh News this biographical sketch of the worthy nominee for Attorney General on the Democratic Conservative tickel:

"Colonel Kenan is a native of Kenansville, the county seat of Duplin county, from whose family the town took its name. From the earliest history of the county his has been an honored name among the people. His great grandfather, James Kenan, was a leader in his day and time, and was one of the delegates from Duplin to the first general meeting of the deputies of the inhabitants of this Colony that met at Name and the people of the deputies of the inhabitants of this Colony that met at Name and the people of the deputies of the inhabitants of this Colony that met at Name and the people of the deputies of the inhabitants of this Colony that met at Name and the people of the deputies of the inhabitants of this Colony that met at Name and the people of the deputies of the inhabitants of this Colony that met at Name and the people of the deputies of t ny that met at Newbern the 25th of August, 1774, at Hillsboro 21st of August, 1775, and at Halifax 12th of November, 1776. He was State Senator from 1777 to 1791. His grandfather, Hon. Thomas Kenan, was a native of the county and represented it several times in the State Senate, and from 1805 to 1811 was a member

his District. He moved to Alabama and was an honored member of the Legislature of that State for many years. His father, Hon. Owen R. Kenan, now living in Kenansville, the most amiable gentleman and

purest man I ever knew, represented the county a number of times in the State Legislature and his District in the first Congress of the Confederate States. Colonel Kenan represented the county, since the late war, in the General Assembly, and was nominated for Congress in his District I think twice. So from "Governor Hendricks started out this it will be seen that Colonel Keabout him or them. There is an elevation of character about him and his family seldom to be found any-where, and only to be known to be admired. I would to God that all men, everywhere, who in this Centennial year aspire to honored position, were such as he, for peculation and thievery would know no place in their hearts, and the people of this distracted country would once more rejoice in honest constitutional government. Yes, sir, we could all "join hands across the bloody chasm" from the St. Lawrence to the Rio Grande, and from ocean to ocean, and shout for "Reconciliation and Reform," and sing the glorious songs of "a year of jubilee," for the people of this great and glorious country would once more be free. No wonder the distinguished chairman of the delegation from Duplin said, when he cast the vote of the county for Kenan, that "every white man who went to the polls in Duplin would cast his vote for Col.

Kenan in November next." Condition of speaker Kerr. A private letter from Speaker Kerr confirms the recent dispatch from the Rockbridge Alum Springs as to his unfavorable condition. When Mr. Kerr first went to Rockbridge his inprovement was so marked that pledged to Radical reform." lapse set in. Mr. Kerr writes that he felt so badly that he was compelled to spend most of his time in bad. His friends are very apprehersive on his account.

Read Attentively.

COSTIVENESS is a prevalent affliction and capa-ble of doing great mischief. It is properly a dis-ease, and of more serious import than is commenly suspected. Generally it is looked upon as a trivial matter that nature will in due time correct. It is matter that nature will in due time correct. It is true that nature does often assert its supremacy, but it is always at the expense of the general well-being of the whole system. Constipation implies a great deal, much more than a mere collection of excrementitions matter in the bowels; it signifies that the most important organ of the body, the liver, is not discharging its functions; it means a general feeling of sickness, headache, nervous irritability, indigestion, debility, disordered action of the heart, liver, stomach and kidneys, boils, cruptions, fever, mental disquietude. In fact, it is the fountain head of numberless ciseases. Exception is checked, while absorption continues, therefore all impurities are left in the bowels, to be absorbed in to the blood and poison the system, producing piles, strangury, urerine disorders, typhoid fever, billoas colic, apoplexy and dyspepsia.

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