

PRESENT-DAY LITERATURE.

New York Mail.] After a small amount of the sound grain of good literature is sifted out of the vast volume of chaff that comes from the publishers nowadays we have left three kinds of literature—the literature of books, the literature of gush, and the literature of swash.

Of these three literature of books is probably the most tolerable. It is at least harmless. It often includes the nonsense that even a wise man relishes. It includes also the pathetic first attempts—that sincere but utterly vain outpourings of the deluded souls that are doing over again in the firm belief that it is something new, the same thing that thousands have done before them.

The literature of gush is worse. Its purpose is to arouse interest and gain money by exalting over the commonplace people, places, and things that commonplace hearts are centered upon. It wearies and nauseates—frequently it pays.

But even the gush is better than the swash. Unfortunately, the swash exceeds all other varieties in bulk. It is the awful part of literature. It includes the cheap and poisonous fiction, the catch-penny romances, the twaddle made for juvenile adults, the pure drivel, the—but why proceed? For its sins the nation is cursed with the literature of swash. It is enough to say.

And yet there is no one who can not steer clear, if he will, of all these; he may, turn his back on books, gush, and swash altogether, and get as much solid good out of literature as Franklin and Lincoln did, poring over a few choice volumes in the freight.

STRENGTH IS NEEDED. Columbia State.] A New Yorker thinks the country is looking to the Democratic party and he sees a great opportunity for Democracy. He puts it this way: Never were there greater need of a strong Democratic party than at present. This time is ripe for the adoption of Democratic principles by a majority of the electorate. Can they be aided, assisted, guided, or directed? The principles are right and the people want to accept them. They need the guidance of men in whom confidence can be reposed. Have the Democrats in their organization any such men? Where are they?

The Democrats have so long and so often, when opportunity was offered, deceived themselves that they are better equipped than the opposition. But with the opposition rent in twain, the country yearning for rest, such an opportunity as the present is seldom offered to a political organization.

Availing themselves of it, they will solve many difficulties of various sorts that threaten, and really, if the truth be told, meet with generally universal approval. Why is there doubt of the 'strength' of the party? Because it has failed in pitched battles. Because, at the passage of the Wilson bill, when it came to the final test, when it came to the Democrats were given protection graft because they were Democrats; in other words, because some of the men in Congress were more concerned about principle than principle; when the opportunity came to round up the thieves they were more concerned in getting some of the plunder.

AUTOMOBILE AND EXTRA-VAGANCE. Washington Post.] Both the automobile and its owner are coming in for very serious preachments these days. The machine itself is held up as the direct cause of much unhappiness and suffering, and a vast deal of ethical denunciation is hurled at it from many sides. It would seem that there are only three classes of people who are at all justifiable in owning a machine. They are: the man who gets run into, or nearly run into, by one; the farmer whose horse is afraid of the 'peaky thing'; and, most of all, the man who cannot get one.

Those who are outside of one of these classes really mistakes the thing they condemn. What they mean to get at is the extravagant, irresponsible, spendthrift habits of a limited number of automobile owners, of which the machine is only the outward and visible sign. They forget that it is not an automobile that will surely be something else. Of the man who can well afford to own and maintain an automobile there is nothing by right to be said; it is wholly his own private business. If a man mortgages his house to buy one, that is entirely within his own right, and if he chooses to own an automobile rather than to have a house, it is not at all clear that he has committed any breach of ethics or morality by the exchange.

LIFE'S COMMON THINGS. The things of every day are also sweet. The morning meadows wet with dew. The dance of daisies in the noon; the blue Of far-off hills where twilight shadows lie. The night with all its tender mystery of sound. And silence, and God's starry sky! Of life—the whole life—is far too fleet. The things of every day are all so sweet.

THE "DISMAL SWAMP." Windsor Ledger.] The name "Dismal Swamp" is a byword everywhere and a legend has grown up round it of a dreary, boggy, unknown region of snakes and dark, damp thickets, where runaway slaves

led for refuge. The region is little better known today than it was when George Washington himself ran a route through it. The swamp is old historically. The first settlers at Norfolk and the region roundabout knew of it as a wild, impassable bit of country full of game and of valuable timber—cypress, so good for making shingles; juniper, black gum and beech. In 1738 Col. Byrd, while trying to establish the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina ran a survey across it, working with the greatest difficulty and making only a mile a day through the thick growth. He named it "The Dismal Swamp."

Late surveys and government maps show that the wilderness contains about 600 square miles of wood and water lying in a tract 20 miles wide and 45 long, and extending 20 miles in Virginia and 25 into North Carolina. The soil is a sort of rich, black vegetable mold, dry and caky at some seasons and saturated with water at others. The whole region is like a huge sponge, alternate dry and wet; and as the swamp level, curiously enough, is 20 feet above the tide-water, it is the source of many rivers and streams. There are in the woods, but it is the wild cattle that give the best sport. The ancestors of these "reared" cattle, as they are called, strayed in from the fields and took their abode in the swamp. The result is a race of small, active, wild cattle, the flesh of which is a delicious combination of the qualities of wild game and tame animals.

There is a chance that before many years the greater part of the swamp will be redeemed from its present wilderness into civilized farm land; but it will be many years before the bog and wild cattle and moose and snakes disappear from their refuge, and before the rare plants and birds that still draw botanists and ornithologists from all parts of the country will be found only in the museum showcases.

General Business Conditions.

Baltimore Evening Sun.] The Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago, in its tenth annual report, just issued, upon present business conditions, as seen by 7,000 bankers and business men, presents a cheering refutation of pessimistic stories told by some critics of the situation. "The country," says the report, "is prosperous." There are some "unfavorable developments" and some "disconcerting notes," but "the general tenor of replies to our letters of inquiry is confident and encouraging." Everybody has work and the competition of employers is advancing wages. The volume of business is large, though competition is sharper and the margin of profit smaller. "Labor is dictatorial and improved methods are constantly required to offset its demands." The small cities and towns profess to know nothing of "the business reaction" that is announced from a few large centers, finding conditions sound. "The entire West has been almost wildly prosperous," the basis being the high prices for farm products. Inquiry into the alleged offense of farmers in buying automobiles shows that when they buy "they generally pay cash for them" and have good use for them. No doubt there has been some land speculation since land has been rising in value, but the greater profit in farming justifies an advance. "The movement of young people away from the farms has been checked."

It is held that the recent concern as to financial conditions in crop-moving time has largely disappeared. The liquidation in Wall street has released large amounts of money, checking gold exports and promoting gold imports. There has been some recriminatory criticism, the country bankers criticizing city bankers for lending money to promote speculation in stocks, and the city bankers criticizing the country bankers for lending money to promote speculation in land. The remedy for the danger arising from this excess, it is held, is to establish a control reserve fund sufficient to back up the individual banks when an extraordinary demand comes. Other important commercial countries have this reserve, with the result that they escape money panics such as that of 1907. In times of prosperity there is over-expansion. In this country it is the inevitable tendency of banks to expand their business up to the limit of their legal reserves, so that at a time of stress there is nothing to fall back on. A central reserve fund, it is held, would correct this defect and create the desired stability. It is good to have 25,000 independent banks, but their excessive competition with each other in periods of over-expansion is an evil that requires correction.

Upon the whole this interesting report upon the crops and business conditions of the country is reassuring and the more so in view of the fact that the data on which it is based are drawn from a very wide area.

OLD HICKORY CHIPS. Evidently it is as hard to get an "undesirable" out of the Cabinet as it is to get one into the penitentiary. The theory that people eat too much often has been exploited, but never proved. Perhaps some of them would, if they had the chance, but a benign protective tariff safeguards them. Poor Tennessee will probably elect a Republican governor. She don't want to do it, but like the ground hog, she just has it to do to save her life from the Gov. Patterson pack that is yelping at her heels. Nicaragua must not only be good, but stay good. Business may not be as brisk as politics just now, but it is surer of itself. Gov. Harmon and Mayor Gaynor aren't saying any more than if they were saving wood. How prosperous Europe would be if it could pick two crops of American tourists a year!

Any city that is dissatisfied with the 1910 census is at liberty to begin blowing about what it will be in 1920. Why not give the precipitation of visitors in the daily weather report?

WORK OF INDEXING LAND GRANTS IS SLOW.

Says a Raleigh telegram: The last legislative made provision for the factoring and indexing of the 300,000 land grants on file in the office of the secretary of state, but did not provide enough funds to complete work. The first grants were issued about the year 1860. W. D. Batchelor has charge of the work and is now doing it alone. It has been completed up to 1784, and is being cross-indexed. Owing to the peculiar character of the work not over three persons can be employed upon it and so it is slow, as it has to be accurate to be valuable.

THE ALL-EMBRACING TARIFF.

Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.] A New York society woman, recently returned from abroad, is so indignant at the small fortune she had to pay on her wardrobe, as to vociferate this startling intimation: "The next time I come in from Paris I shall bring no trunks, and present myself to the custom house robbers clad only in a fig leaf." But the lady is and is mistaken if she thinks that even such close approximation to the "altogether" will pass her untaxed through the closely woven meshes of the Aldrich tariff. For one of the items in the miscellaneous schedule of that all-embracing measure places a duty of 50 per cent ad valorem on ornamental leaves and stems or any parts thereof.

CHINA NEW FACTOR IN WAR.

Collier's.] So determined is China's endeavor to place herself in the class of important military nations that the empire has invited Lord Kitchener, it is reported, to organize and develop her forces. Lord Kitchener is to be allowed to name his own terms, for China is said to consider any emolument cheap for his services. His Excellency Prince Tsai Tao, uncle of the emperor, recently visited the United States upon a tour, in which he was studying the military methods of the different powers. But his knowledge of modern warfare was a ready surprise. In one of the armories of New York city Prince Tsai picked up a rifle in a target range and shot several "bull's-eyes" in succession. The present Chinese army numbers 170,000 men. It is supposed to be the actual prodigy of the Manchu throne. The ranks, therefore, are largely composed of Manchu officers and men. The government is regularly sending students abroad for foreign military academies and colleges, with a view not only to reorganizing the army, but also to modernizing the entire system of government.

CHAPEL HILL NEWS.

Chapel Hill, N. C., Sept. 12. The University of North Carolina is now fairly started on the 116th year of its service to the people of the state with an enrollment which bids fair, in spite of the raising of entrance requirements for the academic schools, to equal or surpass last year's figures, 821. The senior class, which numbers 105, is believed to be the largest ever registered at a southern institution. The sophomore and junior classes are about normal. As yet no statistics have been compiled of these two classes. In a recent speech delivered before the state association of county superintendents assembled in Chapel Hill, President Venable outlined partly the administrative plans for the coming year. Realizing that the college was crowded to the limit of the capacity of the equipment provided by the state, he planned to have the institution grow in point of efficiency and instead of expanding in numbers, he desired a small "jopping-off," as he put it, in the number who registered last year. With this end in view, the faculty had made the requirements for entrance into the academic school 20 per cent higher with the hope of bringing down the academic registration some 50 or 60, just as in the inauguration of an entrance requirement for two years academic work had cut the medical school from 115 to 60. The fact that as many freshmen have already registered as had registered last year this time proves that no normal restrictions made on the part of the administration of the college can remedy the overcrowded condition of the University. The help and the remedy must come in the form of an enlarged equipment made possible by an increased appropriation by the state legislature.

The new year sees several members of the faculty gone because of inability on the part of the administration to give the promotion and increased salary necessary to keep them here. Among those who are gone are: Dr. Dolly, of the Medical school, Dr. Mills of the department of chemistry, Dr. Ruffin of the law school, Mr. Eaton, of the department of geology; and a few men of less importance. The several vacancies in the faculty which have been caused by death, resignation and granting of leave of absence have been filled with a success on which the executive committee of the board of trustees and the administrative faculty may well congratulate themselves. Dr. Bain takes the chair of Greek made vacant by the death of Dr. Alexander. Dr. Bain comes from the University of South Carolina, where he has a high reputation as a scholar and teacher. Prof. Laciuc Polk McGee has taken up his work as dean of the law school. He succeeds Judge J. C. Macrae, who died last year. Dr. Thomas Ruffin, resigned, is succeeded by Professor McIntosh of the law school of Trinity College. Dr. A. S. Wheeler, associate professor of organic chemistry, Dr. Heider-



Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David, Prince of Wales, whose title was not bestowed upon him until he reached his sixteenth year recently. His formal investiture with the title will take place in Wales next summer about the time of King George's formal coronation. All of the ancient ceremonials are to be revived. The Prince is described as a quiet, sedate member of royalty, who, up to now, is running a close second to the Crown Prince of Germany in the matter of being photographed—which is saying much.

son, of the department of mathematics, and Professor Toy of the department of Germanic languages, who are absent in Europe on leave of absence, are succeeded by Dr. Hall, of Clemson College, Guy R. Clemens, of the Harvard Scientific school, and Dr. Viles of the University of Ohio, respectively.

Dr. Mims, who has been studying in Europe since his election in 1908, has taken up his work as professor of English literature. Dr. Royster has been promoted to the full professorship of the English language. Prof. Graham retains his position as professor of English literature and head of the department of English. Professor Graham's work consists mainly in courses in self-expression. As dean of the college he has not time to offer very many courses. Dr. Royster's specialty is philology. Dr. Mims is known best as an inspirational teacher of poetry. The English department is strong.

THE BALLINGER FIASCO.

At a News Journal.] There has seldom been a more important investigation of public affairs and a public official than that which congress ordered on the record of Secretary Ballinger of the United States department of the interior. Upon this department, together with the land office, falls the work of administering and protecting billions of dollars worth of natural resources that belong to the nation—that is, to the whole people. Thousands of acres of public land, vast tracts of forests, rich coal mines and ore deposits and water powers make up the treasure which these allied departments are bound to guard and conserve.

If, therefore, such officials are re-elected to their duty or are inefficient, a great wrong is perpetrated upon the American public. They should be held responsible and, if shown to be guilty, should be promptly replaced by honest and vigilant men. If not guilty, they should be exonerated. All this was involved in the investigation of Secretary Ballinger's conduct of his office; and there was involved further the great principle of conservation of natural resources. It was charged that Secretary Ballinger was a foe to this principle. The public has perhaps not followed the details of the investigation, but hundreds of thousands of people have been keenly interested in its general purport and purpose, realizing that questions of vital concern to every man and woman of the present and to the men and women of the future were being determined. What, then must be the public's astonishment and disgust when the standpat Republican members of the committee withdraw from its proceedings at the eleventh hour when they realize that the case is going emphatically against Mr. Ballinger! At its last session in Washington the committee adjourned to meet at Minneapolis on September the fifth for the purpose of formulating a report to Congress. At the time and place agreed upon eight members of the committee assembled, four Democrats, one insurgent Republican and three members of the Old Guard. There was also Senator Nelson, chairman of the committee. A quorum was present. The evidence was all in and had been carefully weighed. A report was in order. Yet, after three days of day three standpatters abruptly left the meeting and were soon followed by the chairman, simply because they realized that the majority would be adverse to the secretary of the interior. It was their desire to gain still further postponement until a sufficient number of the committeemen, representing their own biased opinions, could be present and whitewash the secretary. Very properly the Democrats and

ready to sacrifice and be sacrificed, propagandists of an accomplished order. They are opposed to the Mohammedans; they are opposed to the Christians; they attack both. They ask no favors from the government, they do nothing about the "verandas" of commissioners. Their one thought is to convert India to their views.

GRAVITATION AND TIDES.

T. P.'s Weekly.] The tide visits us practically twice a day, rising to a height that can be measured by so many feet. In many places it comes only once and is measured by inches. The tide-producing agents are sun and moon and the law by which they act is the law of gravitation. This law declares that there is a force of attraction between two bodies, or to put it differently, that every particle of matter in the universe attracts every other particle, the attraction depending on their mutual distances and their mass. Taking the moon's attraction first, it is assumed that the whole earth is covered by the ocean. The moon attracts the waters, and that layer of water immediately under the moon gets heaped up on the side nearest the moon. Hence tide will be there.

The waters on the distant side are heaped up also, and this is a little detail that puzzles most people, because here one would naturally expect low water. The reason of the seeming paradox is that the waters on the distant side are thousands of miles farther away from the moon than is the earth's center. The earth has gets more of the moon's pull than the distant waters. These waters heap themselves up away from the earth and moon, and high tide will be there also. The observed tide will be behind the tide. The effect of the tide is the effect of both lunar and solar pull. Of the two the sun's pull is the weaker, because of the greater distance from the earth. At new moon the height of the tides is increased. Sun and moon, then, pull in the same direction. At full moon there is also an increased height. Sun and moon then reinforce each other, though they are on opposite sides of the earth.

WHAT A RETIRED PRESIDENT DOES.

Springfield Union, Rep.] In an article that Mr. Roosevelt wrote for the Youth's Companion in 1902, when he was filling out the unexpired term of President McKinley, he said: "Perhaps the two most striking things in the presidency are the immense power of the President in the first place; and in the second place, the fact that as soon as he has ceased being President he goes right back into the body of the people and becomes just like any other American citizen. When he goes out of office he takes up his regular round of duties like any other citizen. . . . During the President's actual incumbency of his office, the tendency is, perhaps, to exaggerate not only his virtues but his faults. When he goes out he is simply one of the ordinary citizens, and perhaps for a time the importance of the role he has played is not recognized. True perspective is rarely gained till years have gone by."

Mr. Roosevelt's conception of a retired President, we are constrained to believe, was entirely wrong, and if he were to write on the subject again he would, no doubt express himself differently. A retired President does not "go back into the body of the people and become just like any other American citizen." Instead, he goes to Africa to shoot man-eating lions, hippopotami and white rhinos. Then he tours Europe, gets points on dining rights from the Kaiser and reads the British a lesson on colonial government. Returning home, he takes fifty-five newspaper correspondents with him and sets out to regain the office that he formerly held. The man that he left temporarily in the job is supposed to have no feelings in the matter and to surrender with entire willingness the keys to the White House, possibly being appointed to the Supreme Court as a reward for his stewardship.

BUYING BY WEIGHT.

Omaha Bee.] The buying of foodstuffs by weight is being agitated as a plan to affect the cost of living problem in favor of the housewife and enable her to come near getting the worth of her money. If it will do either, or both, it should be adopted without delay, providing it entails no incidental hardship that would offset its benefits. But would such a plan produce these results? The question one is inclined to answer yes, for it does seem that one would be paying only for what he got by buying by weight and not measure. Yet in places where the plan has been in vogue has it accomplished this? California alone has bought by weight, even potatoes, fruit—nearly everything in the edible line—and yet the people of California have been caught by the high-cost-of-living wave along the rest of us. In Cuba, it is said, the Cuban works with good results, it being applied even more thoroughly there than in California. Eggs are bought by the pound in Cuba and the American advocates of the plan propose that we buy eggs the same way.

RAILROADS AND WATER RATES.

Charleston News-Courier.] Great railway systems are beginning to understand that they must provide for adequate movements of tonnage on their rails by building modern terminals wherewith to invite importations and exportations. It is generally recognized that roads reaching tide water must for their own salvation develop their terminal facilities in order to make the most of their water route opportunities. Where the railroads have done great harm has been in destroying river traffic. This they did by lowering rates until water competition was driven out. We understand that the new railroad rate law expressly provides that in such cases the railroads will not be permitted to again raise rates when they have driven water competition out of business. We venture to predict that this provision will do more to rehabilitate traffic on our inland waterways than any one thing that has happened since steamboats were invented. The world is begin-



Abe Hummel, the former noted New York lawyer, who has been disbarred and served a term in state prison, and who is now about to write his biography, which, it is said, will include the "taking off the lid" of several famous divorce cases in which he engaged and whose principals fought successfully to have the details sealed and "shut up." Hummel promises he will not "reflect" on the morality of any he may write about, but his chronicle, according to those who knew him in the past, will be interesting enough without any such specific "reflection."

A WONDERFUL ESTATE.

Windsor Ledger.] The splendid estate of Don Luis Terrazas, in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, is probably without equal. Terrazas is said to own the greatest farm in the world. His estate includes 8,000,000 acres of terra land and extends 150 miles east and west and 200 miles north and south. On its mountains and through its valleys roam over 1,000,000 cattle, 700,000 sheep and 100,000 horses, these being tended by an army of 2,000 horsemen, herdsmen and shepherds and hunters. Each year are lost 150,000 head of cattle and 100,000 sheep are slaughtered, dressed and packed this ranch being the only one in the world which maintains its own slaughtering and packing plant.

On this gigantic estate are five reservoirs which cost \$500,000 and 300 wells, which cost over another \$500,000. Don Luis Terrazas is a scientific farmer, and raises every kind of grain in his great fields. His homestead is described as the finest farmhouse in existence. It is capable of accommodating 500 guests at a time, and was erected at an expense of \$2,000,000. It is a veritable country place, and the gardens are more carefully laid out and the stables are more costly than those of any emperor. On the homestead alone are employed over 100 male servants.

THE PER CENTAGE OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

Charlotte Observer.] An Italian savant estimates that his own country yields a beautiful woman in every 2,200 and Spanish women in the same proportion. English women lead the list with one beauty in every 1,200, while French women fall at the foot of nationalities considered with only one in every 2,500. Americans the statistician is reluctant to pass upon, classing them as a hopelessly mixed race, but he does make an estimate for the single city of New York and places it as high as England. We almost feel like offering to pay the expenses of a visit by this learned, but not perfectly well-informed, man to North Carolina.

THE GRATITUDE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE.

Goes out to whatever helps give them ease, comfort and strength. Foley's Kidney Pills cure kidney and bladder diseases promptly, and give comfort and relief to elderly people. Souders' Pharmacy. and gave them a fair trial. They gave me great relief, so continued till now I am again in perfect health." Souders' Pharmacy.