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The Hartford Courant.

LITERARY TALK.

The ninth and last volume of the second edition of the Cambridge Shakespeare, edited by William A. Wright, has appeared from the Macmillan press and Shakespearean students will want it. It is the one edition which gives authoritatively the history of the text of the plays from the 1623 folio down to the present day, and this second edition includes a great deal of new matter, containing many corrections and editions. The first edition appeared in 1866, and since then, in the way of new material, two editions of the "Venus and Adonis" have been published and one of the "Lucrece."

This is the week of the literary congress at Chicago, also of the historical and philological congress. Mr. Warner will open the former with a discussion of "Criticism in America."

The last fruits of the literary alliance of Robert Louis Stevenson and Lloyd Osborne is the forthcoming novel "Ebb Tide," a tale of south sea adventure. We have said before this that when the necessity of securing copyright in America by the collaboration of an American and an Englishman ceased (which it did with the passing of our new copyright law in 1892) such partnerships as that of Stevenson and Osborne or Kipling and Balestier would be dissolved. It was a business rather than an artistic motive that led to their being formed.

Henry Drummond's works average a sale of 100,000 copies.

The London correspondent of the *Critic* speaks of the noticeable tendency of the best modern playwrights to publish their plays. Jones, Pinero, George Moore and Oscar Wilde being among those who do it, and Stevenson and Henley might have been added. This is a sign of the surely coming literary renaissance of the drama, which men like Ibsen and Maeterlinck have done so much for, and which the above-mentioned copyright law gave a great stimulus to, inasmuch as before it was passed, the printing of a play forfeited its stage rights. We expect to see a day when high-class modern drama will command literary appreciation and be sold at the theater as literature, and as a matter-of-course.

BOOKS.

The rhymes are correct enough and the rhythms fairly smooth in *Fleeting Thoughts* by Caroline E. Prentiss, but there isn't a ray of inspiration in the book, nor any excuse for publishing it. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Belknap & Warfield, Hartford. $1.)

Worse still is *The Lures of Paul Fenley* by Anna M. Fitch, because, for one thing, it is a thirteen cantos while Miss Prentiss confines her ambition to short lyrics. Paul is a Don Juan sort of a chap with a voice fitted "to purr or to plead" and the verse which tells of absurdities is unintentionally amusing. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Belknap & Warfield, Hartford. $1.)

It is really refreshing, after this, to open the pages of William L. Chittenden's *Ranch Verses*. For though Mr. Chittenden, who hails from Anson, Tex., and is known among his mates as "Larry," is commonplace and conventional enough when he tries to do the legitimate in poetry, his western slang pieces are amusing and have the breath of life in them occasionally. Examples that do him credit are: "The Cowboy's Christmas Ball," "A Cowboy to Kipling," "The Old Texan in New York" and the "The Parson Pickax Gray." It would have been far better had the writer stuck to this genre and not padded his volume with rondeaux, sonnets (which haven't the necessary five feet, by the way) and ditties to numerous amorous maidens. There are some attractive photogravure illustrations and we notice that the author's "Yachtsman's Song" is dedicated to Lewis Q. Jones of the New York Yacht Club, formerly of Hartford. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York; Belknap & Warfield, Hartford, $1.50.)

Mr. Kinahan Cornwallis, who wrote a rhymed chronicle of the discovery of the New World by Columbus, has followed it up by another volume which tells in smooth couplets of *The Conquest of Mexico and Peru*. The result is a volume of goodly girth and thousands of lines of verse testifying to the historical industry of the writer. But Mr. Cornwallis should remember that poetry, to be poetry, must say that which cannot be said in prose. His account could be put in prose and into one-tenth the space occupied by his couplets. (Office of the Daily Investigator, New York. $1.00.)

In a gay-colored cover comes a volume of poems called *Cosmos*, the work of Mrs. Anna Hubbard Mercur and sent, we understand, to the World's Fair, as representing Sullivan county, N. Y. It contains, in addition to the title-piece, a large number of lyrics and sonnets which testify to the refined taste, high aim and love of nature possessed by the author, and her friends will, no doubt, get much pleasure from the pretty volume. (Peter Paul & Brother, Buffalo, New York.)

Mr. Sadakichi Hartmann, a half-German and half Japanese, who is (cautiously) recommended by William M. Rossetti, Mallarmé, Paul Heyse and Mme. Bentzon, remarks of his "dramatic poem," *Christ*, that the nation which gives an ideal representation of it "can claim of having a National Dramatic Art." After which we are not surprised to find very little poetry and a great deal of bad taste, voluptuous nonsense and metaphysical raving in the "drama." Such a scene as that opening the third act is as indecent as it is extravagant in language. (Published by the Author.)

Songs for the Hour is a prettily bound volume in green, white and gold, and it contains a large number of poems by D. M. Jones. They are written apparently by one who represents the Celtic race, and both in the themes and the flowing rhythms as well as the heartfulness and honesty of the singer they well represent the nation that is bardic from of old. We like the patriotic note struck in the verse on Garfield and Sheridan, tributes to Gladstone in "The Celtic Alliance" and the race feeling in the lines "To Erin," "John Boyle O'Reilly," "Ireland and Her Martyrs" and other pieces, which show real fervor and a natural lyric impulse. The volume is far more pleasing than many where the artistic power is higher. (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. DeWitt C. Pond, Hartford.)

A Losing Investment.
(New York Tribune.)

The fact is that the stock of silver held by the United States could not be sold at any price, and the actual loss is the entire amount which has been paid to acquire that useless bulk of silver. Even if the United States were to sell only a portion of its silver, say $50,000,000 in value at a time, it would quickly so depress the price and so gorge the markets of the world that it would become impossible to get a bid at any price for any more of the metal. Since the suspension of silver coinage in India the case is even clearer than it was before, but Germany learned to its cost the impracticability of selling any large amount of silver before the market had become demoralized.

Making Ice in Florida.
(Florida Times-Union.)

The machinery for the two ice-making plants has been ordered and will be at Eau Gallie and Palm Beach in good season for the fall trade—a twenty ton plant for Palm Beach and the ten-ton machine for Eau Gallie. The capacity of both plants will be increased as the demands of the trade require. The great benefits of an ice-making plant to a southern town can be appreciated fully only by people who must needs send hundreds of miles for a cake of ice, which is of such size when delivered to the transportation people that they "wonder what he is going to do with so much ice." But, to see the big bag of wet sawdust, when the ice it arrives at its destination, is a cause of bitter disappointment, especially when the desires of a feverish patient are considered or the chagrin of the housewife, who has laid in a stock of fresh provisions for Sunday. It is then that the value of ice is appreciated.

The information that two ice-making plants are now under contract for building will start the refrigerator and the fresh meat drummers into the land and give those industries a new "boom." It will likewise give new life to the fish trade; in fact, open up several other industries for which there was little, if any, use in the lower east coast without ice.

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Reservoir Park.

NOTICE—Under the advice of the Board of Health, the board of Water Commissioners have voted to allow no picnic parties on the premises of Reservoir Park from June 1st to Oct. 1st, 1893.

J. S. CHASE, Secretary.

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