IN THE ODD CORNER.

QUEER AND CURIOUS PRATURES OF LIFE.

The Song of a Tramp -- A Luminous Contipodo-Wonderful Pon Work-The Chinese Goese -- The "Travelet Trop"-Anodote and Incident.



HE midnight stars are blazing From out the welkin wide, And o'er the restless river They dance on its shimmering tide.

homeless friend

I wander wild and free; I care for no one, good or bad,

And no one cares for me. The north wind, fierce and hard with

frost. Comes whistling o'er the moor; Tis bitter as the faces I meet at every door.

The brown leaves on the oak trees Are singing in the blast: They seem to think of summer time And dream of pleasures past.

But never a thought of pleasure Or happy dream have I. The spring hath no more hope for Than winter's midnight sky,

For then in wood or field I sleep, Or damp and loathsome cave, And now to warmer barn I slink,

A coward and a knave. And homeless and friendless, I wander wild and free;

I care for no one, good or bad, And no one cares for me. —D. J. Donahoe.

The Luminous Centipede.

One of the most interesting creations of nature is the luminous centipede, a curious combination of lizard, snake and natural electric light plant. It is about one and one-fourth inches long. fts body being covered with short hairs. Its Body is very narrow and appears to be in sections. In consequence of this peculiar formation the creature appears to move sidewise except when frightened. Then the natural electric light plant feature appears and with an almost instantaneous wave-like motion, beginning at the tail, the color of the reptile changes from orange to a greenish phosphorescent shade. Then, sparkling like a tiny streak of green light, the creature darts away to a place of refuge. When one of the pair is in search of its mate the color grows a bright yellow, but at will the centipede can resume its darker color, and then if lying close to the grain of a piece of wood is hardly noticeable.

Wonderful Pen Work.

Walter D. Wellman, a San Francisco bookeeper, has performed the marvelwas fest of writing 7,068 words in long hand on an ordinary postal card. Mr. Wellman copied on the card eight colwants of a newspaper, selecting his material from three different articles. The writer says that he could have put 2,500 words on the postal card without difficulty. The writing can be read by may one with strong eyes without the. aid of a glass. The 7,058 words are written with an ordinary steel pen in violet ink. The writer is near-sighted and wears eye-glasses. He has suffored no pain in his eyes from his schievement. The writing was done at odd times, but Mr. Wellman says he sould have accomplished the feat in atx hours.

The Chinese Goots

A lady in the Cornhill Magazine has this to say of the Chinese goose: "China still uses two birds for special purposes and shows no disposition to part with them. Duck-breeding on a large scale is one of the industries of the riverine population. The owners live in houseboats and every night the **Socks** of ducks are driven home into Scating pens for safety. In place of does the white Chinese goose, a domesthe breed not unlike an English goose, he kept as a watch near the duck pens. It is one of the most wideawake and suciferous of birds, apparently never electing, and uttering its loud call when any person or animal approaches Mrs. Atkinson when visiting the northern frontier of China found the mendarin in charge of the guard post "playing" with its watch goose as if it were a dog.

The "Travelor Tree."

Bureau, a French traveler, disof the old stories about the "traveler's tree" in Madagascar, which her been represented as a great boon to thirsty wanderers on account of the stored in its enp-shaped .eaf He says the tree only grows there is a plentiful supply of enter and where rain falls frequently the year round and that since the are situated at the top of the which are very tall, the average traveler would have difficulty in reachin order to find water.

Referming the Crimients. wither in the Contemporary Remreases his dissent from the El-Ya system of treating prisonfollows: "Let It be shown that York state or in any other

more markedly than in England, where deterrence has, on the whole, been the object more than reformation, and a good case will have been made cut for reconsidering our methods.

"Meanwhile the Elmira system, with its lectures and discussions, its Turkish baths, massage and gymnastics for prisoners, its reading club, its daily newspaper, its careful avoidance of everything that may hurt a sensitive prisoner's feelings or remind him that he has done anything to be ashamed of, must inevitably tend to diminish, on the one hand, the deterrent effect of legal penalties, and, on the other hand, to encourage hypocrisy, self-deceit and a very disagreeable kind of priggishness among the criminals."

Wanted to Be Called Early.

It was a very small Pennsylvania town and the only train out of it that night left at 2 o'clock. The traveling man had impressed upon the night porter of the hotel the importance of calling him in time for this train. Promptly at 1:30 a prodigious knock roused the sleeper.

"Say! Be yez the man what wants the 2 o'clock train?" "Yes," was the sleepy reply from

within.

"Well, yez can slape an hour longer, fer she's so much late."

The heavy feet shuffled off down the hall, and silence ensued. Another hour passed, when Pat again knocked. "Say! Be yez the felly what said he wanted to ketch the 2 o'clock thrain?" "Yes!" and there was a sound of a man hastily springing from his bed.

"Well," drawled Pat, "yez can go back to bed again, for she's another hour late." A forcible remark or two proceeded from the traveling man's room, and were audible to his awakened neighbors, as was the departure of Pat; but

soon all was quiet again, and the few occupants of the hotel were left for some time to undisturbed repose. Just as the first faint streaks of dawn were tinging the sky Pat once more made his presence known, and, in tones giving unmistakable evidence of recent and heavy slumber, remarked:

"Say! If yez was the felly what wanted to ketch the 2 o'clock train, yez can slape till morning, fer, bedad, the Liame thing's gone!"

Worth of Wisman.

Germany is now and then unpleasantly reminded of her political weakness before the union as in the case of the city of Wismar. Wismar is a seaport in the duchy of Mecklenburg. The Swedes took it during the thirty years war, but gave is as security for a debt of \$1,300,000 to Mecklenburg in 1803, with the option to redeem the pledge in a hundred years. The disagreeable part of it is that if the king of Sweden does not choose to pay the money in 1903 he has the option of another hundred years' grace. Germany may not erect fortifications near the place, which is very annoying to her, as Wismar is well adapted for a naval port. Germany will not, of course, allow Sweden to take possession of the place, but may have to pay a good round sum.

Music Versus Conversation.

Mme. Adam, well known as the editor of the Parisian Nouvelle Revue, 'nsista that the "musicales" that have of late years become so popular in the French capital have materially injured conversation. She intends to gather about her the thirty or forty women still in Paris who in her opinion can converse, and in accordance with this design inscribes her invitations with the words "To talk" instead of with the stereotyped words "Music" or "Dancing."

One from the Levant.

Mr. Issigonis writes that the Greek barber surgeons of the Levant employ a large species of ant (camponotus) for holding together the edges of an incised wound. The ant, held with a forceps, opens its mandibles wide and is then allowed to seize the edges of the cut, which are held together for the purpose. As soon as a firm grip is obtained the head is severed from the

Africa's Diamond Reda.

The first diamond was found for South Africa, near Kimberley, in 1868. Since 1870, when the mines were opened, the product has rapidly in creased, and in twenty-five years these mines have produced more and larger diamonds than all other countries, India and Brazil now furnishing very few. To-day 98 per cent of the diamonds of the world come from Kim-

Food Adulteration.

A report emanating from the depart ment of agriculture states that the cost of food, drink and drugs annually used by the people of the United States is \$6.760,000,000; \$1,014,000,000 are paid for the frauds and cheats used in adulterations, and \$136,000,000 worth of these foreign elements are clearly injurious to health.

Weary Willie Slept in the Hearse. Recently the night freight out of Waterville, Me., conveyed a hearse on a flat car to Portland. Near Monmouth, as the brakeman was going over the train he discovered the feet of

tramp protruding from the hearse and the man himself, sound asleep,

the Would Go Back. A Scotland, Ga., girl who was taking her first sea bath induced her friends to return with her to the water after they had all started for the bath house, and where the reformatory theory she was taken from the waves a few has been most consis- minutes later dead, having apparently

A WOMAN WHO HAS LEFT HER MARK IN THE WORLD.

The Life-Loug Friend of James G. Blains-Her Early Life as a School Teacher and Governous-Was a Forcible Writer.



Dodge, or Gail Hamilton, was best known probably from her pungent and rather erratic writings and the strong espousal of the political fortunes of James G. Blaine.

She was of a family of four brothers and one eister. She was born in Hamilton, Mass., in April, 1833. Her father's name was James B. Dodge, and her mother was Hannah Stanwood of Hollowell, Me. Jacob Stanwood, a brother of Hannah, was the father of Mrs.James G. Blaine, and thus the relations, cemented by friendship, between Miss Dodge and the Blaine family came about. Miss Dodge was led into close friendship with Mr. Blaine, and at the death of the latter she became his literary executor, being in possession of all his papers and documents of value to her as his authorized biographer. She was engaged as frequently as her health would permit on Mr. Blaine's blography from the time of his death until her illness of last year, and it is thought her untiring devotion to the work was instrumental in bringing about that prostration. The scene of her birth was a rambinig old house, now standing near the Methodist camp meeting grounds. It belonged to Gall's grandfather, Jonathan Dodge, and there she lived with her parents until the old man died. The family property was then divided, and James Dodge with his children moved to a small house near the Wenham Station.

Miss Dodge had begun to acquire considerable success and prominence as a writer when her father and mother died, and she then was able to buy the place which she made her home. Miss Dodge atended the public schools in Hamilton until she was 13 years old. She then went to Cambridge to Dr. Alvah Smith's school. This was a fashionable old training school in its day for the young folks of the old colony families. Thence she went to the Ipswich Academy in Ipswish, kept by the Rev. John P. Cowles, and there the finishing touches of her school education were received. This, too, was a celebrated school in those times, though now only a weather beaten, deserted old building and revered memory remain. Miss Dodge then had attained her twentieth year and as a starter in taking care of herself she determined to teach school. A place was offered her in the Hartford Conn., high school. Her peculiar independence was brought out in that Gail refused to pass any examination to prove her fitness for the place. The committee members firmly insisted that such were the conditions all young teachers had to undergo. Miss Dodge. however, was obdurate.



GAIL HAMILTON (From an old print, reputed to be the only picture Misa Dodge ever had taken.)

"If you don't like me," said she, "you can fire me. I can try it, and later developments will be the best tests of my capability."

Try it she did, and a pleasant im-

pression it was that she made. Miss Dodge as a pupil had been quick to learn and brilliant in the expression of her thoughts. Her scholarship. however, was not considered as thorough or finished by her teachers as that of her sister, Hannah. Her quickness and gift of expression and communication, however, stood her in good stead in the schoolroom, and is not a little the element to which she owed success as a writer and "maker of books." From Hartford she entered the family of Prof. Bailey ,the mathematician, and former editor of the National Era, as governess. She occupied that position for some time, and left it to engage in literary pursuits. Gail Hamfilton, as her books show, was a ready and vigorous writer. She threw her works off with steam engine speed She said she had no literary methods. She did the greater part of her writing in the morning and gave the aftermoon to recreation, which meant walking or riding. She was a famous pedestrian. Her books are the result, as she put it, of outside irritation. This translated into a homely illustration, means that she was something like the Irishman, who "when he saw a head hit it." She needed some cause to excite her interest, or some measure to arouse her contempt, to start her pen. Her writings, as a result, are largely polemical, dealing with current topics and questions of controversy. Her style of thought and manner of expression are vigorous and masculine. The latter characterization, together with per pseudonym, led many to mistake her sex. She selected Gail from

ton from the town of her birth. " 1 81 81

Some of her best known books are: "Country Living and Country Thinking," "Woman's Worth and Woman's Worthlessness," "Scientific Farming," "Our Common Schools," "What Think Ye of Christ?" a study of the testimony of the English Bible: "A Battle of the Books," and "Woman's Wrongs." Miss Dodge's peculiar onslaught on political methods and politicians that displeased her are known. This same independent, self-assertion marks her in HE late Abigail her social relations. She was little known to the villagers at Hamilton, despite the fact that her life has been passed there. She traveled much. A Pullman car conductor tells an amusing story of his experience with her. Miss Dodge and Mrs. Blaine were once traveling together on a pass made out for Mr. and Mrs. Blaine. The conductor looked at the pass and then quietly asked which was Mrs. Blaine. That woman nodded, and the conductor then asked Gail for her ticket. "Ticket," said she, "why, I am Mr. Blaine," And she was for that trip. Shrewd as Miss Dodge was, however, she occasionally was taken in. An illustration was the faith she placed in Mrs. Howe and her woman's bank scheme. Miss Dodge was indignant with the newspa-

HALE JOHNSON.

ly in defense.

The Prohibition Candidate for the Vice Presidency.

pers when they started to expose the

fraud, and herself went so far as to

write an article for the Atlantic Mouth-

Hale Johnson, candidate for Vice-President on the national prohibition ticket, is a good, patriotic citizen, with



HALE JOHNSON.

worthy and spotless record. He was named for John P. Hale, the free soil candidate for President in 1852, was educated in the common schools, fought for the flag of his country from the time he was 17 until he reached his majority, and when peace was restored he became an instructor in a public school. Mr. Johnson moved with his family from Indiana to Ill no safter the war. In 1871 he married Mary E. Loofburrow of Washington Court House, Ohio. In 1875 he was admitted to the bar of Illinois, and since 1877 he has practiced in the town of Newton with Judge James W. Gibson for his partner. Mr. Johnson was a republican before he became a prohibitionist. He served the republican party as delegate to its local and state conventions and might have had no small honor in return had he not preferred to retire from it Since that time he has been prominent in prohibition politics and was named for governor by the state convention. Just as he was developing as a strong candidate he was transferred to the national ticket.

DR. MARSHALL RANDLES

He Was Recently Given a High Compilment by British Methodists.

Rev. Dr. Marshall Randles, who was recently elected president of the Wesleyan conference of England, is perhats the most prominent of the British Methodists. By birth and training he is a Lancashire man. As long ago as 1850 he offered himself a candidate for the Weslevan ministry and was accepted. Then he entered Didsbury Theological College, and under the tutorship of the late Dr. Hannah he served the full term in a number of the best circuits of the church. For seventeen years he has acted as chairman of six districts, chiefly in his native county and in Yorkshire. When Rev. Dr. W. B. Pope retired from the theological professorship at Didsbury College, Dr. Randles was elected to his chair and has since exerted a powerful influence in molding the thought of the rising ministry of this connection. In 1891 Montreal College, which is affiliated with the great McGill University of



DR. MARSHALL RANDLES. Canada, conferred upon him the homorary degree of doctor of divinity. Dr. Randles is the author of several books. He is a frequent contributor to English periodical literature and is known to the latter part of Abigail and Hamil- the Methodist ministry of the United MAKING A BIG RAFT.

Third Experiment in Towing a Mon eter Bundle of Lagu.

The huge raft of logs now being constructed at Stella, Wash., by Messrs Robertson & Baines, is receiving its finishing touches, and will be cleared from the immense cradle on Saturday morning and towed over the bar and thence to San Francisco. This will be the third raft of logs leaving Stella the first unfortunately being lost at sea, but the second was successfully towed to San Francisco last summer. The raft which is now ready for moving, is about 300 feet in length, cigarshaped in construction, and contains 450,000 linear feet of piling and spar timbers. Its value is \$45,000, and an insurance of \$16,500 has been placed on the raft, covering over one-third of its actual value. The rate of insurance, 10 per cent, is so high that the owners did not feel justified in taking more of a risk than would be necessary to meet actual expenses entailed in constructing the great raft. It is arranged that the raft will leave Stella Saturday morning. The O. R. & N. Co.'s tug Wallowa, assisted by one of the company's steamers will tow the raft to Astoria, where it will be picked up by the Spreckles Co. tug-boat Relief and carried over the bar to the open sea. Here the steam collier Mineola, belonging to the Southern Pacific Co., will take charge of the raft and tow it to San Francisco, expecting to make the trip within five days. Almost the entire lot of piling is for the Southern Pacific Co., it taking 300,000 feet, for which it pays \$10 per 1,000 feet.

Several Grand Excursions. On September 29, October 6th and 20th there will be a homeseekers' excursion via the Missouri Pacific railway and Iron Mountain route to the west and southwest, at one fare, plus \$2, for the round trip, tickets good to return 21 days from date of sale, with stopover privileges on going trip. Write for particulars and land books. BISSELL WILSON, D. P. A.

111 Adams St., Chicago.

Keeps the Food Warm. A London restaurant uses an electrically heated plate to keep one's food warm. So long as the current is turned on, one can dine in as leisurely a way as he likes. There is no danger of receiving a shock from touching the plate.

Average Depth of the Sea.

The average depth of the sea, in yards, is as follows: Pacific, 4,252; Atlantic, 4.026; Indian, 3,658; Antarctic, 3,000; Arctic, 1,690; Mediterranean, 1,476; Irish, 240; English Channel, 110; Adriatic, 45; Baltic, 43.

Very low rates will be made by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway for excursions of September way for excursions of September 29th. to the south for Homeseckers and Harvesters. For particulars apply to the nearest local agent or address Jas. Barker, Gen'l Pass, Agt., M. K. and T. R. R., St. Louis, Mo.

Great Britain's postal service receipts the past year exceeded expenses by over \$18,000,000, while the United States postal service usually shows a yearly deficit of nearly half that

The candidate airs his views before election. After that he lets us view his airs.

Color and Aroma of Coffee There are two things which people imagine are guides to the goodness of coffee which are really of no consequence whatever. They are the color of the decoction and the aroma of the coffee when ground, or as it escapes from the pot in drawing. The color is due almost entirely to the roasting. This is true, also, of tea. The finest coffees and teas when properly roasted and prepared to give out their finest flavors will color the water but little. The real essences which give the fixvor have practically no color.

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