

THE BOOK SHELF.

(Conducted by ALBERT LEE, '91.)

It is sometimes gratifying to the humble toiler in the field of letters to reflect that there are some in his craft who push the railroad president and the bank director pretty closely in the great eternal race after \$ \$ \$ \$. Some figures relative to what may be earned nowadays by the writer whose work pleases the public have come to my notice, and it has occurred to me that a brief mention of them might persuade a small portion of half of each graduating class at Yale to turn away from law and embrace literature.

It is said that Conan Doyle has received \$225 per thousand words for his latest story, now in the hands of the publishers, and it was said that he was paid \$2,000 for the last of the "Sherlock Holmes" tales. The latter was not over three or four thousand words in length, so that within recent years, at least, this probably is the highest price ever paid to a purely literary man for the product of his pen.

For the serial rights alone of "Sir George Tressiday" the Century gave \$18,000, which is far and away the highest price ever paid by a magazine simply for the use of a novel in its columns. Years ago Robert Bonner paid Henry Ward Beecher \$25,000 for his novel, "Norwood." But this was a freak price and was paid simply for Beecher's name, and had no relation to the intrinsic worth of the story. It cost \$10,000 for McClure's to secure the serial rights of Kipling's last novel, "Captains Courageous," and that was for this country alone.

Kipling is now said to receive over \$200 per thousand words, for his stories; Mrs. Burnett frequently receives \$150 per thousand words for her literary efforts; and there are a number of others, notably Mr. Howells, who are paid \$100 per thousand for practically everything they write.

In the way of special figures, the Century was among the first to set the pace in high prices, paying Grant a thousand dollars apiece for four articles which he contributed to that magazine. Many years ago, however, Robert Bonner paid Dickens \$5,000 for a short story called "Hunted Down." The Century gave John Hay and John Nicolay \$50,000 for their "Life of Lincoln," but this was a case of a cornered market.

In the preparation of special works, such as encyclopedias and dictionaries, the amount of money consumed is often something enormous. But in the field of pure literature, it is probable that Charles Dudley Warner's "Library of the World's Best Literature," now in course of publication, has cost more than any single work ever produced. The special articles of Mr. Warner's Library, written by eminent literary men of America and Europe, have alone required nearly \$50,000, and probably the immediate editorial work has taken as much more. As this Library is to contain over three hundred articles written by literary specialists, all of whom are in a position to command their own prices, it is not difficult to see that the outlay required for editorial matter alone will be something prodigious.

A story of equal interest, if the reliable figures could be obtained, might be written concerning the profits of publishers on books whose sales have run up into the hundreds of thousands. But the publisher has always been regarded as in the possession of a good thing, while the idea has been persistently disseminated that authors as a class have been ill-paid and ill-treated. The items cited, however, indicate that, whatever may have been the case in the past, literature nowadays is a profession that pays, and sometimes well pays.

"Equality."

It is announced that Mr. Edward Bellamy, who has not published any book since he brought out "Looking Backward" many years ago, is about to appear in print again. His new book is to be on similar lines to his earlier work and will be entitled "Equality." It will probably appear in the latter part of April. Publication will be simultaneous in the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Italy and other countries. It is of interest to recall that over 400,000 copies of "Looking Backward" have been sold in this country alone. The book has been translated into the language of almost every civilized country, and its total sale is almost beyond computation. Quite recently the demand for literature dealing with sociological questions has led to the printing of a quarter of a million of copies for sale at a low price in England.

"The Story of Extinct Civilization."

"The Story of Extinct Civilization," by Robert E. Anderson, is the latest addition to D. Appleton & Co.'s "Library of Useful Stories." It tells briefly and concisely of the origin and of the races of mankind and gives brief histories of those early peoples—the Chaldeans, Babylonians, Thucuccicuss, Persians and Egyptians—of whose history but little was accurately known until recent times. The author gives many facts in few words, and has managed to enclose a vast amount of information within a small compass.

Prof. A. J. George of the Newton High School has just issued through D. C. Heath & Co., of Boston another little book on an English classical subject—"Carlyle's Essay on Burns." The essay is very well written and it is preceded by a preface which adds greatly to the interest of his subject.

ZETA PSI CONVENTION.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Fraternity.

The semi-centennial convention of the Zeta Psi fraternity was held in New York city April 23 and 24, at the Hotel Imperial. The Friday morning session was taken up with receiving reports and credentials from the various chapters. During the afternoon unfinished business was disposed of and the several committees appointed. Friday evening an informal dinner was given at the Hotel St. Denis. Francis Lawton of Brown presided. Toasts were responded to by the Rev. George S. Mott, D. D., John B. Yates Sommers, Judge John W. Bennett of New York University and R. T. W. Duke of the University of Virginia. Covers were laid for 342.

Saturday morning the regular business of the convention was transacted, and at the afternoon session the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Colonel Francis S. Keese, Rutgers; Charles E. Ronaldson, University of Pennsylvania; Thomas Ives Chatfield, '93 Yale University; Walter A. Weed, Jr., Williams; Albert Buchanan, Cornell; Marshall S. Brown, Brown, and Israel C. Pierson, New York University.

The culminating event of the convention was the banquet that was given at Delmonico's in the evening. In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary this was made the greatest affair of the kind ever given by the Fraternity. Delegates were present from every one of the 20 chapters.

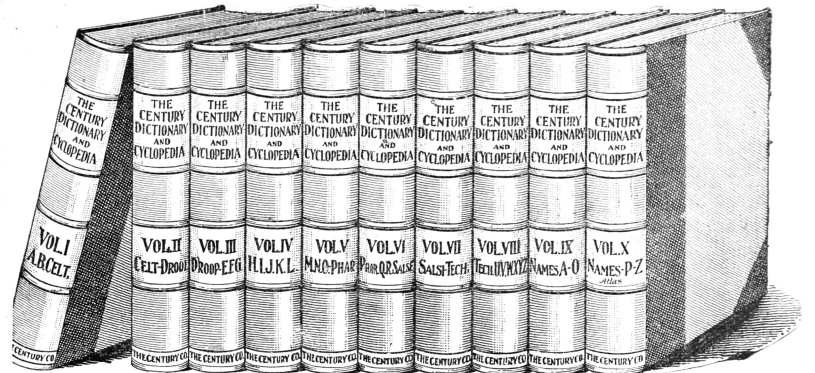
Dr. F. LeRoy Satterlee of New York University presided. The semi-centennial oration was delivered by the Rev. Charles H. Eaton, D. D., LL.D., of Tufts College. The Hon. William H. McElroy of Union College presented the semi-centennial poem, and Marshall S. Brown, of Brown, gave a sketch of the history of the Fraternity. The date of the origin has now been fixed upon as June 1, 1847, at the University of New York. The three founders, John B. Yates Sommers, John M. Skillman and William H. Dayton, were present, as was also the oldest living member, William H. Carter, D. D., LL.D., arch deacon of the Middle diocese of Florida.

Active chapters are established at the following universities and colleges: New York University, Williams, Rutgers, University of Pennsylvania, Colby, Brown, Tufts, Lafayette, University of North Carolina, University of Michigan, Bowdoin, University of Virginia, Cornell, University of California, University of Toronto, Columbia, McGill, Case, School of Applied Science, Yale and Leland Stanford University. The living membership has just passed the 4,000 mark.

Mr. McElroy, as toastmaster, introduced the following speakers: William Pepper, ex-provost of the University of Pennsylvania; Nelson Dingley, Jr., of Colby University, chairman of Ways and Means Committee; Rev. William H. Carter, LL.D., University of New York; Joseph Mains, Jr., also of University of New York; Colonel Henry Waker, commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston; C. C. Harrison, provost of University of Pennsylvania; Elisha Dyer, Governor-elect of Rhode Island, and Dr. Bridgman of New York. An appropriate musical programme was rendered during the evening. The colors of England and the United States were appropriately draped about the hall, symbolizing the international character of the Fraternity. A silver Medallion suitably engraved was distributed to those present.

Yale, which is almost the youngest, was most largely represented among the visiting chapters. Williams was next in numbers, being represented by the entire undergraduate members. The official delegates from Yale were F. P. Garvan, '97; Henry Sillocks, '98, and Robert Gould, '98. The ceremonies which were the most successful ever held by the organization, wound up with the installation of the new officers.

Prof. Whitney's Great Work Finally Completed.



SEVENTEEN years ago work was first begun upon what is now *The Century Dictionary and Cyclopaedia*. Between 1888 and 1891 a portion was published in six volumes. Although a large part of the matter in these volumes was encyclopedic in its nature, they were published under the simple title of "The Century Dictionary," the full title being reserved for the completed work.

In 1894 an additional portion appeared under the title of "The Century Cyclopaedia of Names." The matter in this was *entirely* encyclopedic. This portion alone contained in the neighborhood of 50,000 titles, as large a number as is to be found in any of the well-known encyclopedias.

The full work, now published in its final and perfected form, contains all that was in "The Century Dictionary," as well as all that was in "The Century Cyclopaedia of Names," but thoroughly revised, and with much additional and later material added, including a full complement of maps. The appearance of the ten-volume edition, therefore, marks the consummation of seventeen years of work, and is the culmination of what must undoubtedly be regarded as the greatest literary enterprise ever undertaken.

Lawyers, physicians, clergymen, editors, teachers, and business men everywhere have borne enthusiastic and willing testimony to the surpassing merit of *The Century Dictionary and Cyclopaedia*. Here for instance are the names and signatures of a few of our leading college presidents, each of whom owns, uses and recommends *The Century* :—

- Charles W. Eliot Harvard.
- Frederic D. Wight Yale.
- Seth Low Columbia.
- Daniel C. Gilman Johns Hopkins.
- William D. Harper Chicago.
- James B. Angell University of Mich.
- David S. Jordan University of Cal.
- W. D. Hays Com. of Education.

President Dwight states: "I make much use of *The Century Dictionary and Cyclopaedia* and find it exceedingly useful and valuable. I assure you of my appreciation of the work."

Similarly President Eliot states: "The *Century Dictionary and Cyclopaedia* is a time-saving convenience. Constant use of it has taught me to value it very highly, and in this new edition you have certainly added greatly to its merits."

All the leading American institutions of learning, as well as those of Oxford and Cambridge, England, acknowledge the authority, *The Century*. It has been adopted by the various departments at Washington, and by all of the important Congressional Committees. In the Supreme Court of the United States and in all other American courts it has become "a reference tribunal of the last resort."

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If you do not possess a set of *The Century Dictionary and Cyclopaedia*, address us and we will send your name to one of the few clubs that are still being formed, each member of which secures a set at a reduction of over 40 per cent. and has the privilege of paying for it in small monthly payments.

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Kindly mention the Yale Alumni Weekly.