

**THE BOOK SHELF.  
A Book About Books.**

In these busy days it is not only the so-called "man of affairs" who is so often forced to call into his service the "book about books," if he is to keep up with more than the daily news; it is just as true that the university student must do so. This fact has been finally established by the success of such monumental works as Mr. Stedman's "Library of American Literature," and Mr. Warner's more recent "Library of the World's Best Literature," and, less markedly, by the continued favor which has been extended to such outlines of literary history as Brooke's invaluable "Primer" and Donald G. Mitchell's "Lands and Letters." It is not that a reader prefers to accept the opinions of another rather than to form his own; it is that not one reader in ten thousand has the time to come fairly to his own conclusions, even in such very limited fields as he may be fitted to travel through unguided. For this reason we are glad to be told what we want to know—told too in a pleasant manner by some luckier man whose time has allowed wide reading and whose ability warrants his addressing the reading public.

A truly valuable addition to such books as these has recently appeared in Professor Dowden's "History of French Literature." The title may have a text-book ring to it that would tend to prejudice those who never look beyond the cover, but even the briefest examination of the volume shows its true worth. The author has done for the literature of France what has never been done for it before, and very much the same sort of thing that Brooke has done for the literature of England. He has given a readable, graphic, comprehensive survey of his subject, the brighter figures standing out in memorable distinctness, the less important well fitted into the perspective—and this in but little more than four hundred clearly-printed pages. The treatment is less vivacious than that which we know in Taine, but it is far more just; the style is less colloquial than that which adds so especial a charm to the pages of our own Donald G. Mitchell, but it is more scholarly and accurate. The beginnings of French literature are ably summarized; the national epics, the romances of love and courtesy are fittingly dealt with, the Renaissance, the Reformation, Froissart, Rabelais, Montaigne, are charmingly portrayed; Corneille, Racine, Molière; Voltaire and Diderot; Lamartine and Musset; Victor Hugo best of all. Professor Dowden is not a specialist, but is widely read, is of sound taste, sane judgment, and he wields a delightful pen. His work is the work of an able, cultured gentleman, not microscopic or loaded with detail. It is a book that all of us can read with true pleasure, and most of us with decided profit. (Appleton, \$1.50.)

**A New Anthology.**

To edit a "Golden Treasury of American Songs and Lyrics," following in the line of the late Professor Palgrave's invaluable English treasury, was a work both alluring and dangerous. In that the field to be covered was not of great dimensions it was the easier; to hit the present public taste and at the same time produce a collection that should prove of permanent and real merit was not easy. The treasury that F. L. Knowles has completed (L. C. Page, \$1.25), cannot be said to be perfect, but it is so marked an improvement over all the similar attempts that have preceded it, that it deserves a generous success. To begin with, the book is beautifully printed on a linen paper that is pleasing both to hand and eye. This is an advance agent that can only work for good. Then it is comprehensive, including some sixty odd names in its list, ranging from Bryant to Lloyd Mifflin. The chronological arrangement is simplest and so the best. Finally, the poems chosen are, with remarkably few exceptions, pieces of such decided merit that no reasonable question can be raised as to the place here given them. The one fault that might be found with the collection is that the editor's point of view has been too obviously personal, that he has ignored some songs and lyrics which the most eminent of our critics have united in praising, and in proof it may be adduced that Whitman re-

ceives the scantiest attention. But judgment of any sort is so personal an affair, after all, that it would be poor taste to condemn for such faults of omission a volume whose good points are so marked as this. The bouquet may seem too small, many a blossom we have learned to love may have been omitted, but it is a bouquet of real flowers, of beauty and fragrance, and so we should be but too glad to put it upon our shelves—remembering that these are flowers which are imperishable.

**German Humor in Translation.**

The admirers of the German *Fliegende Blaetter* are many, but in their number are some who never laugh at its pictures without a real regret that they cannot read the jokes. Perhaps it was of these that the E. R. Herrick Co. were thinking especially in issuing the "Flying Leaves" which has come in among the usual "picture books" of the season. It is very certain that such magazines will be especially pleased with these characteristic selections from a weekly that is often artistic and usually intensely funny. The jokes chosen for reproduction are all of them illustrated, and many are in that form of a series of pictures telling their own story, in which the artists of Germany would seem to have attained to a peculiar degree of excellence. Those of us who turn towards the humorous side of things will find in this oblong quarto a very acceptable companion.

WARWICK JAMES PRICE.

**With New York Alumni.**

[Correspondence of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY.]

New York, Feb. 9, 1898.—The demand for tickets for the New York Yale dinner is already sufficient to justify the highest expectations. Nearly every class graduated within the past forty years will be represented, and there will of course be members from many of the older classes present. Several applications for class tables have already been sent in, one of the first to be received being that of the Class of Sixty. Lander's Orchestra has been engaged for the evening, and, as in former years, a separate table has been reserved for former members of the Glee Club, who will lead the singing of the college songs.

In the list of speakers so far announced, the name of President Dwight is missed. He has signified his inability to attend, which causes much regret. The preliminary toast list as given out by President Adey is as follows:  
The University....Prof. A. T. Hadley.  
Sister Universities.....  
The Yale Spirit.....H. C. Robinson.  
Heroes of the Forum,  
Dr. E. V. Reynolds.  
Introducing the Debating Team.  
Heroes of the Field,  
Rev. J. H. Twichell.  
Introducing the Football Team.  
Valedictory.....Col. N. G. Osborn.

**CLUB LIBRARY AFFAIRS.**

The report of Edwin D. Worcester, Jr., Secretary of the Library Committee of the Yale Club, which is complete to February 1st, shows money contributions of nearly three hundred

dollars, as well as gifts of over one hundred and fifty books, and memorabilia, magazines, etching, photographs, etc. The contributors have been:

Money—Brayton Ives, '61; William L. Learned, '41; Payson Merrill, '65; Julian A. Ripley, '98; Thomas Thacher, '71; Robert W. de Forest, '70; Richard M. Hurd, '88; Ashbel Green, Jr., '91; Philip G. Bartlett, '81; Charles H. Sherrill, Jr., '89.

Books—Edmund C. Stedman, '53; Albert Matthews, '42; Sherman Evarts, '81; Henry Holt, '62; Chauncey M. Depew, '56; Noah H. Swayne, 2d, '93; Edwin R. Lamson, '92; Richard M. Hurd, '88; Lewis S. Haslam, '90; George E. Coney, '76; John S. Thacher, '77; Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor; Lawrence Edward Brown, '93; W. P. Bacon, '58; Charles T. Catlin, '56; Payson Merrill, '65; Charles R. Smith, '75; A. P. Rogers, '94 S.; H. D. Parmelee; Edwin D. Worcester, Jr., '76; James F. Colby, A.M., '77.

Miscellaneous—Frederick M. Lloyd, '93, and Bertram K. Boltwood, '93 S., memorabilia; Alfred B. Thacher, '74, and T. A. Vernon, '76 S., photographs; Edwin D. Worcester, Jr., '76, and Edward H. Dodd, '92, magazines; Chauncey M. Depew, '56, portraits; Emory Hawes, '96, elk's head; Edwin D. Worcester, Jr., '76, etching; John B. Uhle, '71, engraved portraits.

Mention of the splendid loan collections of originals from the publishing houses of Scribner's and Harper's has been made in previous issues of the WEEKLY.

**REUNION OF NINETY-SEVEN.**

On Saturday, Feb. 19th, or Feb. 26th, the Class of Ninety-Seven will hold its second reunion. The date has not yet been fixed on account of the difficulty of making the necessary arrangements until it is learned whether or not many men will leave the city on the 19th, to be gone over the 22d, Washington's Birthday.

The first Club book of the Yale Club is now in the hands of printer.

**A Strong Yale Organization.**

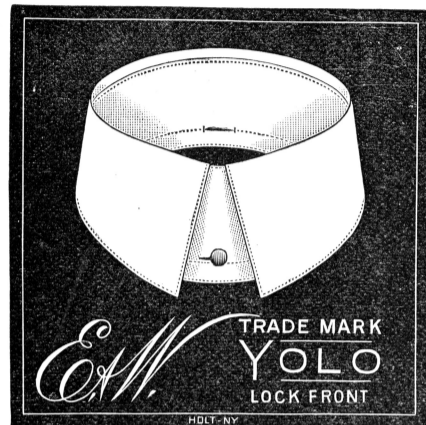
The New England Society in the City of Brooklyn is an organization formed 18 years ago to commemorate the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers; to encourage the study of New England history; to establish a library, and to promote charity, good fellowship and social intercourse among its members." It has a membership of over 300, a fund accumulated for the purposes of the Society exceeding \$25,000 in amount, and has been for years the strongest and most prominent organization of its kind in what was formerly the City of Brooklyn. At the annual election for officers on Jan. 17, the Yale influence manifested itself as follows:

President—William B. Davenport, '67.  
1st Vice-President—Frederic A. Ward, '62.  
2d Vice-President—Jos. A. Burr, '71.  
Corresponding Secretary—Charles H. Levermore, '79.

The two remaining officers, the Treasurer and Recording Secretary, were filled by the election of a Dartmouth and Brown University man respectively.

**The Hartford Dinner.**

The annual dinner of the Hartford Yale Alumni Association will be held in the Hotel Hartford, Feb. 18. Harrison B. Freeman, the President of the Association, will act as toastmaster. Among the speakers of the occasion will be Joseph H. Twichell, Henry C. Robinson, Charles Hopkins Clark, and John H. Buck. It is hoped that President Dwight and Bishop Coadjutor Chauncey Brewster will also be present and favor with speeches, but definite acceptances have not yet been received. A double quartette of the Glee Club will be present.



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