



"OLD MANSE."

Within a twelvemonth, the *House of the Seven Gables* appeared. It is amusing to read a short editorial that appeared in the *Mid-dlesex Freeman* directly after the publication of the last book, and remark how suddenly the shy, sensitive man rose in the town-people's estimation.

"The world of letters," says this article, "and, indeed, every man who likes to read good books, are under the greatest possible obligation to the dullards who turned Mr. Hawthorne out of the office of Surveyor of the ports of Salem and Beverly.... It was a happy day for the world, it was a blessed day for Mr. Hawthorne's fame, when the scroll of Fate was sent down to Salem from Washington, ordering the removal of the Surveyor to make room for one of the faithful.... It is not generally supposed that it requires any very great amount of genius to fill a Custom-house office, though it is undeniable that clever men do sometimes find their way among the publicans of Uncle Sam. We believe there was not a block-head in all Salem who was not capable of filling the place of Surveyor as well as Mr. Hawthorne, and we are very certain that all the heads in Salem—blocks or otherwise—could not, even if they had been laid together, have produced the *Scarlet Letter* or the *House of the Seven Gables*.... Let us thank the gods that the admirers of stupidity triumphed in 1846, and, in the excess of their love of letters, compelled the ablest romancer in our country to write."

The *House of the Seven Gables* was written during Hawthorne's short residence in Lenox, but the *Blithedale Romance* was produced after his return to Concord, where he established himself at the place he called the "Wayside," three-quarters of a mile from the village, on the Boston road. The house is on the southern side of a ridge of wooded hills, much shut in by shrubbery, and un-

pleasantly close to the road. It was dilapidated when Hawthorne purchased it, and was altogether an unpleasant change from the "Manse." He repaired the house, however, built additions, and constructed an observatory, which overlooks a wide stretch of level fields and roads. The square room at the top of this observatory became his sanctum. Here he dreamed and wrote his wonderful stories. The house is now used as a boarding-school for young ladies, and the observatory is occupied as a sleeping-room; but one can form some idea of how it looked

when Hawthorne used it, with red mottoes painted on the walls that else were bare of ornament, and the sunshine streaming brightly in on the confusion of articles dear to the heart of an author. On the ridge of hill back of the house is a path known as "Hawthorne's Walk."

Before Mr. Hawthorne received the appointment of consul at Liverpool, while living the quietest of lives in Concord, he had written the *Life of Franklin Pierce*. This appeared in 1852. It is recorded that when the consulate was offered him he asked, "Will the man who holds the office have to talk much?" The reply being in the negative, he uttered a hearty "Thank God!"

A later occupant of Hawthorne's "Wayside" has beautified the little observatory by painting landscapes and sea views on the inclined portions of the upper ceiling. Over the mantel, surrounded by a trailing ivy wreath, is the motto, "In memory of Nathaniel Hawthorne," supplemented by the date of his birth and death. In the southeast corner is preserved the shelf at which he wrote in a standing position. His red mottoes are still over the doors of the presses that stand on the opposite side of the room in corners, one at the head of the steep and narrow staircase by which Hawthorne used to climb to his study. The motto that first greets the eye is this:

"All care abandon, ye who enter here."

The "literary period" of Concord com-

menced in 1841, six years after Mr. Emerson came to reside in it. In 1835 he wrote *Nature* in his study at the "Old Manse." This book, as the critics said, "struck the keynote of his philosophy." Before its appearance, however, he was a marked man. His eloquence as a preacher, and afterward his secession from church beliefs, together with the brilliant course of lectures and addresses delivered in Boston and Cambridge, had attracted much attention, and when in 1841 he published the first series of his *Essays*, his "name was on every one's tongue." At that time Alcott had published his treatise *On Early Education* (1832) and his *Conversations on the Gospels* (1836). Miss Peabody had also written the record of his school. But Alcott had then hardly become identified with Concord.

Thoreau, who graduated from Harvard in 1837, was at that time engaged in teaching or trade, Hawthorne was at Brook Farm, and Channing was not yet introduced to the public. The latter's first volume of poems appeared in 1843.

A second volume of Emerson's *Essays* appeared in 1844, succeeding Channing's earliest poems. He had then removed from the "Manse" to the house he now occupies—a large square white mansion set back from the road, and secluded by a growth of pine and chestnut trees. It is not half a mile from Hawthorne's "Wayside." This house was old, and had to be repaired. The trees that now surround it were planted by Thoreau and Alcott during one of Emerson's absences in Europe, and until recently a rustic summer-house has stood upon the grounds, which was designed and built by Thoreau. Mr. Emerson went to this house directly after his marriage in 1835. It was partially burned three years ago, but was rebuilt on



R. W. Emerson

the same plan. Despite the rebuilding, it has nothing unpleasantly new in its aspect, but stands among its pines with an air of aristocratic age. It is but a short distance from the village.

In 1846 Mr. Emerson published his first poems. This volume contains some of his most famous verses, viz., "Rhodora," "The Humble Bee," "A Snow-Storm," "Forerunners," and "The Problem."

The essay "Nature," with nine popular lectures, was republished in 1849 under the title of *Miscellanies*. In the same year Thoreau published his *Week on the Concord and Merrimac Rivers*. From that time to this, leaving out the years 1857 and 1861, which were barren, every twelvemonth has been marked by the issuing of a book—sometimes of two or three books, by Concord authors.

Mr. Emerson belongs to no school of phi-

losophy and to no sect in religion. He is a transcendentalist and an independent thinker, and the fact that he was nominated for the lord-rectorship of Glasgow University testifies to the increase of liberal opinions. He is an exemplification of the best definition of transcendentalist, viz., "one who has transferred his faith in forms to faith in practice." In Mr. Alcott's *Concord Days* is given a fine sketch of his character:

"Only a traveler at times, professionally, he prefers home-keeping; is a student of the landscape, of mankind, of rugged strength wherever found; likes plain people, plain ways, plain clothes; prefers earnest persons; shuns egotists, publicity; loves solitude, and knows its uses."

It has been said of Mr. Emerson that he is "as perfect in manners as in mind." To his perfection in the first respect his townspeople can surely testify without exception. To the tradesman and to the scholar alike he shows the same invariable kindly interest and courtesy. Every one, the lowest as well as the highest, is allowed to have, or at any rate to establish, a claim on his time, attention, and good-will. He has the "power of idealizing other people," or rather, perhaps, he has learned,

"without labor,
Without reserve as well, to love his neighbor."

The "study under the pines" is a shrine to which many "pilgrims of high and low degree" journey, and toward which the eyes of bashful and curious sojourners in Con-

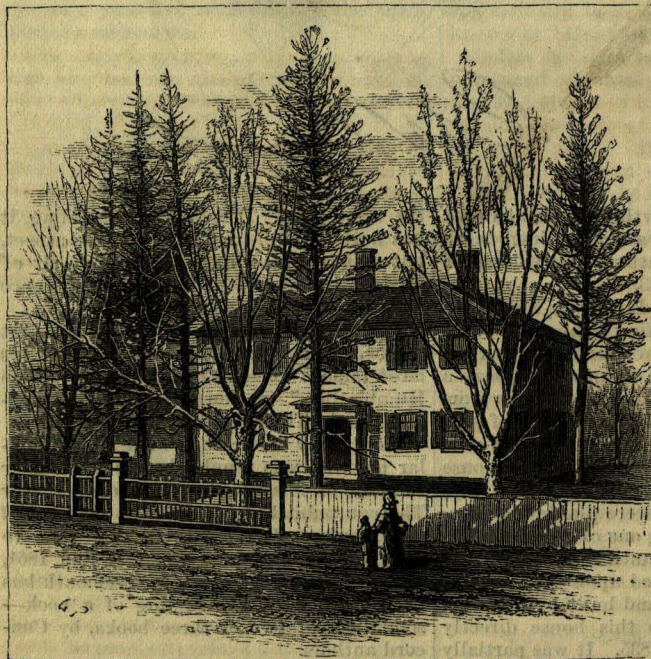
cord look wistfully. Sometimes these sojourners, during a woodland ramble, are fortunate enough to meet Mr. Emerson taking one of his frequent walks in Walden Woods. That is indeed a favor, for they see Concord's greatest man in the most beautiful spot in the township.

Mr. Alcott is Mr. Emerson's brother transcendentalist and friend, and is now in the seventy-fifth year of his age. His fame as a teacher rivals his reputation as an author. He has long been known as an ideal reformer, and is eminently the advocate of the grand and pure in religion and society.

His renowned school in Boston was opened in September, 1834, at the Masonic Temple. Miss Margaret Fuller and Miss Elizabeth Peabody were assistant teachers in this school, and the public owes to the latter the account of it (*Record of a School*, 1874). This was not Mr. Alcott's first attempt at teaching in Boston, for he had formerly taught a school on Tremont Street, near St. Paul's Church, for more than a year. He continued his second school in that city for three years, teaching it, as his biographer, Mr. Sanborn, says, "on Pestalozzian and on Christian principles." Some views on the New Testament which he held and advanced then gave offense to the parents of his pupils, and his advocacy of Grahamism, and inviting Dr. Graham to lecture in his school, were also disliked. The publication of his *Conversations on the Gospels*, in 1837, was followed by severe criticism from

many journals. In consequence of these newspaper attacks the school dwindled rapidly, and when, in 1839, Mr. Alcott insisted on admitting a colored child among his scholars, most of the other children were immediately withdrawn by the aggrieved parents. Only five were left, and the school was closed.

Mr. Alcott's manner of teaching is nearly identical with the so-called "object-teaching" now in use in Boston and in many other cities. He had been married eight years when his Temple school was closed, and with it ended a career of teaching which had lasted fifteen years.



HOME OF EMERSON.

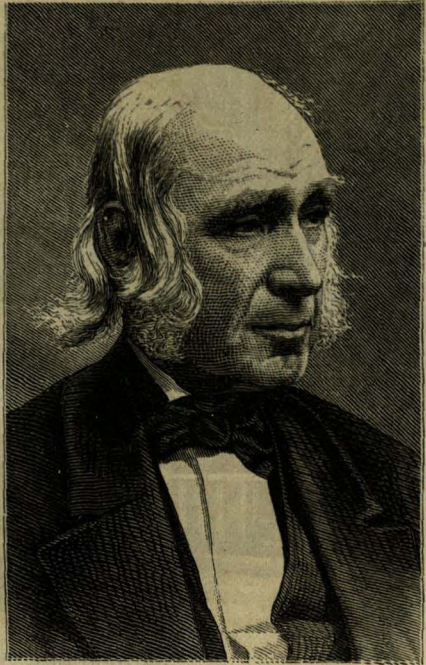
Mr. Alcott was early identified with the transcendental movement, and in 1835, in accordance with his Grahamistic belief, gave up the use of animal food. After closing his school he was invited to join the Brook Farm Association, and afterward the Hopedale Community. He refused both, for what scruple is not known; and, "faithful," says Mr. Sanborn in his biographical sketch, "to his idea of true living," chopped wood and gardenized in Concord.

He had, however, his own idea of a "community," which, after a visit to England in 1843, he began to try to realize. He founded a society on the Wyman Farm, in Harvard. This consisted of ninety acres of land. An old house was upon the farm, and in this Mr. Alcott with his family and associates lived. The place was christened "Fruitlands." The associate founders were few, and the experiment proved a failure either practically or morally. In 1845 Mr. Alcott returned to Concord and bought a farm there. The old house which stood on this farm, and which was rebuilt by him and christened "Hillside," is identical with Hawthorne's "Wayside."

In 1857 Mr. Alcott purchased his present residence, which stands next the "Wayside," and remodeled it very tastefully. At the time of purchase it was one of the most forlorn of square farm-houses, owing all its attractiveness to the wooded hills back of it, and the wide sunny prospect before. It is now the most delightful and unique of houses, nestled brownly under elms, with an apple orchard on its right, and shut off from the traveled way by a rustic fence made by Mr. Alcott himself. Within, it is full of prettinesses and surprises artistically contrived, for the Alcott family can boast an artist. The house is low, wide, and roomy, full of nooks that can be peopled effectively with statues and pictures or stored richly with books.

On this spot Mr. Alcott has since lived. Even now in his later years he is more hale and vigorous than many a man of fifty. His two charming books of essays and the many "Conversations" and lectures given East and West testify to his continual activity of mind, as his health testifies to his activity of body. He has interested himself in promoting the welfare of Concord schools, and for some years held the office of superintendent, giving the children occasional hour-long conversations.

"One of Mr. Alcott's best contributions to literature," say some of his friends, "is his daughter Louisa." This lady took the public heart by storm six years ago by the publication of *Little Women*, and has since been established as a prime favorite with old and young. Miss Alcott has caused much dis-



Amos Bronson Alcott

sension in families: witness the fact of five or six persons wanting the same book at once. She has also wrought endless mischief in young ladies' hearts by causing a whole generation of misses to fall in love with her Laurie, who after all has no original in life, but is original with Miss Alcott. But for all this she has been fully forgiven. Not Miss Burney, not Mrs. Stowe, not Bret Harte after the appearance of the *Heathen Chinee*, ever received the adulation that has been poured out at Miss Alcott's feet by a host of enthusiastic juveniles. And the seniors are not much more moderate. The American public is usually phlegmatic enough, but for once it forgot itself and laughed and cried at the will of a storyteller.

One very amusing instance of tender-heartedness occurred in the city of New York. A gentleman riding on a horse-car was reading the *Old-fashioned Girl*, and was much affected by the mishaps and make-ups of Polly and Tom. Suddenly becoming conscious of a moisture about the eyes, he glanced around suspiciously to see if any one had observed him, and noticed that a young lady on his right was also reading



THE ALCOTT HOME.

eagerly, and undisguisedly crying as she read. Glancing at the book, the gentleman was astonished to find that it was the second volume of *Little Women*.

Tragedy is very well, but comedy is better; so says the general voice. The mass of readers having duly cried over *Hospital Sketches* and *Moods*, forgot their emotion, perhaps, but the hearty laughs they enjoyed at the expense of the March family are not forgettable, and make the book immortal.

The Plumfield school, described in *Little Men*, is from the model of Mr. Alcott's school in Boston, in which Miss Louisa was a pupil. Apropos of this, let me say that perhaps the reality of much of Miss Alcott's so-called fiction is what gives it vividness; or, perhaps, the charm of the story is in the telling. It is hard to define the attraction of her books—an attraction so great that the sale of all has amounted to more than a quarter of a million copies.

In 1873 was published the biography of Thoreau, the poet-naturalist. This book was written by his brother naturalist Channing, and through it have been made known almost all the facts of interest concerning the author of *Walden*. Thoreau has left his record upon Concord, and one is reminded of him at every turn. There is probably not a foot of it that he did not visit; there is not a plant, not a lichen, not a bird, he did not know. His love for

every thing in nature, his "intimacy with out-doors," his fancies for and about little things that most people never notice, such as river rushes, shrub oaks, haze, dust, and smoke, are as pretty and odd as any thing in literature. It seems, when one reads his books, as if Mr. Thoreau had been a child, and Concord his toy-house. He made friends with all sorts of inanimate things, hailed them after an absence, and wrote about them lovingly. He speculated about trees, grasses, flowers, birds, and weeds continually, and imagined all manner of wonderful things about them. The

pieces of drift-wood floating down the Assabet River are argosies in his eyes; oak leaves have the shape of continents; he voyages to Sudbury Meadows as to unknown lands, and thinks being stranded on Cranberry Island as exciting as being



Very much yours
S. M. Alcott.

wrecked on the Northwest coast. He might have said, with Whittier,

"On life's current, he who drifts
Is one with him who rows or sails;
And he who wanders widest, lifts
No more of beauty's jealous veils
Than he who from his doorway sees
The miracle of flowers and trees,
Feels the warm Orient in the noonday air,
And from cloud-minarets hears the sunset call to prayer."

And amidst all his enthusiasm and fancifulness he managed to be so persistently and unexpectedly practical that his readers can not steer clear of facts if they try. He was that rare character which is half poetical, half mathematical. He was always amassing facts, and always falling in love with fancies. He idealized and calculated at once. He wrote something remarkably pretty about water-lilies, and in the next few lines informed the reader that there are seven varieties of lily pads to be found in the Concord River. He delighted in statistics, and between his driest paragraphs would sandwich a thoroughly poetical phrase or sentence and think it quite in place.



HENRY DAVID THOREAU.

*I have met with but one
or two persons in the course
of my life who understood
the art of walking, that
is of taking walks*

FAC-SIMILE OF THOREAU'S WRITING, FROM "WALKING."

Mr. Thoreau was "a college-bred man, with an aptitude for many pursuits of the brain and the hands." Those things he attempted he did almost perfectly. His remark about "having made a pencil, and having no need to make another," has almost passed into a proverb. Like Mr. Alcott, he rebelled against the customs and requirements of social life, and thought men's occupations poor and their rewards petty. His hermit life was an active protestation against social forms. He commenced his life at Walden in 1845, and lived there two years and two months. Walden is a small and beautiful pond a half mile from the village of Concord. Why it is called "Walden," no one knows. Thoreau states that if the name was not derived from some English locality (Saffron Walden, for instance), one might suppose that it was called originally "Walled-in Pond." It seems more probable, however, that the pond received its name from Richard Walden, a famous man in the early his-

tory of Massachusetts Bay. He was Speaker of the General Court of Massachusetts from 1666 to 1679, a magistrate, a major, a colonel, and President of the Province of New Hampshire when it was set apart from Massachusetts. He had been an active trader among the Indians along the banks of the Merrimac and vicinity as early as 1635, and he had been a friend, and also an associate in the General Court, of Major Simon Willard, one of the pioneers of Concord.

On one occasion this Richard Walden was deemed so great an authority that his oath was necessary to fix the name of the Merrimac River, into which the Concord River flows. He affirmed that it was called by the Indians "Merremake," and sometimes "Merremack." His name, in the historical records of New Hampshire, is spelled in various ways—Waldern, Walderne, Waldron, and Walden. He signed his name Waldern. He was killed by the Indians at Cocheco in 1680.

Many word-tributes were paid Mr. Tho-



WALDEN.

rean before his star had fairly risen. Channing says, in his *Near Home*:

"I see Rudolpho cross our honest fields,
Collapsed in thought, cool as a Stagirite
At intellectual problems; mastering,
Day after day, part of the world's concern;
Still adding to his list beetle and bee—
Of what the vireo builds a pensile nest,
And why the peetweet drops her giant egg
In wheezing meadows, odorous with sweet-brake:
Nor welcome dawns nor shrinking nights him
menace,
Still girt about for observation, still
Keen to pursue the devious paths that lead
To knowledge, oft so dearly bought."

And Mr. Emerson said, in his *Wood Notes* (1846):

"It seemed that nature could not raise
A plant in any secret place,
In quaking bog, on snowy hill,
Beneath the grass that shades the rill,

Under the snow, between the rocks,
In damp fields known to bird and fox,
But he would come in the very hour
It opened in its virgin bower,
As if a sunbeam showed the place,
And tell its long-descended race.
It seemed as if the breezes brought him,
It seemed as if the sparrows taught him,
As if, by secret sight, he knew
Where in far fields the orchis grew.
Many haps fall in the field
Seldom seen by wishful eyes,
But all her shows did Nature yield
To please and win this pilgrim wise."

Most of Thoreau's towns-people remember him as a serious, blue-eyed, strong-featured man, whom they met occasionally on the streets, or here and there in the woodlands, or on the river. Only a few, his chosen friends, knew him at all intimately, and some of these did not understand him.



VIEW ON THE ASSABET.

He was so different from other men that it was difficult to comprehend his character, and he was possibly a little brusque in manner and language. There is something irresistibly attractive about his life and himself. The little white house on Main Street in which he used to live is not much associated with him. His home was really out-of-doors, and it is in the woodlands or on the top of some breezy hill that he is best remembered. I fancy, however, that many Concordians remember his "powerful mathematics" more vividly than his finest chapters, and knew him more favorably as a surveyor than as an author.

His life was just as consistently devoted to Nature after he ceased to live with her as a hermit. She was the only lady of his love. He could not live away from her. There is nothing more pathetic than the biographer's account of his longing for his old freedom in the last year of his life, when entirely broken down by disease—of his trying in vain to scrape the frost from the pane nearest him on a sharp winter's morning, and saying, with utter sadness, as he failed, "I can not even see out-doors."

He lies near Hawthorne, in the little Concord cemetery that is being peopled so illustratively. None of his family are now living in the town. His mother is dead, and his only surviving sister resides elsewhere. His house has passed into the hands of Mr. F. B. Sanborn. Three trunks filled with his unpublished manuscripts have lately been deposited by his sister in the library at Concord.

Mr. Channing loves nature better than poetry. This must be true, for most poets are apt to be fickle and to seek for effect, but Mr. Channing never sacrifices the beauty of details to the whole, and is minutely faithful to every part. His descriptive poems, therefore, resemble a succession of small and very perfect pictures.

Mr. Emerson says, in his preface to the *Wanderer* (1871):

"This author has one essential talent in his art—surprise. In the 'Poet's Corner' of the newspaper we read a line or two, and perceiving that we can guess the rest, turn to the telegraphic news. But the reader of the 'Mountain' must proceed to the end of the canto. We like the poet whose thought we can not predict, and whose mind is so full of genuine knowledge that we are sure to be enriched by every verse."

In Mr. Channing's first poems (1843) we find some remarkable ones, viz., "The Earth Spirit," "Reverence," "Death," and "The Poet's Hope." At the close of the latter are written those two lines that have been so widely quoted,

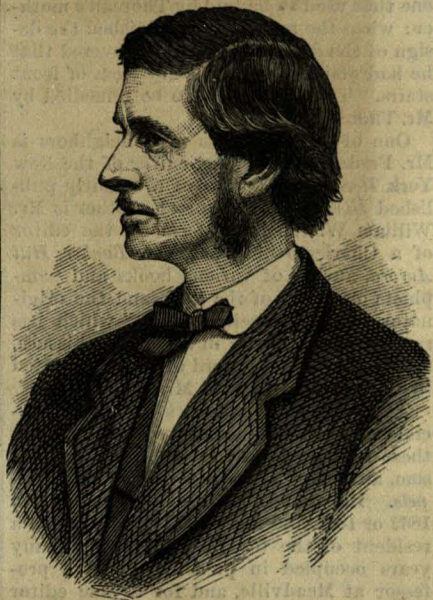
"Hope hath happy place with me:
If my bark sink, 'tis to another sea."

As his critic says, Mr. Channing's poetry "points to new art." Unlike other writers of rhymes, he thinks more of the subject than of the manner of treating it, and thor-

oughly disdains effect. He is like that modern writer of whom it is said, "D—— is more heartily loyal to nature than to himself."

Mr. Channing is a reserved, self-contained man, who lives his life in his own way, quite independently of others. He has his own circle of friends, his goddess Nature, and his books, and like his friend, Mr. Thoreau, is satisfied with these.

Mr. F. B. Sanborn deserves prominent mention among Concord authors. He is well known to the public as the friend, and almost the brother martyr, of John Brown. He taught a successful private school in Concord for several years, and in 1860 had



F. B. SANBORN.

two daughters of John Brown among his pupils. On the evening of April 3, 1860, was made the memorable attempt to kidnap and convey him to Washington. He had previously been summoned to appear before a select committee of members of the Senate to answer concerning the charge of complicity with John Brown. As is well known, the highest legal authority of Massachusetts opined that the Senate had no authority so to summon him. The attempt to kidnap him, which aroused such general indignation, was the consequence of his refusal to obey the summons to the capital. There was a conflict, which resulted in the delivery of Mr. Sanborn by force, and the pursuit of the officers for a long distance over the Boston road.

After the attempt on his liberty, Mr. Sanborn went to Canada, and waited there the

settlement of the disputed question of the Senate's authority. He at length returned to Concord, and went on with his school more than two years longer. He subsequently held the office of Secretary of the Board of State Charities, and at the same time was literary editor of the *Commonwealth*, a Boston weekly. He afterward removed to Springfield, having resigned his secretaryship and entirely discontinued teaching, and became one of the editors of the Springfield *Republican*, of which paper he is now the Boston correspondent or reporter. He resides, as has been previously mentioned, in the Thoreau house, which is not at all changed in exterior from what it was twelve years ago. An odd fact about this house is one that used to be told by Thoreau's mother: when the architect had finished the design of the dwelling, it was discovered that he had omitted the necessary item of front stairs. This defect had to be remedied by Mr. Thoreau himself.

One of Mr. Sanborn's near neighbors is Mr. Frederic Hudson, ex-editor of the New York *Herald* and author of a recently published *History of Journalism*; another is Mr. William W. Wheildon, formerly the editor of a Charlestown paper, the *Bunker Hill Aurora*, author of various books and pamphlets on topics of the time, and the originator of the "Wheildon pear," which has received much notice in agricultural issues, as has also the "Concord grape," originated by his fellow-townsmen, Mr. E. W. Bull.

There are many who deserve more special notice than we can give here. Among these may be mentioned the Rev. Mr. Folsom, author of *Translations of the Four Gospels*. He went to Concord as a teacher in 1862 or 1863, and until recently continued a resident of the town. He was for many years occupied in preaching, was a professor at Meadville, and for a time editor of the *Christian Register*. His translations and Scriptural criticisms are of much value. The late Mr. Simon Brown, editor of the *New England Farmer*, was a prominent and much-beloved citizen of Concord. Mr. George and Mr. Ripley Bartlett (of whom both are poets, and one an excellent comedian, author of a book on *Parlor Theatricals*, which has just been given to the public) are also sons of the place.

There are a number of authors whose names are so associated with Concord that it is hard to realize that the town has no claim on them. Margaret Fuller, afterward Countess d'Ossoli, is one of these, as is also Mr. George William Curtis, who, amidst his brilliant career, seems still to retain a kindly remembrance of the "town of his adoption." Mr. Curtis's connection with Concord is a very slight one. In 1843, after leaving Brook Farm, in West Roxbury, he and his brother went to Concord, where

they remained eighteen months, living with a farmer, and both taking part in the ordinary work of the farm. They were engaged partly in agriculture and partly in study, and for six months tilled a small piece of land on their own account. The farm upon which they lived is in the northeast part of the town, and commands a beautiful view of the village. It is now owned by a gentleman named Tileston. Mr. Curtis allows the town to assert its partial claim upon him, and has presented copies of his books to its library. Mrs. Austin, the authoress of several popular works, until recently resided in Concord.

There are not as many devotees of art as of literature in Concord, yet the town boasts some worth boasting of. There is Miss May Alcott, a sister of the authoress, of whom Mr. Ruskin, the prince of critics, has deigned to say that no one else is competent to copy his favorite Turner; who has almost perfectly reproduced effects which have caused despair in the case of more pretentious artists; who has, so to speak, "seized the spirit of Turner's paintings," and guessed his secrets.

Mr. Daniel French is an artist who, in spite of his youth, has accomplished a great deal of wonderfully good work. His first design gave evidence of genius, and his busts and bass-reliefs are excellent in execution, and most faithful as likenesses. His "Owls" and the "Cow that set Chicago on Fire" introduced him to the public, and his "Dolly Varden," and the model for the "Minute-Man," which is set on the American side of the Revolutionary battle-ground, have gained him much fame. Mr. French is now in Italy, working in Powers's studio.

Some of Concord's "true lovers" are now seriously afraid that it is losing character, and fast becoming like a city suburb. They are distressed to see trees cut away, corners religiously squared, picturesque streets straightened, and railroads crossing quiet and formerly inviolate fields and woods. They are outraged at the idea of picnickers daily reveling in Thoreau's haunts at Walden, and bitterly complain that presently there will not be an angle left to hang a fancy on. "Why not leave Concord, with its rural quiet and its memories, alone?"

A graver question is concerning the literary future of the little village for which the past has done so much. Perhaps its grand "epoch" has really passed by. Perhaps it is true that it is really losing individuality, and sinking to the common level; or perhaps it is destined to reap higher honors: who can help speculating as to its fate?

But in the future, whatever happen, the town can not be robbed of its patrimony of fame. Let its continued record be rich or bare, it shall still be an aristocrat among towns—a place "dowered with the gentility that comes of able thinking."

Reading Habits

Sir Frederick Kenyon, director of the British Museum, recently took occasion to utter a warning against the influence of worthless books and to urge the importance of "the habit of good reading."

Everyone who reads good books, and especially he who has come intellectually unmaimed through a period of admiration for inferior or frivolous literature, knows the fatal ease of picking up a persistent taste for shallow reading. Morning calisthenics are often less welcome to the mind, as it were, than to the body. It is this tendency, through which the mind after a while comes to be revolted by any serious reading, that Sir Frederick deploras.

But the director is equally insistent that "books are not merely for learning, but for life," not only for the additions which they make to knowledge, but for stimulus to thought. Lord Grey supplied a valuable, if rather provocative, corollary when he added that knowledge is only useful in proportion as people have learned to think, and that from the habit of good reading comes independence of mind and spirit.

Perhaps the students of Newcastle to whom Sir Frederick's exhortations were addressed, may have felt that they would like to have some of the terms more clearly defined. What are the bounds between the "light or ephemeral" literature which the speaker condemned and the good books which are of inestimable value?

There was a time when all works of the imagination, poetry, drama, novels, were classed by earnest people as frivolities, permitted to moments of leisure, but otherwise as deleterious as "dram-drinking in the morning." There always will be people as dull as Carlyle was about Charles Lamb, or the possibly fabulous, but most typical person who asked of the ode "To a Skylark," "What does it prove?"

Yet it is hardly for the good of civilization that young people should be taught to think of "Ella," of Swinburne, of Thomas Hardy, for instance, as trivial and unimportant compared with ponderous "Frederick the Great," or of Shelley as a purveyor of soap-bubbles in comparison with the massive worth of some defunct and extinct philosopher. When, some years ago, there arose a fashion of drawing up lists of the world's best books certain scholars staggered humanity and demonstrated their own learning by producing lists which included few books with any claim to be literature at all. Good reading, on this theory,

reading in tomes of great erudition or of important system in science, philosophy, &c. The appeal of a book to the spirit of man has (like the perished flowers that bloom in the spring, *tra la*) nothing to do with the case.

There has, of course, been a change of heart among scholars. Witness the list of 50 best books compiled by

American authorities for the League of Nations, which plans to publish the "best" of current literature from all countries. While it holds no fiction, the list is devoted almost wholly to literature.

But pedantry of that earlier kind, still vigorous enough, well may be condemned by Gray's caveat that the mere amassing of knowledge is not the object of reading. Most universities, at one time or another, have such a professor as that man who "had the largest store of useless knowledge in Europe," and must cherish one with a reputation for awful erudition whereof no man ever sees the fruit.

The power of co-ordinating and of using knowledge is certainly not less important than the possession of knowledge. But it hardly follows that the independent mind always is "developed by the habit of reading good literature," as Lord Gray contends. There are notorious instances to the contrary. It will not suffice to read what is good; a man must read widely, too, if his reading is to foster a critical, independent habit of mind.

A LIBRARIAN'S PUZZLE.

FAMILIARITY with books is to be highly commended, yet the particular kind of intimacy cited by the late Senator George F. Hoar of Massachusetts, in his "Autobiography of Seventy Years," might not appeal to the book-lover. The story told by Mr. Hoar is of a student, a freshman of about 1842. During the first part of his first term the boy took from the college library the largest and thickest volume it contained, the works of Bishop Williams, one of the prelates persecuted by James II.

It was an exceedingly dull treatise of theology, and the freshman, who had no literary tastes of which any one knew, was the only student who had ever called for it.

The boy kept it the six weeks allowed, and then renewed it, taking it back only when the spring came on. He repeated this in his sophomore, junior and senior years.

Doctor Harris, the librarian, was very curious about the matter, and asked some of the boys in regard to it, but none of them knew any explanation. They used to see the book lying on the boy's table, but they never saw him reading it.

At last, during the winter term of the senior year, some of the students broke in unexpectedly on this classmate. It was late in the evening, and he was getting ready for bed. Standing on edge, close to the fire, was Bishop Williams's book. The mystery was solved. It was the student's habit to warm the volume thoroughly and put it into his bed before he got in, thus using it as a warming-pan.

The originator of this scheme became a famous bishop himself. Doubtless he acquired doctrine by absorption.

State Library To Hold 'Open House'

Celebration to Follow Redecoration of Interior Of Main Building.

The state library is all dressed up in a new spring ensemble and is going to celebrate.

Redecoration of the interior of the main library has just been completed, and George Elliott McCormick, state librarian, has issued invitations to the public to attend "open house" during the week of March 24-28.

Programs have been prepared, with addresses and other attractive features each evening of the week. Governor Myers Y. Cooper, who restored the library a year ago, will head the list of speakers, and the program each night will be broadcast through station WEOA at Ohio State university.

Other speakers include J. L. Clifton, state director of education; C. B. Galbreath, former state librarian, now secretary of the Ohio Historical and Archaeological society; A. C. Bolander, director of the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts; Miss Alice Boardman of the state library, a recognized authority on the subject of genealogy, and N. E. Shaw, field editor of the Ohio Farmer. Shaw's lecture will be illustrated.

LIBRARIANS' NIGHT.

Only the addresses of Governor Cooper and Mr. Galbreath, the night of March 24, will be broadcast.

The invitation to the public is extended for each night except Friday, which will be devoted to the city librarians of the Columbus area. The program Tuesday night will be dedicated to the Parent-Teachers associations of Ohio, the farm bureau and the university extension service. Shaw's lecture, "Scenic and Historic Ohio," will be a feature of this program. Wednesday's program will be dedicated to the women's organizations, and will include instrumental and vocal music.

Thursday night will be art, book and education night, with Dr. Clifton and Bolander as the speakers, and an exhibit of papers from the collection of Dard Hunter, Chillicothe, the nation's foremost authority on ancient papers and paper makers, will be shown.

Miss Boardman will speak Friday night, offering reminiscences of her nearly 40 years' connection with the library. Music and a dance presentation will complete the program.

THE COLUMBIAN

Ohio Program For Library Open House

An Ohio program will be given Tuesday night of "open house" week at the Ohio State library, with Mrs. Depew Head, 1980 Suffolk road, as hostess. E. E. Shaw, 1900 Devon road, field editor of Ohio Farmer, will give a talk on "Historical Ohio," illustrated with colored lantern slides.

Mrs. Harold K. Mouser, Marion, chairman of music in the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs, will present an Ohio song for which she wrote both words and music. The Canto quartet will sing, with Mrs. Mouser as accompanist. The song is one of the entries in the state song contest sponsored by Dr. J. L. Clifton, director of education.

Assisting Mrs. Head as hostesses will be Miss Verna Elsinger, home and community director of the Ohio Farm bureau; Miss Agele Koch, assistant director of home economics extension at Ohio State university; Miss Nellie Watts, home demonstration agent in Franklin county; Mrs. Frank Forsythe, officer of the Franklin county council of Parents and Teachers; Mrs. C. A. Field, treasurer, and Mrs. E. M. Poston, legislative chairman of the Ohio Parents and Teachers association.

Music during the reception will be played by mandolinists directed by Frank Russo and composed of E. W. Goodwin, L. W. Goodwin, A. C. Kelly, William Minkner, Charles Ford, L. Romans and W. Boyd.

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Revised Statutes

T. EAGLESON,
of Representatives.

L. WILLIAMS,
of the Senate.

for May 9, 1908,
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state, May 22nd,

W. WALTON,
Veto Clerk.
260G.

Alice Boardman To Speak Friday At State Library

Program in Honor of City
Librarians to Be
Broadcast.



MISS ALICE BOARDMAN will speak on "Reminiscences of 38 Years in the Ohio State Library"

at 7:45 p. m. Friday at the State Library. The Friday night program of the Library's "open house" week is to be in honor of the city librarians.

At 8:15 a musical program will begin which will be broadcast over WEAQ. Students of the Edna Fox Zirkel Studio will sing, assisted by the Florence E. Sheridan Studio. Included on the program will be Mrs. Jessie Riley, Mr. Joseph Flesch, Dr. J. T. Fulton, Dr. E. R. Shilling, Mrs. Ida Grinstead and Miss Helen Kolterman, accompanied by Mrs. Chris Nowell and Florence Sheridan.

A dramalogue, "Romeo and Juliet," will be given at 9 p. m. by the WEAQ Players.

Among the guests at the reception Wednesday evening were: Mrs. Florence E. Richards of Toledo, Mrs. Graccio L. Houlder of Australia, Mrs. Haldynia K. Norville of Buenos Aires, Mrs. Viola D. Romans and Mrs. Elma P. Valentine, who spoke.

"Art, Book and Education Night" is being held Thursday with an address by Mr. Karl S. Bolander, director of the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts and a talk by Dr. J. L. Clifton, director of education.

In the receiving line will be Dr. and Mrs. Clifton, Mr. and Mrs. Bolander and Mr. and Mrs. George Elliott McCormick.

Mrs. Catherine H. Fisher is chairman of arrangements. An exhibit of sixteenth century editions from the State Library collection will be presented. The work of Martin Luther will be exhibited.

The books of Dard Hunter will be displayed and there will also be an art exhibit.

the appointment of

38a—G. & L. A.

STATE'S ATTENTION TURNED TO LIBRARY

First "Open House" Attracts
Visitors and Entertains

Over Radio. 1930

Ohio State Library's first "open house" last week served to attract state-wide attention to that department of state government enterprise. Not only were the crowds at the library in the statehouse impressed with the library's program of work, but thousands of radio listeners heard the program described and listened to some of the best musical talent of the state enlisted in the library's behalf.

Among the week's entertainers were the Ohio State University orchestra, assisted by Norman B. Finch, Fremont, cornet, and Mrs. Edna Fox Zirkel, vocal soloist; Canto Quartet, Marion; a Columbus High School glee club; the Chandler Trio, London; Betty Lou Thompson, dancer; Mrs. Raymond Osburn, soloist; Margery Slagle, reader, and Maryruth Weinrich and Buddy Bennett, dancers.

Speakers included Governor Cooper, C. B. Galbreath of the Ohio Historical and Archaeological Society, E. E. Shaw, field editor of The Ohio Farmer; Mrs. Elma P. Valentine, chairman of the House of Representatives library committee; Karl S. Bolander, director of the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts; Dr. John L. Clifton, state director of education, and Miss Alice Boardman of the Ohio State Library.

shall be immediately turned into the to the credit of the fund of the state provided by law for other state institutions shall be made on the recommendation of the members of such board and paid on requisitions upon the auditor of president and secretary of said board; er it becomes necessary to pay out pre- nses of conducting a state agricultural may retain from its receipts a sufficient ay such premiums and such expenses rs of the secretary and shall thereafter he balance in its hands into the state n account of such premium payments, conducting such agricultural exhibi- tion 2 hereof. Within five days after the Ohio state board of agriculture,

"The Ohio State Board of Agriculture," appointment and term of.

Removal of members.

Vacancy, how filled.

Compensation of members.

Qualifications of members.

Inventory and audit of accounts.

Receipts and expenditures.

State agricultural exhibition, expense, how paid.

PLANS of the Ohio State library for its first "open house" week, opening Monday night, are receiving enthusiastic co-operation of the club women of the state.

Governor and Mrs. Myers Y. Cooper will head the receiving line for the first evening, when state officers and

employees and librarians from practically every county of the state will be honor guests. Former State Librarian C. B. Galbreath and Mrs. Galbreath and State Librarian George Elliott McCormick and Mrs. McCormick will receive with the Governor and Mrs. Cooper.

Tuesday night, designated as "Parents' and Teachers' Association and Rural Organization Night" will be in charge of Mrs. Depew Head as hostess. The receiving line will include Mrs. Hamilton Shaffer, of Dayton, president of the state Parents' and Teachers' association; Director of Agriculture and Mrs. Perry L. Green, Mr. L. B. Palmer, president of the Ohio Farm Bureau federation; Mr. J. G. Collicott, superintendent of Columbus public schools, and Mrs. Collicott; Mrs. Walter Kirk, master of the State Grange; Mr. L. J. Taber, master of the National Grange, and Mrs. Taber; Mrs. Ethel Peters Simons, extension secretary of the Ohio Parents' and Teachers' association; Mrs. H. C. Caldwell, president of the Franklin county Parents' and Teachers' association and Librarian McCormick.

Mrs. Head will have as assistant hostesses: Miss Verna Elsinger, Miss Adele Koch, Miss Nellie Watts, Mrs. Frank Forsythe, Mrs. C. A. Field, Mrs. E. M. Poston and Mrs. C. M. Valentine.

Members and officers of women's organizations of the state will be honored at the library on Wednesday evening, when Miss Alice Boardman will be in charge of the program. The receiving line for Wednesday night

will include Mrs. W. N. Harder of Marion, president of the Ohio Federation of Women's clubs; Mrs. Florence Richard of Toledo, president of the Ohio Women's Christian Temperance union; Mrs. James B. Patton, vice regent of the Columbus chapter and Mrs. C. B. Galbreath, regent of the Anne Simpson Davis chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; Mrs. Siesel C. Myers, president of the Columbus Federation of Women's clubs, and Librarian and Mrs. McCormick.

Thursday night has been designated "Art, Book and Education Night," and Mrs. Catherine H. Fisher is chairman. Director of Education J. L. Clifton and Mrs. Clifton; Mr. Karl S. Bolander, director of the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, and Mrs. Bolander, and Librarian and Mrs. McCormick will receive the library's visitors at this time.

City librarians will be guests of the staff of the state library on the final evening of "open house" week. Mr. and Mrs. McCormick, Mr. and Mrs. Galbreath, Mr. Earl Manchester, Librarian of Ohio State university library, and Mrs. Manchester; Mr. John J. Pugh of Columbus Public library, and Mrs. Pugh; Miss Dorothea Conrad of Capital university library, Mrs. Sara Bilby of Bexley Public library, Miss Emma Schaub of Columbus Public School library; Mrs. Russell Swinehart of Grandview library; Miss Thelma Reinberg of Battelle Memorial Institute and Miss Alice Boardman of Ohio State library will be in the receiving line. Miss Mary E. Downey is chairman.

of January, it shall be the duty of the treasurer who shall be appointed by the board of agriculture, to see that the necessary duties are performed. The board of agriculture, clerks, agents, and all necessary and to

board of agriculture, of this act, shall succeed in the act of 1846, and shall perform all the duties, and assume all the powers, and assume all the powers of the general assembly; of the apportionment of the state; and the powers of this act shall impose upon the board of which it is complete the work to be done by the board of agriculture, and all the acts and powers of the board in the disbursement of the money, which ratification by the auditor of state of the accounts of the accounts for the past year.

the city of Columbus on the second Monday in the month of agriculture, agricultural societies

organized under the laws of the state and conducted under the rules of the Ohio state board of agriculture, and holding fairs as provided in section 3698 of the Revised Statutes of Ohio, or the duly authorized delegates therefrom, for the purpose of deliberation and consultation as to the wants, prospects and conditions of agriculture throughout the state; and at such meeting the several reports from the societies shall be delivered to the president of the state board of agriculture; provided that in any county having no agricultural society, organized and conducted under the laws of the state and rules of the Ohio state board of agriculture, the presidents of the farmers' institutes of the county, and holding meetings under the auspices and by the direction of the Ohio state board of agriculture, or a majority thereof, are hereby authorized and empowered to choose a representative to the annual meeting, who shall upon presentation of the proper certificate be entitled to all the privileges conferred on representatives from county agricultural societies. At this annual

Purpose of annual meeting.

Farmers' institutes, power of presidents to choose representatives.