

THE SHORT STORY.

Some of the World's Great Novelists Have Made Themselves Masters of It.

With few exceptions, the world's great novelists have been masters of the short story, says the International Monthly. They hammered at the short story until they perfected it as a literary form as distinct and self-contained as a sonnet or a ballad.

They found that the ideal short story, like the ideal lyric, can deal with only one main emotion or experience—that the slightest irrelevancy is fatal—that every detail must be bound with living cords to the heart—that every word must bear on the creature; every man, be he but a street scavenger, is a whole bundle of men, and every one of them of varying moods. Where is the chance to paint a man in a short story? At best there can be but a glimpse of one passing experience, one isolated emotion. Imagine "Tom Jones" in a single chapter, or "Le Père Goriot" in a couplet.

There have been of late few strenuous and interesting attempts at a cross between the novel and a short story. The resulting hybrid has been sufficiently alarming to prevent, it is to be hoped, further experiments in this direction. It is worth noting, however, that the hysterical and emotional novelette is less painful to encounter than the amorphous and hydrocephalic short story. In the matter of literary forms the mixture of bloods and crossing of strains seems less successful than biologists declare them to be in the animal world.

COWBOY BLACKSMITHING.

The Holes for Bolts Were Made by Firing Bullets Through the Tires.

"Up at my camp near the Four Peaks," said Jim Berk, reports the Arizona Graphic, the well-known cattleman, "the boys are all handy with a rifle. We've a lot of guns up there. The old-fashioned black-powder Winchester has been discarded and nothing but the best goes. Most of the new guns were bought during the Spanish war, when we would experiment all day with tree trunks and rough trenches, learning the art of war at home. We found that a bullet from one of the new Winchester, driven by smokeless powder, was good for four feet and more of pine timber and for more than an inch of iron. I thought the boys had done about everything in the shooting line that could be done long ago, but I was mistaken. I sent them up a wagon. In hauling down some firewood they broke the bolsters all to flinders. The bolsters held up the wagon bed, you know. Well, the boys figured out all right the rebuilding of the wood parts, but came near being stumped on the iron fixings. They got some old iron wagon tires and cut them in proper lengths, but hadn't a way that they could see to punch the necessary bolt holes. Finally the question was solved. One of the boys carefully marked the places for the bolts, stood the pieces of tire against a tree and put a bullet, 30 caliber, through the tire at each place marked. It was a novel sort of blacksmithing, but it worked."

LAWTON'S LAST DAY.

The One Spent with His Wife—She Would Go Anywhere with Him.

"I called on Gen. and Mrs. Lawton," says a correspondent of Collier's Weekly, "the last afternoon they were together. She was sitting near his desk at the division headquarters, while he was looking over the typewriter's copy of his orders for the expedition, which he had written with a pencil on a pad in his full, round hand.

"I had brought him a photograph of himself which was taken last spring. Anything about the general interested Mrs. Lawton at once. She scrutinized the likeness carefully from many points of view, and concluded that it was very good. Since it was taken, however, the general had grown a full beard.

"I shall have to make another on that account," I suggested.

"But, as she looked first at the picture and then at the general, she seemed dubious about this.

"I don't know as I am going to let him keep the beard," she explained. It does very well for the present, for he has so little chance to shave when he is at the front."

"Would you go with him to a post hop in the states if he were to? I asked her, jokingly.

"Oh, I would go with him anywhere!" she replied earnestly.

A "Graum Invention."

A Scottish paper tells us an anecdote in connection with the new electric system just opened in Aberdeen. Two farm servants came to Aberdeen to spend New Year's day. Arriving by train they immediately made their way to the terminus of the electric tramway circuit, where, after looking at the new creation with much wonder, they decided upon having a ride. Getting on the top of the car and after getting well along George street, "Wull," said man Jock, "this is a graum invention. In Edinburgh I saw them drive the cars with an iron rape aneth street, in Dundee the pu' them with an engine, but, michty man, wha wad a' thought they could ca' them wi' a' chooping rod!"

Like Our Civil War.

Since their introduction the speed of ocean steamers has increased from 8% to 22% knots an hour, and their passenger capacity 20 fold. The engine power is 40 times as great, while the rate of coal consumption per horse-power per hour is only one-third what it was in 1840.

LAMP-SIGNALING BY DAY.

Lantern Shuttered in a Barrel with Black Canvas Can Be Seen for Many Miles.

A suggestion was once made to the war office that as flag signaling often involved men's exposing themselves on the sky line, thereby risking loss of life and changing the communication of message to foes as well as friends, it would be well to encourage lamp-signaling in the daylight, says the London Telegraph. An ordinary signal lamp at the back of a barrel is in sufficient darkness for its flashes to be perfectly visible on an ordinary day, and they are fairly well shut out from the enemy. A neodyline lantern shuttered-off and rooled with black canvas can be seen for miles on the brightest day, and its messages can be kept absolutely private. Maj. Ernest Rhodes, D. S. O., Royal Berkshire regiment, has a "dual alphabet" for insuring accuracy of messages. Thus instead of "A B" it should be "A K B X." A man receiving "K" followed by any other letter than "X" (the twin) would at once know something was wrong, and signal "Repeat."

An obvious improvement to our signaling system would be the more general use of code words and their substitution for numerals. A single numeral involves at least five motions of the flag or Morse key. With the combinations of four letters each there could be enough code words formed to send all possible messages, let alone such things as men's regimental numbers. If every man on enlistment was assigned a code word as well as a regimental number the saving of time and expense in telegraphing would be enormous.

TO PROTECT TERRAPIN.

Bill in Maryland Legislature Providing a Close Season Under Penalty.

To prevent the diamond-back terrapin, that delight of epicures, from becoming extinct in Maryland, which furnishes the choicest specimen of this delicacy in the world, the State Game Protective association has introduced a bill for its protection. It provides that no person shall catch, trap or take in any manner in this state any diamond-back terrapin between April 1 and November 1 in each year, or of any size less than five inches long, under a penalty of ten dollars for each terrapin. The destruction of terrapin eggs at any time is prohibited under a penalty of not less than \$25 fine nor more than \$100. No person shall keep any diamond-back terrapin, alive or dead, in any pond, inclosure or tank between April 1 and November 1, under a penalty of ten dollars for each terrapin so kept. The bill also prohibits the sale of terrapin or fish during the close season. The fish commissioners are exempt from this act while pursuing their duties as fish culturists. Scientists may also be exempt by permission of the state game warden. The passage of the bill is assured. It will have the effect of greatly reducing, if not entirely cutting off, the supplies of Chesapeake diamond backs out of season, as it will close up the hundreds of ponds in which terrapin are secretly kept to supply the demand at any price of the hotels in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

FAST EXPRESS TRAINS.

Some in France Reach a Speed Greater Than is Attained in England.

Improvements in the speed of certain trains on the Northern railway of France are attracting attention in Europe just now, says the New York Tribune. The distance between Calais and the Nord station in Paris is 185.5 miles. Some trains make the trip in less than four hours, or at the rate of 50 or more miles an hour. One, which runs only four days a week, the Mediterranean train de luxe, covers the distance in three hours and a quarter, which is equal to 57 miles an hour. This run is made without a stop. The fastest train made on a daily train on the Northern railway of France is three hours and a half, or 53 miles an hour. One of the London newspapers, referring to the topic, says that the nearest approach to this speed in England are these two: The trip is made from Paddington to Exeter, 194 miles, in 3 hours and 43 minutes, or at the rate of 52.2 miles an hour, and from Euston to Liverpool, 194 1/2 miles, in three hours and three-quarters, or at the rate of 51.6 miles an hour. It is interesting to compare with these figures the running time of the Empire State express. This train covers 444 miles in eight hours and a quarter, which represents an average speed of 53.8 miles an hour.

Gardening in Alaska.

Two American women conducting a mission school on the Yukon, 1,500 miles from its mouth, tested the Alaska climate last year in kitchen gardening, beginning operations in the open ground May 16. In spite of a lack of rain for two months and cold storms in midsummer, they harvested 250 bushels of potatoes, 500 cabbages, 80 bushels of turnips and a few bushels of carrots. The strawberry bed set out grew finely, but the crop of berries was destroyed by mice.

Like Our Civil War.

One of the strangest facts regarding the present war is that English and Boer have so intermarried in South Africa that in countless instances brothers are fighting against brothers, and fathers against their own sons.

Growing Purchases Abroad.

The United States imported more merchandise last year from every quarter of the globe than it took in 1898.

PROFIT IN A TRADE DOLLAR.

How an Indignant Michigan Man Lost His Indignation and Gained 65 Cents.

A man who came recently to Chicago from Michigan received a trade dollar in Chicago when he paid his fare to the collector of a bus line at the Park row station. It was dark when the transaction took place, and the Michigan man did not discover the character of the dollar till the next day, when he wanted to pay his hotel bill. He was indignant.

"That fellow thought I was a farmer," he said. "I will write to the manager of the bus line and tell him to send that collector back to me with an up-to-date dollar. I am no back number, and neither was the bill I gave him."

The more the Michigan man thought about the matter the more his indignation grew. He had tried to pass the dollar at a cigar stand earlier in the day for 90 cents. The clerk refused to accept it at any price. Finally the victim of the bus collector resolved to forego letter writing and go to the bus manager in person. On the way he noticed a display of gold coins in a window.

"Guess I'll go in and see what the thing is worth, anyway," the Michigan man said to himself. He went into the store where the coins were displayed and threw the trade dollar onto the counter, asking: "What'll you give for it?"

The dealer examined the coin a minute and replied: "I'll give you \$1.65."

FAMOUS PACKS OF CARDS.

Jacks That Represented the Most Famous Diplomats of Europe.

A pack of cards was recently sold in a London stationer's for \$600. It is one of the handsomest Italian copperplate card games called "terocchi di Montagna," engraved during the fifteenth century, says Collier's Weekly. Another pack of cards recently sold at Paris for 1,000 francs. Each of the cards in this pack is a masterpiece of the engraver's art, and all the figures in the game were historical personages. The queen of hearts, for instance, represented Queen Anne, the king of hearts being her husband, Prince George of Denmark. The queen of diamonds was Queen Anne Sophia of Denmark, the queen of clubs the then crown princess of Prussia, the wife of Frederick William I, and the queen of spades Princess Anne of Russia, later on the czarina. The jacks in this deck of cards represent the most prominent diplomats of Europe at the same time.

Another famous set of cards is an incomplete pack of old Spanish cards found in Mexico with the supposed bones of one of the followers of Cortez.

HER THIN ARM LOOKED PLUMP

That is Why All the Other Girls Are Going to That Photographer Now.

She was a pretty, slender young woman who was having her "picture taken," and he was a photographer of resources, says the New York Times. She was wearing a décolleté gown and in the picture had just a bit of the upper part of the arm which was just. It was a pretty arm, but it was just possible that in a picture where outlines would count largely in the effect it might appear too slender.

"I just know," said the girl in the voice of one who has a real grievance, "that I shall look like a rail in the picture. I am not so thin, but then, I am not very fat, of course, and my arm is sure to look like a broomstick."

"Not a bit of it," said the photographer; "just take this and see the effect."

"This" was a soft rubber ball which the young woman placed under the arm that was to be "taken" and with a wee bit of pressure it plumped out the flesh on either side beautifully, and now all the slender girls in that set are going to that photographer to be photographed.

ZANGWILL'S LITTLE JOKE

Conversation About the Famous Writer's "Wife" That Was Overheard by Him.

"I was married in Ventnor, at least so I gather from the local newspapers, in whose visitors' lists there figured the entry, 'Mr. and Mrs. Zangwill,' says I Zangwill in the Philadelphia Times. "I do not care to correct it, because, the lady being my mother, it is perfectly accurate and leads to charming misconceptions. 'There, that's he,' loudly whispered a young man, nudging his sweetheart, 'and there's his wife with him! That! Why, she looks old enough to be his mother,' replied the young lady. 'Ah,' said her lover, with an air of conscious virtue and a better bargain, 'they're awfully mercenary, these literary chaps.' The reverse of this happened to a young friend of mine. He married an old lady who possessed a very large fortune. During the honeymoon his solicitous attentions to her excited the admiration of another old lady, who passed her life in a bath chair. 'Dear me!' she thought, 'how delightful this degenerate days to see a young man so attentive to his mother!' and dying soon after, left him another large fortune."

An Expensive Shroud.

A court milliner of Queen Victoria who died some years ago left strict injunctions that her body should be entirely wrapped in point lace, and her shroud cost several thousand dollars.

Bulletin Financier.

Mardi, 10 avril 1900.

COMPTOIR D'ÉCHANGES (CLEARING HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Montant de l'opération de la semaine terminée le 7 avril 1900: \$5,691,610.03 954,174.00

MARCHE MONÉTAIRE.

Nouvelle-Orléans. — Papier circulant... 7 per cent. Prête sur garanties collatérales... 5.26 Prête sur garanties collatérales... 5.26

CHANGÉ.

Le STERLING est ferme. 482 @ 492 1/2. Les FRANCS sont fermes. France de commerce (60 jours)... 5.21

LE DOLLAR AU VUE DE NEW YORK.

Traites de commerce \$100 de prime. Trinité de banque \$100 de prime par \$1000.

VENTES À LA BOURSE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

10 actions Orléans RR... 56. 10,000 L. & N. United... 100.

ACTIONS ET BONS.

Canal & Banking Co... 100. 110. 110. 110. 110. 110. 110. 110. 110. 110.

MOUVEMENT DU COTON.

A. J. W. W. — A la Nouvelle-Orléans depuis le 1er septembre... 1,697,762 balles.

MARCHE DE NEW-YORK.

Calmes et stable. Coton... 8.00 @ 8.01. Canebe... 8.01 @ 8.02.

MARCHE DE LIVERPOOL.

Calmes et stable. Coton... 8.00 @ 8.01. Canebe... 8.01 @ 8.02.

MARCHE DE LA HAVRE.

Calmes et stable. Coton... 8.00 @ 8.01. Canebe... 8.01 @ 8.02.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Mardi, 10 avril 1900.

MARCHE DE LA NILE-ORLEANS SUR PLACER.

Le Coton Exchange a rapécifié aujourd'hui les ventes de 1,300 balles et 250 arrivées.

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Futures de la Nouvelle-Orléans.

Calmes. Canebe... 7.76 @ 7.78. Canebe... 7.78 @ 7.80.

MARCHÉ DIVERS.

Le Coton Exchange a rapécifié aujourd'hui les ventes de 1,300 balles et 250 arrivées.

MARCHE DE NEW-YORK.

Calmes et stable. Coton... 8.00 @ 8.01. Canebe... 8.01 @ 8.02.

Futures de New-York.

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MARCHE DE LIVERPOOL.

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PROVISIONS.

AU BOARD OF TRADE.

MARCHÉ DE LA NILE-ORLEANS SUR PLACER.

Les prix suivants de café sont ceux du Board of Trade.

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ANNONCES JUDICIAIRES.

VENTES PAR LE SHERIFF.

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