

\$25, then to \$30, then to \$50 and finally to \$75. He was for thirty-one years the literary critic of the "Tribune," and almost as long reader for Harper & Brothers. Conjointly with Charles A. Dana, he was editor of the "American Cyclopaedia," a work of singular and varied excellence, well adapted to the wants of the American public. He was not one of those unprincipled critics who make striking articles at the expense of the authors whom they review. If he had a fault as a reviewer it was his excessive leniency, particularly for the errors of inexperience. During the last few years of his life his circumstances were easy, his editorship of the cyclopaedia having yielded him a sum approaching \$100,000. He was one of the most laborious of men. He not only worked very hard, but he did many things. Not one man in fifty could have seriously attempted the labor which he performed without self-destruction, and no man could do so much as he did and do all of it well. But, thirty years ago, literary labor in New York was so poorly compensated that the person who was obliged to live by his pen had no choice but to do two or three days' work in one. If every literary man who was indebted to him for kindly recognition and charitable judgment should contribute a memorial stone, George Ripley would have a lofty and impressive monument. One of his editorial associates said of him: "He has long been the head of American criticism, and he spoke with an authority conceded to no one else. His judgments, based upon the amplest knowledge and the purest taste, were always marked by the kindness of a large and helpful nature. Never failing to recognize good from any quarter, he never praised a bad book; and yet no critic of his prominence has ever left so few wounds." He married, in 1826, Sophia Willard Dana, daughter of Judge Francis Dana of Massachusetts. She died in 1861, having been for some years a devoted member of the Roman Catholic church. In 1865 he married Augusta Schlossberger, a German lady of intellectual tastes similar to his own, who survived him. He died in New York July 4, 1880. He was interred at Woodlawn cemetery, near New York, and his remains were followed to the grave by eminent representatives of all the learned professions and liberal arts.

ROBINSON, Solon, journalist and author, was born near Tolland, Conn., Oct. 21, 1803. He had little early education, and being of feeble frame, turned from the carpenter's bench to the peddler's wagon, but soon developed a literary taste, and earned his first laurels in the columns of the Albany "Cultivator." His rural experiences naturally supplied his themes for many years; he wrote with success on topics of the farm for various newspapers and magazines, and was long the agricultural editor of the New York "Tribune." Here a different field opened to him in the life of the slums and tenement houses; out of these studies grew his once famous novel, "Hot Corn" (1853), which rapidly reached a sale of 50,000 copies. "Facts for Farmers" (1864), in his former vein, was published by subscription, and was almost equally successful. His other books were: "How to Live; or, Domestic Economy Illustrated" (1860), and "Mewonitoc" (1867). He purchased a farm near Jacksonville, Fla., about 1870, and died there Nov. 3, 1880.

SMALLEY, George Washburn, journalist, was born at Franklin, Mass., June 2, 1833. He was graduated from Yale college in 1853, read law at Worcester, Mass., in the office of Geo. F. Hoar, and after a course of study at Harvard law school was admitted to the bar in 1856, and practiced in Boston, Mass., until the breaking out of the U. S. civil war. By conviction a radical in public, political, and social affairs, he was affiliated with Garrison,

Phillips, and their associates. When the war began he entered the service of the New York "Tribune," as correspondent on the field, going to South Carolina, then to Virginia, and was in the campaigns of the Shenandoah and the Potomac. After the battle of Antietam (Sept. 17, 1862), in which he served as aide to Gen. Joseph Hooker, Mr. Smalley rode thirty miles to a railroad train for the North, rode as fast as it would carry him to New York city, wrote his famous account of that battle on the cars, and furnished it to his journal in season to enable the "Tribune" to publish in advance of all its contemporaries his account of the engagement. The letter was worthy to make his reputation as a war correspondent, for, written at the speed with which it was produced, it was unsurpassed, perhaps unequaled, by any effort of the kind made during the whole four years of the conflict. It fixed his place in journalism, if he chose to have one. The same year he was married to Phœbe Gamant of Boston, Mass., adopted daughter of Wendell Phillips, and went upon the editorial staff of the New York "Tribune." During the draft riots in the summer of 1863, in the city of New York, he was one of four gentlemen of the editorial corps who were associated in organizing and conducting the defence of the "Tribune" building against the rioters. The place is spoken of by one of those gentlemen as having been a perfect arsenal of explosives after the Monday night in July, when an attack was made upon it, and repelled by the police.

In 1866 Mr. Smalley visited Europe at a day's notice, to observe and report the war between Prussia and Austria. In May, 1867, he went to England with power to organize the European bureau of his journal, and established himself in that city, permanently, as its manager. In the Franco-German war (1870), the letters and dispatches to the "Tribune" from the seat of that struggle were all received at London, where they were edited by the bureau under Mr. Smalley's supervision, and then transmitted by cable to the New York newspapers. The partnership between the London "Telegraph" and the New York "Tribune" in the collection and issue of this news, thus executed by Mr. Smalley, was pronounced by the English war-historian Kinglake "an era in the journalism of Europe." Since then, while holding a continuous residence in London as the representative of the "Tribune," Mr. Smalley has left England from time to time for professional visits to Paris, Berlin, etc. Upon occasions of interest, and through his letters to the "Tribune," the American public has been kept apprised of the events of European and especially of English affairs and society, in what has been doubtless the best foreign correspondence of any American journal. In 1890 he published "London Letters and Some Others," in two volumes.

TAYLOR, Bayard, author, was born in Kennett Square, Chester county, Pa., Jan. 11, 1825, of Quaker and South German parentage. His earliest American ancestor was wealthy, and came to the New World with Wm. Penn in 1681. The lands he bought descended to the son, thence to the grandson, Bayard. His grandfather married a Lutheran of pure German extraction, and passed under the ban of excommunication by the Quakers. Bayard's mother, although a Lutheran, became greatly attached to the Quaker doctrines, and Quaker speech



Gotha for the purpose of studying the life and writings of Goethe. A brother, Col. Frederic Taylor, having fallen on the battlefield of Gettysburg, Mr. Taylor returned to the United States and soon after resumed his professional labors until 1867, when he revisited Switzerland and Italy. In the latter place he was stricken down with Roman fever, but finally recovered, and going to Corsica in 1868, devoted himself to a translation of "Faust." The work was published simultaneously in the United States, England, and Germany, meeting with rare favor. Returning to America in 1870, Mr. Taylor was elected professor of German literature in Cornell university and delivered a course of lectures during the year. At the termination of his professorship he again crossed the Atlantic and searched in Weimar for material for the biographies of Goethe and Schiller. The early part of 1874 found the poet-traveler wandering again in Italy and Egypt. He visited Iceland in midsummer of that year and participated in the millennial celebration, after which he returned to his American home, and in 1876 took his accustomed seat in the "Tribune" office. It was the centennial year of American independence and Mr. Taylor was the poet selected to deliver the national ode on the centennial Fourth of July. A year passed by, and although failing health required rest, Mr. Taylor became U. S. minister to Berlin. Previous to his departure he was the recipient of a series of popular testimonials, the last being a banquet given Apr. 4, 1878, at which the poet Bryant presided. He sailed for Berlin, and in May entered upon his official duties. In addition to his books of travel previously mentioned, he published: "Travels in Greece and Rome" (New York, 1859); "At Home and Abroad" (1859-62); "Colorado: A Summer Trip" (1867); "Byways of Europe" (1869); "Travels in Arabia" (1872); and "Egypt and Iceland" (1874). As a novelist Mr. Taylor published: "Hannah Thurston" (1863); "John Godfrey's Fortunes" (1864); "The Story of Kennett" (1866); "Joseph and His Friend" (1870), and "Beauty and the Beast, and Tales of Home" (1872). In these works the plots and scenes were all laid in his native land. As a poet he exerted every effort of his being. His poetical works, in addition to those already mentioned, comprise "The Poet's Journal" (Boston, 1862); "Poems" (1865); "The Picture of St. John" (1869); "Ballad of Abraham Lincoln" (1869); "The Masque of the Gods" (1872); "Lars, a Pastoral of Norway" (1873); "The Prophet: A Tragedy" (1874); "Home Pastorals" (1875); "The National Ode" (1876), and "Prince Deukalion: A Lyrical Drama" (1878). The flow of thought or fancy in his poetry is striking for the qualities that appeal to the ear and eye; his lines are sonorous in diction and rhythm, and rich in sound, color, and metrical effects. Many of his songs, oriental idyls, and especially his Pennsylvanian ballads have passed into lasting favor. His unequalled rendering of "Faust" in the original metres has made his fame as a poet secure. While in Germany he revised the proofs of "Prince Deukalion," and it was there he wrote an "Epicidium" on the death of Bryant. His miscellaneous works embrace a "Masque," written on the occasion of the golden wedding of his parents in 1868; "A School History of Germany to 1871" (1874); "The Boys of Other Countries" (1876), and "The Echo Club" (1876), in which he gave burlesque imitations of the verse of various modern poets, for which sparkling by-play he displayed a native readiness. Mr. Taylor edited a great many works and translations, in which he was ably assisted by his wife, who was eminently capable, and who zealously promoted her husband's literary career. Many of his works written in English were translated by her into German, and many posthumous collections of his poems and miscellanies

were edited by her or under her direction. Mr. Taylor was of a commanding figure, with a frank countenance, a rich voice, and pleasing manner. He died in Berlin, Germany, Dec. 19, 1878. His remains, on arriving at New York, were honored with a solemn reception by the German societies, and an oration by Algernon S. Sullivan; his body lay in state in the city hall, New York, and was afterward interred in Kennett, the place of his birth.

McELRATH, Thomas, publisher, was born in Williamsport, Pa., May 1, 1807. Mr. McElrath when a boy learned the printer's trade, but as he approached manhood he took up the study of law. Removing to New York city, he became head salesman in the book department of the Methodist Book Concern, and in 1825 formed a partnership with Samuel Bangs in the publication of school and religious books. Afterward resuming his legal studies he was admitted to the bar in New York city, where in partnership with William Bloomfield and Chas. P. Daly, he was soon engaged in a lucrative practice. In 1834 Mr. McElrath was a member of the board of trustees of the public school society, a close corporation composed mainly of distinguished citizens who elected their own members. His first colleagues were William Beach Lawrence and Hamilton Fish. In 1838 he was elected one of the thirteen representatives of New York city in the state legislature, the members at that time being elected on a general ticket. In 1840 he was appointed by Gov. Seward one of the ten masters in chancery for the city of New York. In 1841 he joined Horace Greeley in the conduct of the New York daily "Tribune," the firm name being Greeley & McElrath. It was Mr. McElrath's judicious management, and his business sagacity, upholding Mr. Greeley's editorial genius, that placed that journal on its foundation of solid prosperity. For the first seventeen years of its establishment, until his withdrawing in 1858, he directed its financial affairs. About the time of his assuming the business management of the "Tribune," he was appointed by Gov. Fish state director of the Bank of America. In 1845 and '46 he was alderman of the third ward of the city of New York. In 1857 he was elected corresponding secretary of the American institute. In 1861 he was appointed by President Lincoln appraiser general for the New York district, which at that time embraced all the custom houses in the state of New York, as well as all those in the southern states south of Virginia. He resigned this office in 1864 to resume the post of publisher of the "Tribune." In 1866 he was appointed chief appraiser of foreign merchandise at the port of New York. In 1867 he was appointed commissioner to the Paris exposition. In 1872 Mr. McElrath published his "Dictionary of Words and Phrases used in Commerce," which received high commendation, and is yet an accepted authority in the courts. In 1873 he was appointed U. S. commissioner to the Vienna international exhibition, and later, in the same year, he was made, with John Jay as colleague, special commissioner to adjust and superintend the American department in that exhibition. In 1876 he was secretary and general executive officer of the New York state commission at the Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia. In 1881 he was named in the act of congress one of the commissioners of the World's Fair, which was intended to be held in New York



Thomas McElrath