

study new plants and determine their qualities and uses under cultivation, investigate the animal and insect pests of the vegetable kingdom that have injured and still menace local plantations, devise means to aid in providing the growing population of the continent with good things to eat and plenty of them, prosecute inquiries into the medicinal virtues of herbs, and, in a word, canvass the whole possibilities for good of the world of plants, we may expect to see our country enter upon a scene of prosperity not unworthy of our hopes and promises." This is an idea that deserves to meet with encouragement, and it is to be hoped that its suggestion will lead to its fulfilment. Charles Howard Shinn, in an article entitled "West of the Sierras," gives an excellent idea of the rapid growth and development of the State of California, as well as of its climatic advantages, the beauty of its scenery, the productiveness of its soil, etc. Mr. Shinn's descriptions of the winter resorts of California will have a particular interest at this season.

—The "Handbook of Florida," by Charles Ledyard Norton, just issued by Longmans, Green, & Co., New York, will certainly prove useful to tourists and intending settlers. The book is illustrated by forty-nine maps and plans, especial attention being given to county maps showing lines of railway. It is claimed that these last have never before been published together in such convenient shape.

—The Farmers' Alliance of Delaware has invited Professor Edmund J. James, president of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, to address the State convention at Wilmington on the subject of "Our System of Taxation in its Relation to the Farming Classes." The farmers wish to know especially whether any State has solved the problem of relieving the farming classes of the burdens which rest upon them. It will be interesting to learn what a theoretical student of taxation has to say upon this subject, and whether he will give the farmers much

satisfaction. Would it not be a desirable thing for the government to call for a report upon our financial system from some of the expert students of taxation in the country, and try to find out whether the scholars have any thing valuable to say on this subject which is vexing everybody just now?

—The Shakespeare Society of New York, 21 Park Row, New York City, announces a four-text edition of "Hamlet," presenting a parallelization of the three versions of that play, which appeared in 1603, 1604, and 1623, exactly reproducing the archaic typography and characteristics of the same, *verb. lit. et punct.*, accompanied by a translation of the German version performed in Dresden in 1626, and supposed to have been brought into Germany from London by English actors in 1603, and which throws a curious historical light upon the actual stage reading of the tragedy as presented by the London actors. The project of a four-text "Hamlet" was a favorite with the New Shakespeare Society of London, which, as long ago as 1874, promised one, but succumbed to the typographical difficulties of the work, and finally abandoned the project. The New York Shakespeare Society believes it has surmounted those difficulties, and undertakes to furnish its subscribers, in or about the fall of 1891, with the four texts,—a volume in folio, about 16 x 10, printed on laid paper, de luxe, in the best style of The Riverside Press, about 200 pages, and bound in boards, parchment back, Bankside or Roxburge style. One hundred and fifty copies only are to be printed from the types, and hand-numbered under the society's direction.

—In *Outing* for February, 1891, we note "Cycling in Mid-Atlantic," by Osbert H. Howarth; "Rowing at Oxford," by Charles H. Mellen; "The Art of Daguerre," by Clarence B. Moore; "Tarpon-Fishing in Florida," by J. M. Murphy; "The Poodle," by E. H. Morris; "Ice-Fishing in the Sea of Azoff," by C. A. P. Talbot; "Wolf-Hunting in France," by Sidney H. Smith; and "Turkey-Tracking in Canadian Snow-Fields," by E. Sandys.

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