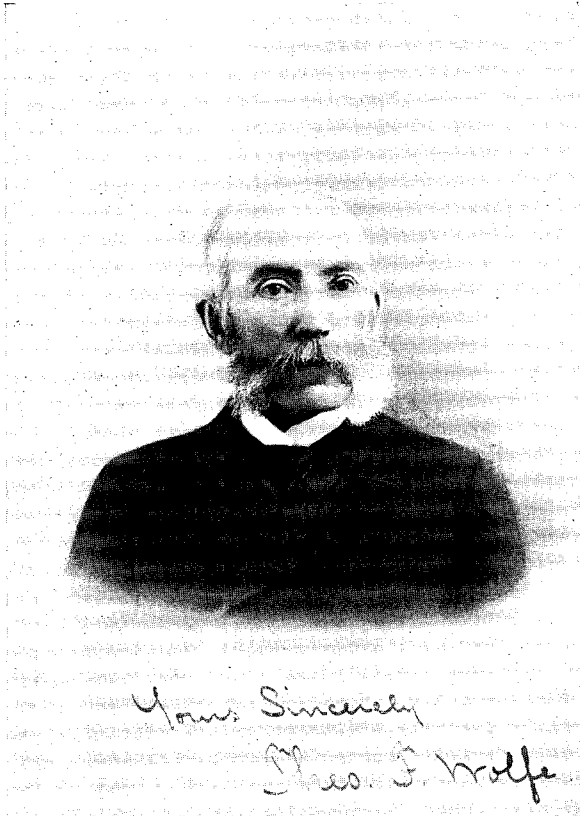


College he practised medicine for several years in Jersey City, and while there wrote many monographs and minor treatises upon professional topics. His health, however, proving unequal to the exactions of a large practice, he relinquished the greater part of his clientèle; and the leisure time thus gained he devoted to scientific study and research, especially in the department of ethnology and allied sciences. The general literary



work upon which Dr. Wolfe's popular reputation now mainly rests was first undertaken as a sort of mental recreation in the intervals between what he deemed more important literary tasks. His love for certain authors led him to devote at first only a small part of his time to trips to the scenes among which they lived and about which they wrote. But the delight of these rambles so grew upon him that they have come in recent years to supplant most of his other interests. Some of the earlier chapters of his books were prepared during a summer spent in

Europe, but most of his purely literary work has been done at his home in the historical village of Succasunna, New Jersey.

The title of Mr. Edward W. Townsend's forthcoming novel, which is to be published by the Messrs. Harpers this month, has

been changed from *Incomes to Days Like These*. The change was not decided upon until after the plates for the book were all made, and as the title heads every other page, this necessitated the partial recasting of two hundred and twenty-two plates. When, at a late hour, the publishers decided that no amount of paragraphing, nor the original subtitle, "A Novel of To-Day's Morals and Manners," would prevent the impression that *Incomes* was a work on economics, Mr. Townsend was asked to submit a new title. This he did unwillingly, and his second choice was adopted. The new title was suggested by the lines in Tennyson's "Locksley Hall":

What is that which I should turn to,  
lighting upon *days like these*?  
Every door is barred with gold, and  
opens but to golden keys.

Mr. Townsend's novel deals with manners and morals of the New York of to-day, and, to a considerable degree, as they are affected by the conditions of industry and finance which have made Wall Street affairs more than usually sensational, and politically and socially important, in the past few years. Some recent phases of politics have directed public attention to the intimate association of political, social and financial life in New York; and these phases are used largely in the development of characters and their relation to one another in *Days Like These*. In his experience as a writer on the staff of the *Sun*, Mr. Townsend made a close and a thorough study of the methods of machine politics in this city, and especially of the means whereby the District

Leader has become the actual and autocratic ruler of New York, and the manner in which he maintains and profits by his rule. This knowledge has enabled Mr. Townsend to draw a type of District Leader and to illuminate him with many strong side lights, with the result that the character will undoubtedly surprise—and possibly even shock—many citizens who have failed to realise the hideous truth in contemplating the sketches and less analytical drawings of the Leader as furnished by the daily press.

to the printer. He then destroyed the manuscript entirely, and wrote the thing all over again from the beginning. Twice more he did this, and only when the story had been four times written out was his fastidious sense of form quite satisfied. Mr. Hewlett is a gentleman of retiring disposition. He is not readily induced to speak of his own books, and his air is that of a student, which, indeed, he is.

Mr. Maurice Hewlett's next novel, it is understood, will be entitled *The Tuscan Crown*.

The story will deal with Florence at the height of her greatness. The period is one with which Mr. Hewlett has already shown an unusual acquaintance. His first entrance into literature was made through a notable series of Florentine studies. In England these sketches were received with the highest appreciation. We do not think, however, that they have ever been published in this country, though a few volumes have found their way here and have been a source of great delight to the discriminating. In these Florentine studies are to be found all the beauty, charm, the freshness and vigour that animate his more widely known works. In consequence, one may look forward to his return to this early field as a literary event of no small significance.



MAURICE HEWLETT.

Mr. Hewlett is connected with the Board of Trade, as is Mr. Austin Dobson, and, therefore, makes literature a *parergon*, though he regards his work of writing with a proper seriousness, as may be seen by his singular manner of composition. In the case of *Richard Yealand-Nay*, he made a first draft of the book with the utmost care, writing it out as fully and with as much pains as though he had intended to send the copy

We approached Major J. B. Pond's recently published book on *The Eccentricities of Genius* with no very hopeful spirit. We did not doubt that Mr. Pond's experiences with the celebrated persons for whom he has provided audiences had yielded him an abundant store of facts and personal anecdotes; but, somehow or other, we doubted whether these would be set forth in a manner that would do them justice. It is fair to confess that