

American construction has begun, and it cannot be stopped. The Americans must produce at any price, and they need the European market. In order to conquer this market, and in order to keep their factories going, they sell their goods to us at a loss and make up the difference at home.

'What is more, it is said that a big organization in which the most important American concerns have been grouped is preparing to make thirteen cars for the price of twelve. This means that on every thirteen cars produced the price received for twelve will cover the costs of them all. The thirteenth is destined for export.'

That is what they say, and we are in for a fine period of protection and

tariff war. In the meanwhile, the statistics of our automobile business with foreigners remain favorable. We imported 16,216 machines in 1925, 5363 in 1926, and 3236 during the first eight months of 1927. On the other hand, we exported 56,689 automobiles in 1925, 54,675 in 1926, and 32,313 during the first eight months of 1927.

As I was walking out of the show, having made the rounds, I noticed an automobile that I thought looked very nice. It was of English origin. I asked the gentleman at the stand, 'What is the price of that automobile?'

'Six hundred and twenty-six thousand francs, Monsieur.'

But as I had no money on me, I left without buying it.

VALE

THE YOUNG KNIGHT

BY HUMBERT WOLFE

[Irish Statesman]

SOFTLY out of a dream
 there is a voice crying:
 'Where I am
 is no modifying
 of beauty, no
 compromise
 in honor's — oh,
 how perilous eyes,
 No dimming of the vision,
 no blade that tilts,
 but only God's compassion,
 and your kiss on the hilts.'

LIFE, LETTERS, AND THE ARTS

Voltaire's Grave

THE discovery of a skeleton at a farmhouse on the site of the Abbey of Scellières bids fair to reopen the old argument regarding the burial place of Voltaire, for scientists who have examined the skull of the remains, which were buried in quicklime, insist that not only do its protruding jaw and other features resemble those of the famous French iconoclast, but that the skull is obviously that of an old man. Voltaire, who provided many a sleepless night for his protagonists in the eighteenth century, has never been permitted to rest in peace since his death. Although he is supposed to lie in the Panthéon, many scholars question this as the final resting place of his material remains. Good Christians do not doubt Jehovah's disposal of his godless soul.

When Voltaire was on the point of death in Paris his nephew summoned the Abbé Gaultier of Scellières and two other priests. But Voltaire, half-conscious, waved the priests away and died unshriven, maintaining his hostility toward the Church up to the very end. On July 10, 1791, by order of the National Assembly, his body was transferred to the Panthéon, and in 1864 it was proposed to restore the heart, which had been preserved in a little silver case; to the remains in the Panthéon. But when the coffin was opened it was found to be empty. At least such was the report at the time, although on December 18, 1897, a commission appointed by M. Rambaud, Minister of Public Education and Worship, and headed by Senator Hamel,

again opened the tomb of Voltaire, which, according to the *London Times* of December 20, 1897, was said to contain a skull which showed a striking resemblance to his last portraits. The latter view is held by Mr. Richard Aldington and Professor Guerard of Stanford University, but it conflicts with the earlier report that the tomb was empty. No evidence was submitted in the latter investigation as to whether the skull was in two parts or not, although both the brain and the heart of Voltaire were removed before his body was embalmed. The heart is now preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale. Such, however, is the case for Voltaire's grave at the Panthéon.

But English newspapers of 1791 speak at length of the substitution of the body of a gardener or monk when Voltaire's remains were supposedly taken to the Panthéon. In a letter written to the Empress Catherine of Russia by her Ambassador to France, Prince Bariatin'sky, we find an account of the manner in which the French public was being misled; and a letter from the lieutenant of police at Troyes at the time says: 'Voltaire was buried in the Abbey by his nephew, Abbé Mignot, who at once had the body placed in quicklime; so that the remains taken with great pomp to the Panthéon were not those of Voltaire.'

The discovery of a skeleton buried in quicklime at Scellières is supposed to authenticate the thesis that, since the Church had forbidden Voltaire's burial in consecrated ground, the story of the hurried burial by Abbé Mignot is true. The remains were unearthed by work-