

Dixie land during the years immediately following the great conflict, and shows us the population, both white and black, first, in a state of confusion, the natural result of the complete reversal of the previous conditions of society, and then learning to adapt itself to the new situation.

"The times were seething—all the corruptions bred by both sides in a gigantic war—and before it in all the crudenesses of the country's first century were pouring down and spouting up upon Dixie their rain of pitch and ashes. Negroes swarmed about the polls, elbowed their masters, and challenged their votes. Ragged negroes talked loudly along the sidewalk of one another as 'ladies' and of their mistresses as 'women.' While men of fortune and station were masking, night-riding, whipping, and killing, and blue cavalry rattled again through the rocky streets of Suez."

Such is the condition of things in which John March lives as a lad. He grows up during the process of reconstruction, and to us the chief interest of the book lies less in the history of John March himself, his loves and fortunes, than in the vivid description of the times in which he lived and the people among whom he moved. The many characters are all carefully and clearly drawn. To us the most striking character was the ex-slave, Cornelius Legget, who becomes the unscrupulous leader of the negro party in the State. One quotation to illustrate his principles:

"I behole how they all a-makin' they sa'vry chicken-pies, which, notwist'antin' they all diffent, yit they all alike, faw they all tu'novers! Yass, seh, they all spreads hafe across the dish, an' then tu'n back. I has been entitle Slick an' Slippery Legget—an' yit what has I always express myself? Gen'lemen, they must be sufficiend plenty o' chicken pie to go round. An'. Mr March, if she don't be round, she won't go round. 'Tis true the scripter say, To them what hath shell be givened, and to them what hath not shell be takened away that which seem like they hath; but the scripters one thing and chicken-pie's another.

"But exumin' my subjee', Mr. March, thars anothe' thing the scripters avince—that ev'y man shall be jedge by his axe—. Yass, seh, faw of co'se ev'y man got his axe to grine. Yass, seh; but right there the question arise, is it a public axe? An' if so, is it a good one? An' is it a private axe? An' is it both? Of co'se, ef a man got a good public axe to grine, he espec, an' you espec him, to bring his private axe along, an' get hit grine at the same junction. Thass natchiul. Thass all right, an' puffickly cowosive. On'y we muss take tu'ns tunnin' the grine stone. You grine my axe, I grine yo's. How does that strack you, Mr. March?"

John's reply was enthusiastic: "Why, it strikes me as positively mephitic."

"Mr. March, thass what it is! Thass the ve'y word! Now shall me an' you fulfil the scripter. 'The white man of the mountains, and the Etheropium o' the valleys shell jine they han's an' the po' man's axe shall be grine'? Ain't them words sweet? Ain't they jess puffickly syruptitious? My country 'tis of thee! Oh, Mr. March, ef you knowed how much patriotism I got."

The dialect in which the story is for the most part written adds something to the difficulty of reading it, but at the same time adds greatly to the verisimilitude of the narrative.

Everybody is reading and talking about Mr. Du Maurier's "Trilby," and no wonder, for it is a remarkable and fascinating book and furnishes plenty of food for discussion. We fancy, therefore, that there will be a large demand for its predecessor, "Peter Ibbetson," which has just been published by Macmillan & Co. in their Colonial Library. It is quite as striking a book as "Trilby," and is based on an idea even more original. That idea is that it is possible to gain control of our dreams, and to live in them consciously our past life again, reviving past scenes in every minute detail. "Evidently," says Peter Ibbetson, "our brain contains something akin both to a photographic plate and a phonographic cylinder, and many other things of the same kind not yet discovered; not a sight or a sound or a smell is lost: not a task or feeling or an emotion. Unconscious memory records them all, without our even heeding what goes on around us beyond the things that attract our immediate interest or attention." But this is not all. According to this idea two people may dream together and pass their dream time in each other's company, and each is able to introduce the other to the scenes of his own past. By constant practice in dreaming, it is also possible to get back into the

lives of our ancestors, and even death does not completely snap the link between two people who live the dream life together. Such is the main idea of the book, and the story based on that idea is told with exquisite charm. The first part of the book deals with the real life of the hero and heroine, Gogo and Mimsey, two happy children in Paris; and the second part with the dream life of the two, the one a convict in a criminal lunatic asylum, and the other the beautiful Duchess of Towers. Mr. Du Maurier's illustrations which are very numerous, and which add so much to the attractiveness and value of the book, are reproduced in this edition.

We have not met with any of Mrs. Price's books before, though, from the title page of the one before us, we see that she has been writing for some time; but after reading "In the Lion's Mouth" we count that as a distinct loss and shall look for an early opportunity of repairing it. This is the story of two English children in France, Betty and Constantine Maynard, during the first years of the French Revolution. Most of the many stories, dealing with this period, have their plots laid in Paris, but the events of this take place in a little country town—Mercy-le-roy. It gives a capital description of the way in which the country districts in France were affected by the exciting events of the first period of the revolution and there is a freshness about the narrative which is very pleasing. Of course a story dealing with such a period is full of incident, but there is nothing strained or unnatural about either the events or the characters. Betty and Constantine have been placed, by the usual wicked uncle, in the care of M. Durand, who is the leader of the Revolutionary party in the little town, but they make friends and get mixed up with the affairs of the noble family of de Mercy. They run many risks on behalf of their friends and have to undergo a good deal of suffering, but eventually they reach England and all ends happily. The story is full of interest and pleasantly told.

"My New Home," by Mrs. Molesworth, is a quiet little story full of the author's usual charm. It is supposed to be told by a little girl of fourteen, and tells of the troubles she made for herself. In it Mrs. Molesworth shows her usual close knowledge of children's natures, and it is so convincing that we are sure it is true to life.

\* \* \*

#### BRIEFER NOTICES.

*The Psychology of Childhood.* By Dr. F. Tracy. (Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. 1894.)—This little volume is an excellent result of the increased impulse given, in recent years, to the study of experimental psychology, and of what we may call the new methods of study. In former days it was generally supposed that psychology rested almost entirely upon introspection, which must always, of course, be the starting point of its study. But we have learnt the necessity of correcting and supplementing the introspective method by the comparative—in other words by comparing our personal or universal consciousness with that of animals, of children, of disordered minds, and of various races. Among these subsidiary methods is the Psychology of Childhood which has recently attracted a great deal of attention from scientific men generally, and from psychologists in particular. Mr. Tracy has made a valuable contribution to the subject, and has produced a book which will be interesting not only to students of the science, but to all who are interested in the education of children. His arrangement departs a little from the ordinary course by putting emotion immediately after sensation, a method which has some advantages especially in dealing with children. The chapters on Intellect and Volition are followed by one on Language, in which, however, no notice is taken of Professor Max Muller's remarkable contribution to the subject. A useful bibliography is added. We can commend the work as a very interesting and valuable contribution to the subject, giving almost everything of importance which has been ascertained by the investigations of psychology in this department.

\* \* \*

There are proportionally fewer foreign residents in England than in other countries of Europe. In 1891, 12,000 were added; in 1893, only 6,000.