

## Sir Gilbert Parker's New Novel

"The Money Master," by Sir Gilbert Parker. London: Hutchinson. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co.

It is, or ought to be, an axiom in novel-writing that a man should never make a woman the centre of his story unless he is in love with her, which, as the cynic would add, is the same thing as saying that he should never write minutely of a woman when he understands her. Both sayings may be true enough, since we generally love a woman for her charm and a man for his engaging folly. Therefore, a hero may be dissected, but a heroine may not, since dissection spoils charm, while it brings out folly, engaging or otherwise.

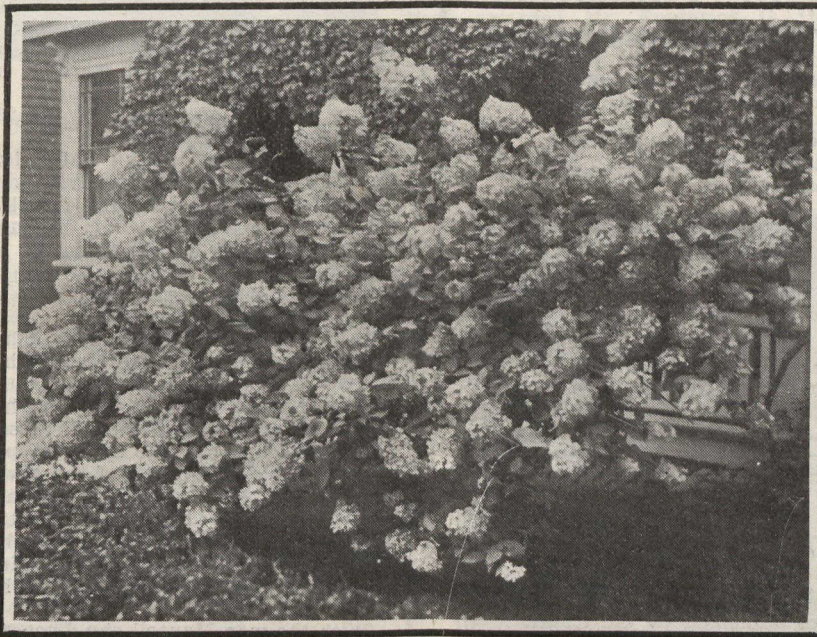
And even Meredith himself is no exception to this, for his women are loved, not dissected, notwithstanding all his display of scalpel and operating table. But both Sir Gilbert Parker and Mr. Thurston are old hands at their work, and whether they have formulated the great sex rule or not, they both follow it; all the light in each story is concentrated on the man of the novel, in the former a French-

been loved, for he has never put himself on a level with common humanity. It is only when everything, wife, daughter, effort, and wealth, as well as pride and vainglory have gone that he wins love, and that only of a plain country woman whom in the days of his pride he would have been too proud to notice. As a harmless wanderer he at last puts his hand on all that so far has been his only in dream.

### A Hero Become Wise.

It is open to anyone who reads "The Money Master" to maintain that he who strutted in the earlier part like the Gold Cock of Blangard, was the happier of the two Barbilles. Yet because this novel is a romance, the Jean Jacques of the later chapters is a hero, even though he comes to see his wife die in degradation, and to be refused the care of his daughter's child because of a hunger greater than his own. He is a hero, not because he has paid the penalty of his folly, but because he is the wiser for his fall. Sir Gilbert Parker is at his best when he is describing the quaint simplicity of the French-Canadian Habitants. Few things in this manner are more

## A NOVA SCOTIA HYDRANGEA EXTRAORDINARY



The photograph of this remarkable flower bush, grown on the grounds of Dr. Jordan Smith, M.P.P., in Liverpool, N.S., is sent as being a better hydrangea than the one from East Toronto, published in the Courier a few weeks ago.

Canadian whose phrase on himself is always "Moi, je suis philosophe," in the latter an artist who paints meanings; in both, too, the interest of the hero rests on a certain capacity for folly.

### The Unselfish Egoist.

Yet there are miles of difference between the two heroes, as well as in the manner of approach of the two authors, for while Mr. Thurston paints full-face, as the photographers say, Sir Gilbert gives us the man's effect on others, especially on women. And in that effect lies much of the skill of Sir Gilbert's picture of that Jean Jacques of his. For Barville is a man in love with himself, yet neither crudely nor selfishly, since his very desire to be great means that he desires to see himself reflected in the eyes of others with love and admiration. He, the philosophic miller, farmer and money-lender, burns incense before his own enterprises as a man before the altar of his divinity. He forgets the woman he has transplanted from Spain to this cold north.

He, for all his songs in the patois of the Canadian Habitant that always sounds in English ears like a cradle song, sees himself as the Master-BUILDER in philosophy, as in business. And all the while his friends only know him as a foolish dreamer, as he walks on the edge of a precipice, only kept from falling by the strength of his illusions. When blow after blow has fallen he sees himself as others have long seen him, and in that moment the danger of his position. Though he won a wife he has never

charming than the thumb-nail sketches of the judge and his clerk, the two champions of Monsieur le Philosophe. The same is true of the country woman, Virginie Poucette, whose naive cunning puts her far above the Spanish woman, Jean Jacques' wife, since she is but a shadow, probably with intention, for her full-blooded zest for life makes her as out of place in "The Money Master" as a Rubens woman in the landscape of Puvis de Chavannes. Sir Gilbert's new book is a very welcome addition to his gallery of Canadian portraits; for the story alone it is bound to find popularity.—London Chronicle.

## Russ. Authors' Reply to British

AT the end of last year a manifesto from leading British Authors was addressed to their colleagues in Russia on the war, attesting their sympathy and support.

A reply has now been received from Russia in the form of an address to the British people, signed by all the leading men of letters, artists, and composers in Russia.

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