

AMONG THE BOOKS

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Each of the two "final stories" by Norman Duncan (Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, Thomas Allen, Toronto, issued simultaneously in uniform style, \$1.35 net) has its own individuality, and illustrates the astonishing versatility of the writer, as well as the wide range of his emotional interest. In the group of stories contained in *Battles Royal Down North*, we see strong men battling against the frost and storm and sea of the frozen and relentless north. In their ordinary daily toil these fishers and sealers of the Labrador coast manifest a courage and endurance that place them alongside the bravest fighters in France and Flanders. For sheer heroism and pluck and resourcefulness these men of the north challenge our admiration, and the tales of their exploits supply a strong incentive to strenuous endeavor. In the companion volume, *Harbor Tales Down North*, a tenderer note is struck. We are brought into the homes for whose maintenance these heroes fight their battles and win their victories, and have pictured to us the childlike faith, the fidelity and devotion, the love and the self-denial of these simple Labrador folk. The two volumes, it has been well said, are complementary, the one to the other, and both are worthy of a high place amongst the works of an author whom his Canadian fellow countrymen regard with genuine pride and whose too early death they sincerely lament.

Perhaps there is no one better able to write of the Labrador wilds than Dillon Wallace, the famous explorer, whose latest book for boys, *Grit A'Plenty* (Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, 252 pages, \$1.25 net), is full of realism and adventure. As the title implies, the story is one that deals with that most necessary commodity of bleak, lonely Labrador—grit, and one finishes with a feeling that not only little Jamie, who is so slowly but surely growing blind, and Davy and Andy, the sturdy older brothers, who set out on a dangerous trapping expedition to get the necessary money for his healing, have plenty of the required grit, but that Thomas Angus, the father who is laid aside at a most critical time with a broken leg, young Margaret the faithful sister, and Dr. Joe, who performs the wonderful operation that saves Jamie's sight and revives his faith in himself, have also won

out because of what young Jamie calls "the grit a'plenty" they have shown all through. This story, as many readers of *THE TEACHERS MONTHLY* will recall, appeared, as a serial, in *EAST AND WEST* during the early months of this year, and will be warmly welcomed in its more permanent form.

"I fervently believe that Christ is to be found in the faces of the living." This may be taken as the key to Stephen Graham's *The Quest of the Face* (The Macmillan Company, New York and Toronto, 297 pages, 6 full page half-tone illustrations, \$1.75.) "We are all seeking a face. It may be the dream face of the ideal, our own face . . . as we could wish it to be, or the face that we could love. We seek a face of such essential loveliness that it would be possible to fall down before it in the devotion of utter sacrifice." The only satisfying end to the search is "the face of Christ," as the author illustrates in varying ways,—from art and from human experience and a subtle analysis of human life and emotion. Those who know Stephen Graham's books of travel in Russia and his intimate studies of Russian life and character, will not be surprised to find that most of his illustrations in this new book, written just before the War began, have a Russian atmosphere. This may give the book an additional piquancy at the present time, when Russia is in chaos, but when we would still fain believe with Stephen Graham, that "though Russia seems to have fallen, there is an imperishable Russia which cannot fall."

James Norman Hall won instant recognition as a writer who could write, with his first book, *"Kitchener's Army; the Adventures of an American in the British Army."* His second book, *High Adventure* (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Thomas Allen, Toronto, 237 pages, 38 mostly full-page illustrations, \$1.50), will enhance his reputation. It is of the Air Service he now writes, and the preparation for it. It is a story of personal experience and adventure. The author joined the French Air Service before the United States entered the War, and when his machine was brought down behind the German lines in May of 1917, and himself held, it is believed, a prisoner in Germany, he had been transferred to a newly formed American Squadron. We have not seen elsewhere so vivid and de-