

doubt. Fine writing and artistic faultlessness will not, however, be responsible for its success but the vivid and vital human interest of the story and the timeliness of it will send it everywhere in Canada. The story lays hold upon you with powerful grasp since it treats of the home and the tender ties of domestic love. The book may be banned by the defenders of the Ne Temere but there is no bitterness in it to warrant any such action except what "The Lad Felix", only child of the mixed marriage around which the plot centres, gives expression to. Thirteen years married to a wife of the Protestant faith John Terrance hears the parish priest state and explain the Ne Temere. His uninformed and deformed conscience aided by the suggestions of the priest make Terrance resolve to leave his home. The story follows the sad and miserable ways of the separated members of the once happy home and closes in gloom and grief and loss. The moral of the book is unmistakably plain and seasonable.

**The Healer**, by Robert Herrick (The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 455 pages, \$1.35 net) will fully maintain the author's great reputation in the realm of fiction, and add new lustre to it. The story of how Dr. Eric Holden, master-surgeon, in the garb of a lumber-jack, practising his profession in the northern wilds, and pretty Helen Goodnow, a city-bred girl of wealth meet in the wilds and are married in the city, and in defiance of the formalities and conventionalities of life, go back to the wilds to pursue the ideal of simplicity would rejoice the heart of Walt. Whitman

or Henry Thoreau. Dr. Holden, "The Healer", is eccentric almost to insanity, but the early love of his young wife is so great that she accepts all his odd and unusual attitudes as a great love makes it possible for one to do. When the assault of the outside world causes them to drift apart for a time their love seems to waver, but it is only an appearance of indifference that is manifested by each of them to the other, and the story closes with a picture of their friendship in the city where "The Healer" is the head of a large hospital. The nature background of the book is wonderful in its color and strength, and the depiction and vision of the author never grow faint nor dim. It is a book that, if read, should be read through for the total of its teaching is better than any part of it. The same publishers send us **Peggy Stewart**, by Gabrielle E. Jackson (302 pages, \$1.25) a story of the sunny South in which Peggy Stewart a modern girl is seen in the environment of those who can afford plenty of negro servants and other aids to ease and refined luxury. The scene in particular is Annapolis, with its ships and officers and the old charm of the salt sea and the tides. Peggy is introduced at the age of her love for colts and wolf-hounds and the green fields of the farm and followed on through the days that pass between that and an enthusiasm for parties and regattas and such other experiences as belong to happy and normal girl-life. That the author intends to keep near Peggy for some time to come is evident from her statement at the close of the book that other interesting things she knows about Peggy "must be told in the story of her life at school".

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# **The Lad Felix**

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