

set a style of writing that was extremely popular.

HUMOR OF MARK TWAIN

But to my mind much nearer to Haliburton in many ways was the humor of Mark Twain. The time prevents me from going into details as I would like, but let me commend to your attention that famous story of his, "Puddin' Head Wilson," full of aphorisms which bring to my mind at once the clock peddler of Nova Scotia.

You may recall such sayings as these:

"Nothing so much needs reforming as other people's habits."

"Fewer things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example."

"When angry, count four. When very angry, count seven."

These were not merely epigrams, but they were the homely summing up of characteristics of his surroundings and gathered from his experience.

Similarly Sam Slick says: Politics are like pea soup. They are all very well and very good when they are kept stirred, but as soon as the stir is over the rich and the thick settles down for them at the bottom of things."

"A man who quits his church in a temper would have you believe he has scruples of conscience which he requires you to respect, and he who rebels in the hope of amendnig his fortune ascribes his conduct to an ardent love of country and a devotion to the cause of freedom."

"Nothing improves a man's manners so much as running for office."

"SAM SLICK" LED AMERICAN PROCESSION

And so there is no dispute but that in point of time and in extensive circulation the homely reflections of Sam Slick the Clockmaker, in form and in substance, led the procession and must have influenced the great leaders of this type of humor—which is now considered to be American—James Russell Lowell, Bill Nye, Artemus Ward, Mark Twain and sometimes Stephen Leacock, the great humorist of today..

Let me leave you a picture of Haliburton in another aspect of life. He became chief justice of Nova Scotia and afterwards a member of the British House of Commons. He was the first man in a British assembly to carry forward to a successful conclusion a motion to remove the disabilities from Roman Catholics which prevented them from holding public office, and he was the first person to advocate imperial federation. Let me leave you with the picture in your minds of an evnning before the fire in the exclusive Athenaeum Club in London, when three men were seated in appropriate surroundings, discussing literature, and when one of them said that he was so interested in the sketches of "Sam Slick, the Clockmaker," especially as his sketches were

then appearing weekly under the title of "Pickwick papers." The men were Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray and Thomas Haliburton.

ROBERTS LED IN NATURE STORIES

And now let us return to the same part of the country, to the sister province of New Brunswick, the land of forest and its many inhabitants. In the little town of Fredericton there was an interesting settlement of old Loyalists, and among them was the Roberts and Carman clan which have given us a claim to poetic excellence. But it is not of this I want to speak. I want you to know that back in the nineties Charles G. D. Roberts wrote an animal story "They Seek Their Meat from God," which, I think, was the first of the modern animal stories, the so-called nature stories which are now numbered among the thousands and are so deservedly popular among boys, and men too, whose hearts are young and who love the open.

I think Roberts is right in his statement that he made before the Canadian Club in Toronto in 1903 that he antedated Kipling and Seton Thompson in this type of literature.

SETON THOMPSON'S WORK

Seton Thompson was a naturalist and was officially connected with the government of Manitoba in that capacity. He saw the possibilities of this type of literature and he put his scientific knowledge to popular use, and to him certainly is attributed the popularity this type of story has achieved..

But even if we have to say that Seton Thompson gave it the great push onward, we have the pleasure of remembering that he, too, was a Canadian and the scenes are laid in Canada. This swept the continent and John Burroughs, the great naturalist, and William J. Long, the great storyteller, followed closely in the train of these Canadians. It wasn't a passing fancy. It has kept up and has such a fascination for children that nature stories are "syndicated" in most of our newspapers and the famous Burgess series of Johnny Muskrat and Peter Rabbit and his many friends of the "green meadow," delight hundreds of thousands of boys and girls each year, and develop in them a feeling for nature and a love and respect for animal creation that does untold good.

CANADA—THE COUNTRY OF OPEN DOORS AND GREAT DISTANCES

It was natural, or seems natural, that a country like ours of open doors and great distances should produce the men who would just show the world to the south of us the possibilities of such a life away from the confines of man-made communities.

And now for a third and last example, for the exigencies of time are ever before me.

POPULARITY OF THE CANADIAN WEST

There is today no such popular work of fiction or indeed no such popular production of the moving-picture department of life and amusement as that which deals with what we call the West, the Great West, and sometimes the Northwest. These are not books of travel, nor are they altogether books of scenes of mere adventure. In order that they be popular, in order that they appeal to the imagination of the people, there must be some "human interest stuff," as the movie man calls it. There must be a story with the hero and the heroine; their is the inevitable villain and there is the ultimate triumph of virtue.

It is the world of unconventionality, the land of freedom. It is the state in which all of us would like to be—those of us who remain young—where we can dispense with conventional manners, conventional clothing and even conventional food, where time means little, and where individuality is uppermost. It is really a never-never land, but then that is the only land worth while—the land of the imagination. It is "the land beyond the ranges" which Kipling tells us about in that wonderful poem, "The Explorer."

HOW "RALPH CONNOR" BECAME A NOVELIST

Now cast your thoughts back and tell me when the stories of this great West, 'the far-flung fenceless prairie where the long cloud shadows trail,' came into popularity, the progenitors of these books which now today thrill hundreds of thousands. Let me give you another picture: A man named J. A. Macdonald, one of Canada's greatest orators, once a Presbyterian minister and once the editor of The Globe, was in the early nineties the editor of a newly founded monthly paper called 'The Westminster.' Seated one day in his office wondering where he could get copy that would help to make his paper more popular he heard a voice, a cheery, familiar voice, calling 'Hello!' He turned and saw Charlie Gordon his classmate in college and a clergyman in the great West. Gordon was clearly in bad humor, which he explained was caused by the dumb stupidity of the mission board of the church which could not or would not see the necessity of giving him additional help in his great work.

INFLUENCE OF DR. J. A. MACDONALD'S ADVICE

Macdonald said to him: "You can hardly blame them; they do not know. They never saw the West. When you talk of plains and mountains and all that wild life it is nothing to them for it is not real. And what they need is not facts. Give me a sketch, a history, a thing of life rather than a report. Make it true to the life as you know it, rather than to mere facts. Put in the local col-