

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

rank, and returns to Jersey as a British admiral. He kidnaps Guida's child, and the deserted wife appears in the historic court of the island, claims her child and vindicates her own honor. The tale is told with the poetic vividness characteristic of Mr. Parker's literary imagery. If the few Canadian criticisms we have seen are any indication, the book will have a greater run in Canada than any of his previous novels, not even excepting the "Seats of the Mighty."

"JOHN SPLENDID."

After achieving a notable success as a writer of short stories, Mr. Munro has now issued his first long story, and the reception which "John Splendid" has received from the English critics goes to show that a new author has appeared on the horizon of



Neil Munro, the Author of "John Splendid."

Scotch fiction. Andrew Lang has given the book a cordial welcome through the London press, and other critics have followed his example. The book is an assured success in England, and there seems no reason to doubt of its triumph on this side. Mr. Munro deals with Highland life and character after the manner of Sir Walter Scott and R. L. Stevenson. The period is that of Argyle's contest with Montrose, and the quaint style reproduces with skill the atmosphere of the time. In all who have a strain of the Celt in their racial make-up, and in Canada many thousands are proud to claim it, "John Splendid," with its stirring incident, graphic power and truthful delineation will thrill the blood. On the whole, the Macallum More is drawn in a more favorable light than he is usually presented, and Mr. Munro's art is seen in his depicting the Highland character pretty much as it must have been, extenuating nothing and setting down naught in malice. The book is finely bound, and its attractive appearance is not the least of its many virtues.

"THE ADVENTURES OF FRANÇOIS."

We have, in the column of book reviews, given sufficient indications of the effect produced upon the reader by this really remark-

able work of Dr. Weir Mitchell. It requires skill of the highest sort to draw in an attractive way the figure of an eccentric Parisian thief, with some higher aspirations but no qualms of conscience, and to reconcile us to his irregular proceedings without a touch of disgust. The interest is centred in François from first to last. We are not overburdened with historical details of the French Revolution. The vein of gentle, sometimes satiric, humor which runs throughout is an evidence of the author's temperament. The story will be very generally appreciated as a work above the average in style and conception.

"THE CASTLE INN."

Mr. Stanley Weyman's new novel is a tale of England in the days of George III.—the days of high living, gaming, abduction and adventurous love affairs. Julia, the heroine, comes into a fortune and is pursued by half a dozen gallants, nearly all villains, who would ruin her because she was not nobly born and squander her money. She is abducted violently, is in imminent danger for a time, but finally escapes, to find that the fortune is not hers but that of Sir George Soanes, the best of her admirers. The great Chatham appears upon the scene for a moment, an evidence that Mr. Weyman still hankers after a great statesman in his pages, and confers an office upon an honest solicitor. Julia is a charming girl in her way, and through the dash and devilry of her admirers is made to appear an interesting specimen of timid virtue pursued by lust and violence. Sir George marries her and all is well. If Mr. Weyman has written stories more carefully thought out, he has not surpassed this in dramatic incident and absorbing interest.

JEROME K. JEROME.

"The Second Thoughts of an Idle Fellow" is the English humorist's continuation

of a theme already popular—the incidents of ordinary life worked up into reflections of a semi-cynical, semi-absurd and semi-sagacious sort. It is always amusing, and is calculated to please the reader who has recoiled from the combination of vulgarity, exaggeration and blasphemy which passes for wit in a good many periodicals nowadays. The type in this edition is large and pleasant to the eye.

"THE RED AXE."

Mr. Crockett's remarkable gift of narration has never been displayed to greater advantage than in this strong story of adventure in Pomerania three centuries ago. He deals with the lawless doings of one of the German robber-barons. As the tale is told by the hereditary executioner of the Wolfmark, who, by the way, never exercised his prerogative except upon his master's neck, the swiftly moving panorama of vividly pictured scenes, the forceful situations following one upon the other, and the keen and spirited dialogue, all keep the reader's interest astir from first to last. "The Red Axe" is an adventure story in the best sense of the expression.

The vigor of the scenes is greatly enhanced by 26 fine illustrations, which are in both the cloth and paper editions of the book, and which, with the rich colors of the binding, make "The Red Axe" one of the most noteworthy publications of the season.

THE REVELL CO.'S BOOKS.

The Fleming H. Revell Co. announce that the new book by Ian MacLaren, "Afterward," will be ready about Nov. 20. From the fame of the author it is likely to be very successful in this market.

There is a good demand for religious works at present. Rev. James Gale's "Korean Sketches" is proving a very popular book, being an attractive record of missionary experiences by a Canadian in that far eastern country. An English edition of it has been brought out.

Another work which is selling well is Miller's "The Master's Blessing." The children's book of the season is "The Puzzling Pair," a lively, wholesome and humorous story of two bright children. There continues to be a remarkable demand for that most clever and powerful book "A Man's value to Society," by N. D. Hillis, which is now in its tenth edition. "The Ideal Life," by the late Prof. Henry Drummond, is in its second edition in Canada, and a fourth edition of Ian MacLaren's "The Mind of the Master" is now out.

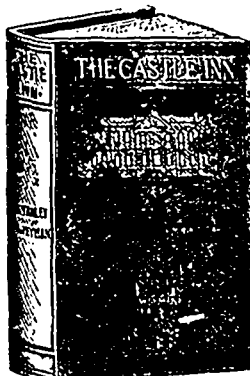
A Christmas booklet of attractive qualities is Dr. Miller's "The Secret of Gladness," which is a most artistic production. The

THE ADVENTURES OF FRANÇOIS

Foundling, Thief, Juggler, and Fencing-Master during the French Revolution



By Dr. S. WEIR MITCHELL
The Copp, Clark Co., Limited.



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