

AMONG THE BOOKS

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From *Montreal to Vimy Ridge and Beyond*, being the correspondence of Lieutenant Clifford Almon Wells, B.A., edited by O. C. S. Wallace, D.D., LL.D. (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 320 pages, \$1.35). Wells was one of the glorious band of University men who have won endless fame on the battlefields of France and Flanders. Born in Toronto, he took his University course in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. There he did so well that it was decided he should take a post graduate course and give his life to teaching. It was in 1915, at the end of the first year of this extra course, after he had been awarded a fellowship, that he enlisted as a private with the 4th Canadian University Company, one of the reinforcing companies of the P.P.C.L.I. He was killed shortly after the battle of Vimy Ridge in which he took part. The letters are addressed to his mother and other members of the family. These letters were written from railroad car, steamship, tent, hut, shack, furnace room, ruined house, hotel, dugout. They contain graphic descriptions, thrilling and amusing stories and much information for the friends of boys overseas as well as the young soldier's personal opinions about a variety of topics. No son can read these letters without finding in them a call to nobility of character and heroism of spirit; and no mother can read them without realizing that such letters could be written only to a mother who represented the highest type of patriotic and Christian womanhood. It is a book of which Canadians may be proud.

That the War has developed the deepest and noblest emotions of Canadians is proven in other places besides the battlefields of France. For the increasing volume of Canadian poetry is an indication that the depths of the national life have been stirred. To this increasing class of books belongs, *Songs in Your Heart and Mine*, by Thomas Harkness Litster (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 142 pages, \$1.25). Like so many of the war books, this volume is dedicated to a relative in the trenches,—this time a step-son, Lieut. George Murray Fraser, 1st Battalion, Canadians, France. One of the poems, *The Call of Empire*, has been adapted to a musical composition by Dr. Albert Ham, Toronto,

while another, *The Honor Roll*, may be sung to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers," and may be obtained on a lantern slide from The Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Toronto. While most of the poems deal with some special phase of the War, there are a few which have to do with homelier matters. Among these latter, four of the most touching have for their subject a baby girl. Therein the reader suspects a family tragedy which is to some extent relieved by the advent of a baby boy. The poems of this author are not without real sentiment which will find a response in many hearts and homes.

"I have a child. I would rather that child, in her maturity, might be assured of living in a peace guaranteed by the sacrifice and the devotion of the men and women of this generation, than that her father should live on in a precarious peace, bought and paid for with cowardice and national dishonor." This quotation expresses the attitude of *Speaking of Prussians*, by Irvin S. Cobb (The Musson Book Co., Toronto, 80 pages, 50c.). As an eye witness of the horrors and brutality of the War, Cobb earnestly argues with his fellow countryman that the future safety of America depends upon what they do now. Incidents from the German invasion of Belgium appear alongside of quotations from the paranoic exponents of kultur. At the beginning of the War there was doubt in the minds of many, judging from the writing of Cobb at the time, of one of the few journalists at the front, as to whether he favored the Germans. He repudiates such an interpretation of his words in this new book which has been dedicated, by permission, to Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.

Songs from a Young Man's Land, by Clive Philipps-Wolley (Thomas Allen, Toronto, 160 pages, \$1.50). The "Young Man's Land" is Canada and this volume of verse is, to some extent, a re-issue of the author's "Songs of an English Esau," which has gone out of print. Many of the admirers of the author's poems induced him to publish this new volume which contains, besides the older poems, some splendid war poems written recently. This Canadian singer has been resident in British Columbia for years and is a