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Some Books Worth While

HERWARD, THE WAKE (55 cents)

This novel is a direct and not unsuccessful imitation of the sagas, or legends of Northern Europe—the whole spirit of the book is Scandinavian. Hereward is half a Dane, and refuses to fight under the West Saxon, Harold. His career is like that of the usual saga-hero—a wild unruly youth, outlawry, brilliant exploits abroad, and a return home at last to fight for his patrimony in the fens. It is a very free rendering of history, but full of life touches and a genuine sense of tragedy.

Hereward is the old English Viking—the man who took off instead of put on his armour to fight. Hereward in history long resisted the power of William the Conqueror, and was called "The Wake" or "The Awake" because he could never be taken by surprise. Kingsley has made this figure not only the typical man of the North, but a model of strong and generous manhood for all time. He once, and only once, does wrong, and this fault brings about his ruin and death, though not before he has made, as a man should make, proper moral atonement.

But it is the artistic side of the story that compels admiration, for it is simply beyond praise. Moreover, one can feel that the historian is behind the novelist. Only one who has read and studied Northern literature and Northern history very deeply could have made such pictures for us. As we read we do not doubt that we really can hear the cry of the sea-king and the sound of the oar roll "like thunder working up from the North-East."

The boy who catches the spirit of the story will learn that it is his duty not to submit to every difficulty, but to meet and conquer obstacles, to strive with all his might and strength of body and soul for success, to cultivate his muscles as well as his mind, and to enjoy the beautiful world as much as possible without being wickedly selfish or mean or scheming.

PILLARS OF SOCIETY (45 cents)

"The Pillars of Society," begins quite properly with King George V. and deals with a long list of politicians and public men, journalists, actors, novelists and millionaires of Great Britain and America. Among those of most popular interest are men like Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, Lord Strathearn, Sir Wilfred Laurier and Mr. Bonar Law. It may be that some of the others will be of men with whose names even you are not familiar, but you have not to read the sketches unless you wish. If you read and appreciate those which do interest you, you will be certain to get your money's worth and more.

To most of us the King is a mythical personage in a world afar off, but if you read Mr. Gardiner's sketch you will realize that he is a very human and natural person, much like you and me. No lover of ceremony or pretence, of simple, straightforward mind and purpose, earnestly striving to do his duty in his station as we in ours. "The surface is unpretentious, but the material is made for wear." That is the picture given of our King. If you like contrasts you will get one if you then turn to the sketch of Teddy Roosevelt. The atmosphere here is very different. I have a suspicion that Mr. Gardiner is not quite fair to Mr. Roosevelt sometimes, though manifestly he is trying hard to be so. Usually when you have to try hard to be fair you don't succeed; and evidently Mr. Gardiner has not too much love for Roosevelt and his kind. Still, there is not a more vigorous or better drawn portrait in the book. It will be strange if you have not a more vivid idea of Mr. Roosevelt, even if your hero worship is spoiled a little in the process of reading. I wish I could quote the opening paragraph in full, but that is not possible in such an article. The general idea of the man is that "he is the playboy of the

western world, rough, boisterous, rollicking, sending his barbaric yawn over the roof of the world." For President Wilson the clever English journalist has a much greater regard. The president is compared with Mr. Roosevelt, much to the disparagement of Mr. Roosevelt. The Englishman in Mr. Gardiner likes the quieter, more disciplined strength of Mr. Wilson better than the unrestrained exuberance of the roughrider.

THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (55 cents)

Socialism is, by way of speaking, in the air today. Happenings in Russia and unrest in Germany have quickened the interest of all of us in Socialism and given a significance to its tenets and history that was never before manifest. Every man among us who pretends to intelligence and some information in these days should have some general knowledge of Socialism, how it arose, what are its doctrines and what its aims. Now it is very unlikely that you have the time or the money to enter upon an exhaustive examination of the subject. What you want is a competent guide to an intelligent understanding of Socialism. If that is your case, here is the very thing you want right to hand. Get and master "The Socialist Movement" (55 cents), by J. Ramsay MacDonald, and in the compass of a small book of 250 pages you will find a comprehensive review of a Socialist history and doctrine. It is difficult to imagine a review of a great movement better done than this is. The last section on the history of the movement is worth the money, and the chapter "What Socialism is Not," will probably do much to disperse your prejudices, if you have any. The fact that the book is written by one who is a sane exponent of his conviction and also that the book is written in a smooth, eminently readable style—this adds to the virtue of an excellent little treatise on a great subject.

TALKS ON TALKING

"Talks on Talking" (1.00 postpaid) is an interesting little book by Grenville Kleiser. This book adds another link to the series by this writer on various phases on the art of talking and public speaking. Mr. Kleiser's works should be known to all who aspire to public utterance. This last book deals principally with conversations rather than public speaking. It is a very interesting study of the different types of talkers. Mr. Kleiser gives us in this book very clever word pictures of the following types of talkers, whom we have all met: The tiresome talker, the trifling talker, the tedious talker, the tattling talker, the tautological talker, the tenacious talker, the tactless talker, the temperamental talker, the tantalizing talker, the tangled talker and the triumphant talker, and shows how the faults of these various types may be guarded against. The book is not only intended for public speakers, but for everybody who requires to do much talking, whether in a business or a social way, and can well be studied with profit by the persons who merely aim to make their conversations with their friends more pleasurable and interesting.

HEART OF THE HILLS (\$1.35)

Poems by Albert Durrant Watson

Charming love lyrics and interesting war verse, with several lengthier poems of unusual merit. The greatest of these are: "In the Heart of the Hills," the finest description of tobogganing that has appeared in Canadian literature; "The Aureole," written in excellent verse libre, and glorifying an ideal friendship embracing all human relationships; and "To Worlds More Wide," a powerful and thrilling transcendental and reflective poem, interpreting life and even world tragedies in the light of Infinite Love and manifestation. All lovers of verse will welcome "Heart of the Hills" as representation of the best in Canadian Literature.

NOTE.—The books reviewed above may be obtained from the Book Department of The Grain Growers' Guide upon receipt of the price mentioned in brackets after each title.

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A Synopsis

Legislation enacted of the Manitoba prorogued, included more than passing in the long list those which provide the establishment commission and of ment bureaus, the and securing to m interest in "the b Having suffered, remaining western considerable loss of elimination of the facing demands future in several d least important of mented grants to the government w the imposition of of one mill will be property in the p expected to yield A tax will also b apied rural lands levy of one-half the assessed valu that no land shal act at a rate high acre, and that, v on any lot or fra tion of land, is amount entered o shall be \$1.00. T yield a revenue c Persons attend amusement will b tribute to the g tax will be one charge of ten ce 25 cents, and b up to 25 cents fo of \$2.50. The p is in each case cent. Municipalities borrow an amount for the purpose o to farmers and t iers who are m absence of the service. The m purchase and di the quantity sup must not exceed Government An act of far-