

"THE CHRISTIAN."

Hall Caine's novel, "The Christian," which almost every body has read, has been dramatized and is now being presented in this country by two Frohman companies, of one of which Viola Allen is the star; and another in which the leading part of "Glory Quayle" is taken by Effie Ellsler. Both companies are meeting with huge success, drawing paying audiences everywhere they go, although the dramatized version of the same book, brought out in London, is said to be a failure.

The novel, as those who have read it will remember, is intensely dramatic, and everyone would imagine that the principle difficulty in dramatizing it would be to crowd its powerful and thrilling passages within the compass of a play of the standard length.

In the novel "Glory Quayle" is a brilliant, erratic and fickle but honest-hearted and lovable character, whose girlhood was passed amid rural scenes, who goes to London and falls into all sorts of temptations, but preserves her purity and honesty, and finally marries the hero, "John Storm," the religious fanatic, who follows her to London under a promise to her father to keep an eye on her and save her, but who spends most of his time in the more selfish pursuit of saving his own soul, to the neglect of his grief-stricken father, his noble old uncle, the girl he loves and everybody else except the people of the slums, to whom he fancies he has a mission.

The play follows the lines of the novel, but with the one notable exception. After seeing Tuesday night's performance one felt that between Drake and Storm, the preacher, it was Drake who should win. Whatever the outcome, it seemed that Drake was the man for Glory, the man who thought as she thought, who had more than a passing fancy for her, and whose emotions were well set, with none of the mental uncertainties that made an objectionable personage of Storm. And when it is all over, when the villain is foiled, when the good-hearted Drake is out of the scene, when the dangerous Storm, and the undefined Glory are to be married, there is nothing that calls for our responsive sympathy. We feel that Drake, after all, was the man, that his playwright has painted a good character and spoiled it with a false stroke. It occurs to us that there must be, somewhere, an epilogue, in which Storm will find Glory a woman of temperament entirely at variance with his own, and that evil will come to them.

It may be remarked in passing that Drake is depicted in the book as an English gentleman, standing high in social and political life, who was a little wild at times, but, on the whole, manly and honourable, and who, after attempting once or twice to trifle with Glory, finally recognized her intrinsic worth and offered her marriage.

The remark that Drake was the man for Glory, will forcibly strike every reader of the novel as correct. And there is reason to believe that the author intended to convey the impression that she did finally marry him. The play has the conventional ending, that Glory and Storm were married and presumably lived happily ever after; but in the novel she marries him on his death-bed, after he has been fatally wounded by a mob, and the physicians present declare that he cannot live two hours.

Then the book leaves the reader, but his imagination involuntarily goes forward to the time when Glory, the virgin wife, after a proper period of mourning, shall again meet Drake, who is so congenial to her, and that their lives shall be united. The play would be more satisfactory as a story, if it would kill the fanatic Storm off before the marriage, and make the final scene the wedding with Drake.

THE REVIEW extends congratulations to Mr. H. C. Osborne, B.A., '95, on being admitted to the law firm of Messrs. Watson, Smoke and Smith, of Toronto.

S. Hilda's Notes.

CONVOCATION Day this year had a special significance for S. Hilda's College, for on that day the new residence was formally opened by the Lord Bishop of Toronto. From 3 o'clock until 4.15 p.m.—the hour of Convocation—S. Hilda's was filled with visitors interested in the college, who expressed their admiration for the comfortable and artistic arrangement throughout. Especial gratitude is due Dr. Jones and Miss Strachan for their work of furnishing the complete and artistic drawing-room, a room only too tempting to the idly-disposed. The furnishing of the Common Room has been undertaken by the Alumnae Association, and though not yet complete, is very suitable for a beginning.

(Notice to the Public.—Easy chairs thankfully received.)

The annual event of Convocation Day, the High Tea, at which there is always a jolly meeting of graduates and undergraduates, was this year an unusual success, thirty-six graduates and undergraduates being present. Two guests at the graduates' table were Miss Playter and Miss Tomlinson.

The graduates present were:—Misses Lowe, Laing, Warren, Mairs, Woon, Nation, Wood, Powley, Macdougall. Toasts were drunk to "The Queen," "Alma Mater," "'99," Mrs. Rigby, Miss Playter, "The Freshies," "College Institutions,"—Miss Powley ably acting as toast mistress. Miss Odlum, '00, responded to the toast to "Alma Mater"; Miss Macdougall, '99, to "'99"; Miss Goodnough, '02, to "The Freshies"; Miss Talbot to "College Institutions." The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "*Μέτ' ἀγῶνα*" brought proceedings to a close.

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Our former Heads of College, Miss Marsden, '98, and Miss Talbot, '99, were unable to be present at Convocation, much to everyone's regret.

We were also sorry not to have with us Miss Goad, '99, who is now travelling in England and Switzerland.

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The first business meeting of the Literary Society took place on Monday, October 16th. Miss Odlum, '00, was elected President, owing to Miss Brown's resignation, so the Officers for the year 1899-1900 are:—President, Miss Odlum, '00; Vice-President, Miss Mourse, '01; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Nevitt, '01; Critic, Miss Scarth. Some amendments were made in the constitution.

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The first general meeting of the Literary Society was held in the Common Room at S. Hilda's on Monday, November 6th. A paper on "College Spirit" was given by Miss Talbot, '00, and Miss Bovell, '00, read a selection from "The Habitant." The rest of the meeting was given up to business discussions and the critic's remarks.

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It is hard enough to have to say good-bye to the graduating year, but when it comes to two second-year girls leaving college, it is truly mournful. Miss Brown, '00, and Miss Kirkpatrick, '00, have both found it impossible to come back this term. O freshies! if you only knew what you miss!

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It is not often we have a chance of congratulating a fellow-student on taking her degree, and of welcoming her back to residence at the same time. We can do both to Miss Powley, '99.

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Miss Wood, '99, has been staying with Miss Powley during Convocation week.

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On Monday, October 23rd, Dr. Gilbert Parker generously gave an evening of most delightful readings from