HOME JOURNAL

Life, Literature and Education

in New York on the steamer Pannonia, devoted has been able to decipher. her time, during the voyage from Gibraltar, to them to America for the first time. * * *

The Countess de Miranda, better known as Christine Nilsson, who was world famous years ago as an operatic singer, is dangerously ill at her childhood home, near the hamlet of Hussaby, on the southern confines of the Swedish peninsula. The countess has been out of the public eye for twenty years now, but there are many who still preserve a vivd recollection of how her exquisite voice thrilled large audiences in all the capitals of Europe and in America in the seventies.

A document of no little importance was recently purchased in England by the Toronto Public Library. It is the manuscript report of General Sir James Murray, the Governor-General to the British Government, of the State of Government of Quebec in Canada, in 1762. The report bears the date of June 5, and is in answer to a request from the Secretary of State, made on December 12, 1761. It is an elaborate account of Quebec, immediately after its capture by General Wolfe, and is told in about a hundred pages of foolscap very neatly written in General Murray's own handwriting.

ba. Mrs. R. Osborne, chosen; Recording Secretary, Miss Marjory McMurchy, Toronto; Corresponding Sec'y, Mrs. Lediard, Winnipeg.

and roamed out and along the water, I always own more often than not, and in some of his took a book, a little book, however rarely I made poems he has already said in a new way what use of it. It might have been once, twice, three, every inarticulate Yukon miner has been thinking four, five, even nine times. I passed along the ever since he pushed in over the Passes for the same trail and never opened the book, but then first time. In 'The Spell of the Yukon,' for there was a tenth time always, when nothing but example, which could never be left out of any a book would do—not tree, or water, or anything anthology of Canadian verse, he certainly sees that I carried a book.—WALT. WHITMAN.

Quite a sensation has been caused among biblical students by the discovery, by Brugsch Bey, the great Egyptologist, of a monumental inscription telling how the Nile failed to rise for

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IN THE WORLD OF LITERATURE AND ART. the land was told in a number of extraordinary Mme. Emma Calve, prima donna, who arrived hieroglyphics, which Brugsch Bey, fortunately,

making rag dolls and hats for the children in the steerage. Many little immigrant girls will grow Allen's story, "The Choir Invisible," has wondup to tell how the French singer had made ered where the name of the book was obtained. them happy on the big steamship that brought According to Mr. Allen's explanation, it was suggested by the concluding lines of George Eliot's little poem:

The better self shall live till human Time Shall fold its eyelids, and the human sky Be gathered like a scroll within the tomb Unread forever.

This is life to come, Which martyred men have made more glorious For us who strive to follow. May I reach That purest haven; be to other souls The cup of strength in some great agony. Enkindle generous ardor, feed pure love, Beget the smiles that have no cruelty-Be the sweet presence of a good diffused. And in diffusion ever more intense. So shall I join the choir invisible Whose music is the gladness of the world. —George Eliot.

The London Morning Post has an appreciative reference to "Songs of a Sourdough" by Mr. W R. Service: "I am told," says the writer, "on the best authority that he is an Englishman by birth, not long out of his teens. who is a clerk in one of the Yukon branches of a great Canadian bank. However that may be, he has got nearer to the heart of the old-time placer-miner—the grimly-humorous wanderer, who went gold-The Canadian Women's Press Club elected the hunting in the days when yeast was an unknown following officers at their annual meeting: Hon. luxury in the High North, and a lump of sour Pres., Mrs. Clare Fitz-Gibbon, (Lally Bernard), dough was kept to 'lift the next bread'—than Toronto; Pres., Miss Barry, (Francoise) Montreal; any other verse-maker in all the length and Vice Pres. for British Columbia and Alberta, height of the Great Dominion. (Canadians, by Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, Victoria; Vice Pres. the way, mean to call New Zealand the 'Little Dominion.') Not a few of his songs and ballads Winnipeg; Vice Pres. for Ontario and Quebec, would never have been written if Mr. Rudyard Mrs. Katherine Coleman, (Kit) Toronto; a vice Kipling had never read the Old Testament as president for the maritime provinces was not literature. It is rather a pity so many of the younger poets of the Younger Nations insist on imitating the raking rhythms of the master-C. P. Walker, Winnipeg; Historian, Miss Eliza- inevitably they fail to reproduce the haunting beth Parker, Winnipeg; Treasurer, Miss Florence under-tones, so like the under-tone sounds in an engine-room, of his finest, rowdiest verse and perpetrate stuff which suggests tunes improvised Reading, most of it by candle light, indoors, on a xylophone with a broomstick. Still, at up against a hot register or steam pipes, is a twenty-one or twenty-two the poet—like the disease; I doubt if it does any one much good. man who plants cabbages—must imitate some-The best reading seems to need the best open air. body, and Kipling is a virile model. But Mr. When I was down on the creek—Timber creek—Service's manner, as well as his matter, are his man into whose soul it has entered.'

CARMICHAEL: A ROMANCE.

(Churlottetown Guardian.)

famine was the result. B. C., 1700 is the date first. And, after all, the sensational novel is the simple and the complex alike, as vividly and so of the Nile and the continuous famine throughout The good book, however—the book which is good for its morals, its literature and its agriculture.

in its tone, good in its aim, good in the quality of its writing, good in the practical lessons conveyed —that book is a treasure. Most people now have gotten over the appetite for cant, which was but yesterday the expression of worldly virtue. They want their children to be real, honest, conventional even, in these things which ornament the character of a man or woman worthy of the name They cannot build a jailyard around them, they know; but, on the other hand, they have prudence enough to safeguard them from the wolves of society, and to place ideals before them which may help them upward and onward when the moment of real trial comes. The new book which Anison North has just issued from the Wm. Weld Co., Ltd., London, Ont., under the title of "Carmichael," will be placed before all with a feeling of well-doing on the part of the man in authority, and who understands what responsibility his authority imposes. It is a charming story-clean, clever and cultured-which, intended to uphold husbandry and the classes upon it depending, should at least find a first place in every Islander's book-shelf.

The tale is captivatingly, if modestly and unaffectedly, told. It is a tale of the rural life of Ontario, but, for that matter, so true are the descriptions of such life and the characters thrown upon the canvas in them, that we imagine we have known them all our lives; we could go right out here, in Prince Edward Island, and duplicate them in every settlement, almost. The Mallorys and Carmichaels are repeating the family troubles of the Montagues and Capulets; and we are all as much concerned, if not more so, in their outcome as are the numerous generations who hang on Shakespeare's lips, and joy and sorrow with the youthful lovers whose lives foolish parents filled with bitterness unutterable. A misunderstanding between two farmer-neighbors, growing out of unfavorable appearances, nursed into real hate on one side—the guilty one—and excessive if honest indignation on the other, made intercourse impossible in the families, and Dick and Peggie, unnoticed when small, are involved, to their great distress, when boyhood and girlhood is reached, and only have matters adjusted in the end after the serious trial of their The narration and culmination of this farmer feud, and the community events with it interwoven so skilfully, presents a stage to us, with actors always upon it who can healthfully and effectively entertain us.

Dick Carmichael and Peggy Mallory are the prominent figures on this stage, of course, but we see many others of more or less lovable natures moving across it, and feel that they speak and act as people we have known. There is the foolish if not utterly abandoned Gay Torrence, badly brought up, and enamored of the tinsel and veneer of the city, until sad experiences cures her completely; there is frugal and industrious if censorious Mrs. Might, with an itch for matchmaking; there is honest, philosophizing and generally level-headed old Chris, the farm helper at Mallory's; there are the peculiar Dodds, father and son; there is the rascally Dr. Jamieson, and so many others, with whom we are thrown in contact as the tale evolves—all of whom are true to the life in the limning, and linger helpfully and else—only a book; and it was for that tenth trip the Northern wilderness through the entertainingly with us after the book is long put aside. And the moral is good: Avoid rash judgments, and go through life happy yourself and making others happy.

This "Carmichael," in its direct agricultural teaching, too, is a valuable book for the farm. There are certainly novels and novels, some It not only maintains the dignity of farming seven years in succession about 1,700 years good, some bad, and some indifferent. The splendidly, as compared with other avocations, before the Christian era. A long and terrible second and third classes greatly outnumber the but it describes the operations of the farm, the recognized as the beginning of the "seven lean most foolish thing in the world. Even the case- truly as to be of great use in its direct lessons. years '' described in the Book of Genesis, and hardened have a bad taste in their mouth after. We want just such books here, and many of them, theologists are very interested in the confirmation staying up nights to devour it. Reflectively, too, and this is why we deem it appropos to call the which the discovery gives, in hard facts, to the there is nothing real about it, when we synthesize; attention of the community to it, and to urge the famous Bible story. The account of the failure we feel like a buncoed gambler turned loose, reading of it, and its preservation for family use,

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