

THE BOOK PAGE

The list of books on Canadian history is now a fairly long one. But there is room for the delightful little volume, **The Story of Canada**, by E. L. Marsh (Thomas Nelson & Sons, London and Edinburgh, 208 pages, 35c.). Miss Marsh is well known to readers of *EAST AND WEST* as a contributor to that paper, and is also the writer of the successful Canadian story, *Where the Buffalo Roamed*. The style of Miss Marsh's new book is delightfully simple and easy,—boys and girls will be charmed with it—while the information is full and accurate. With such a guide the path of the young student should be a pleasant one indeed.

For Sunday School teachers, members of Adult Bible Classes and Young People's Societies, and, indeed, all who wish to make a thorough study of present conditions in the new China, Dr. F. L. Hawks Pott's, **The Emergency in China** (Missionary Education Movement, Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, Toronto, 309 pages, map and 28 illustrations, cloth 50c., paper 35c., postage in either case 8c.), may be heartily commended. The author writes out of twenty-seven years' experience in St. John's University, Shanghai, and is evidently master of his subject in its last detail. The book is much more than a missionary book; it discusses the present phase of China's development in all its aspects, the conclusion arrived at being, that, for the full development of that wonderful country and people, and for the safety of the whole world as well, when China shall have come to her own, the Christian religion is the one greatest need.

Birds and butterflies and their merry ways and sweet loves in a summer garden—that makes good reading any time of the year. And, if there is joined with these the homely and whimsical wisdom of a man who can never feel lonely when he has the birds and butterflies and the full air of the open country about him, one has the materials for a very charming book indeed. It is this that makes **The Open Window**, by E. Temple Thurston (Musson Book Company, Toronto, 287 pages, \$1.25), so enticing, not to speak of the exquisitely delicate pencil sketches scattered all through, eight of them full page. The book takes the form of a diary running through two summers, and including tragedy as well as comedy and sober happenings, and through it all and ending delightfully a delicious tale of love. In this chill month of October, when the blinds are pulled down and the lamps lighted, *The Open Window* will bring back the brightness and winsomeness of summer.

There are amateurs in all arts. When old John Barty, innkeeper and ex-champion pugilist of England, declared that his son Barnabas could not become a gentleman, because "a gentleman must be a gentleman born, and his father afore him," young Barnabas vowed that then he would be an amateur gentleman. The story of his success, of the gallant adventures that befell him, the chivalry and kindness of **The Amateur Gentleman**, by Jeffery Farnol (The Musson Book Co., Toronto, 599 pages, \$1.25), makes a gallant romance such as this writer handles so skillfully. Swords and lace ruffles, beautiful English

ladies and gruff old English admirals, are at their best in these pages, and since the amateur gentleman shows himself to be a true, brave and honorable man, it is right that the story should end happily for him. A well told tale, with some fine bits of character study.

A most charming book is **Pollyanna**, by Eleanor H. Porter (L. C. Page & Company, Boston, U. C. Tract Society, Toronto, 310 pages, \$1.25 net), and rightly has it been called *THE GLAD BOOK*. For the story tells how a little daughter of a poor minister, who was kept at his work because there were so many "rejoicing texts" in the Bible, though orphaned by both father and mother, ever carried with her an atmosphere of sheer gladness, that infected all about her, and, especially brought back to a soured and disappointed aunt, with whom she had been sent to live, the happiness which she had flung away in her youth. One can hardly miss being the happier, and more resolving to do the more to bring happiness to others, for the reading of these delightful pages.

In **The Britannic Question**: A Survey of Alternatives, by Richard Jebb (Longmans, Green & Co., London, 262 pages, 35c.), the author explains his use of the term "British" as restricted to things appertaining to Britain or the United Kingdom, while "Britannic" refers to things common to the self-governing states of the empire. The book discusses, with much penetration and candor, the problem of how a closer union may be formed amongst these states. The "alternatives" are Imperial Federation and Britannic Alliance. While the case for each is fairly stated, Mr. Jebb gives his franchise to the second of these.

J. Cole (George H. Doran Company, New York, Musson Book Co., Toronto, 93 pages, 6 full page illustrations in colors, 50c.) is an altogether delicious delineation of a comically minute page boy, who was enterprising and inventive, to make up for his lack of size, and who won the heart of his mistress by his trustiness and outspoken honesty, and who was, finally, the hero in a tragedy, which almost, but not altogether, lost him his life. The writer, Emma Gelübrand, has a fine touch.

A love story, of course, is **The Jumping-Off Place** (Oxford University Press, Toronto, 307 pages, \$1.25 net); but so cleverly done that, until near the end, it appears only as a delineation of the revivifying of a pretty Eastern woman by a plunge into the strange, vibrant life of a Montana mining camp. The book makes no pretensions to depth; it is a bright bit of superficial writing, true, evidently, to life, and illustrating the fact, that a love, which wilts under the *ennui* of ease and idleness and the emptiness of the gay routine of "society" in the older civilization, may revive and burn true under conditions that bring the actors closer to real life.

The Magic Story, by Frederic van Rensselaer Dey (Frank E. Morrison, New York, 53 pages, \$1.00), tells the secret which transformed a failure into a success. And the secret is within anybody's reach. The service which this tiny volume does its reader is to point that secret out.