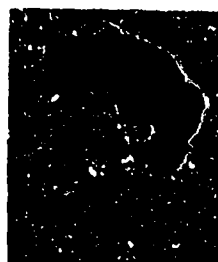


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Gift Books for Boys.

In selecting gift books for boys we should turn first to the stories of our own land, written by our own authors.

E. W. Thomson, whose "Old Man Savarin" is one of the notable books of the year, has published a second book of short stories entitled "Walter Gibbs, the Young Boss." The scene of each tale is laid in Canada, one them, that in "Drifted Away," being our very own waterfront of Humber and Island. The title story is splendidly stirring; "Smoky Days" gives the record of many a pioneer's battle with the forest fires in our great North-West; "King Tom," "Dux," "The Ten Dollar Bill," "Tom's Fearful Adventure," are all well written and full of interest for boys; while even the grey-haired fellows will turn the pages from first to last, and feel themselves the younger for so doing.

Of even greater merit, if perhaps in a different vein of adventure, is "Around the Camp Fire," by Chas. G. D. Roberts.

This, as the title denotes, is a series of backwoods "yarns" told by a number of young men, as they gather each evening about their camp fire. Each "spinner" is given the freedom of his imagination, if he chooses to use it, and his double audience of camp fire listeners and readers are left to pleasantly take their choice of decision whether each exciting tale be a record of reality or dream.

Prof. Roberts knows something of a sportsman's life in our vast pioneer lands; the camp fire is a familiar blaze to him, therefore he writes with strong local color and vivid effects. By kindly permission of the publishers we reproduce one, perhaps the simplest of the collection, this month, on page twenty-four.

There are over three hundred pages in the book, and some thirty splendidly told "yarns," short, full of hair-breadth incidents, yet always wholesome.

This book also is to be most highly commended, and should be on every boy's bookshelf.

Of less literary merit, but filled with a splendid record of Canadian frontier life are those two books by John McDougall, "Forest, Lake and Prairie," and "Saddle, Sled and Snowshoe." These are books written by a missionary, yet they are not in any sense "missionary books," except that the boy who lays them down, after thorough enjoyment of the lively narrative and thrilling wild-wood experiences, find himself moved to a kindlier and higher conception of how full that life may be that is lived healthily, sturdily, and yet for others.

The above are all new books by Canadian authors, to be most heartily commended for the boy's library.

Next upon the list comes Henty's books—too well known to need comment, but in the long list of them we should like to draw attention to one that belongs, in an especial sense, to Canadian boys, "With Wolfe in Canada," which gives in an attractive form a history of the conquest of Canada by the English. The historical details are woven into the adventures of James Walshaw, a young English sailor, and are drawn chiefly from Parkman, and other reliable historians. There are few Canadian boys who have not one or more volumes by Henty. This should be among the number; since it is one of the safeguards and the strength of the Dominion, that her coming men should hold the early records of their country familiar as nursery tales.

"Successward," by Edward Bok, is by sub-title, "A Young Man's Book for Young Men," written by a young man who is considered "successful" by the business world at large, and who, perhaps, may be forgiven if he views himself in the same light. Mr. Bok has certainly achieved a large measure of success—even in the finer interpretation of the word; while outwardly he has won all that young men most healthily desire. Therefore his thoughts upon the subject are worth perusal.

The chapters are brief, the sentiments wholesome and tersely expressed, the topics well selected—the young man's attitude toward women, the question of marriage, his religious life, social and business life,—all of these are treated concisely and sensibly. The book is attractive in print and binding; and wisely brief.

"Teddy's Button" is a charming little tale by the author of "Probable Sons." It is published in the same attractive series and prettily illustrated. Teddy is a delightful little Fautleroy, who inherits a military spirit, and holds as his most valued treasure the button cut from his father's coat.

The opening scene, when the little fellow tells the village boys the story of his father's dramatic death in "saving the colors," wins us at once; his search for "an enemy," his discovery of one, and his struggles with "Ipse," the loss of his button, and the glad recovery, win from us not only a very tender smile, but something deeper.

This, indeed, is a lovely little gift book for the boy of seven times one.

REVIEWER.

"Walter Gibbs, The Young Boss," by E. W. Thomson, Briggs Publishing Co., Toronto.

"Around the Camp Fire," by Chas. Roberts, Briggs Publishing Co., Toronto.

"Forest, Lake and Prairie," and "Saddle, Sled and Snowshoe," by J. McDougall, Briggs Publishing Co., Toronto.

"With Wolfe in Canada," by G. A. Henty, Briggs Publishing Co., Toronto.

"Successward," by Ed. Bok, Fleming Revell, Toronto.

"Teddy's Button," by author of "Probable Sons," Fleming Revell, Toronto.

Books received.—"A Cycle of Cathay," by W. A. P. Martin, Revell, Toronto.

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