

From a very interesting article on Railway Reading in the *The British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*, we clip the following :

But now as it is a common thing for gentlemen to travel to Brighton, or the South Coast and back daily, books of a character more solid and substantial are to be seen. On one occasion we found in one carriage six reading gentlemen, and had the curiosity to see what the study of each was. They ran—Gardiner's "*History of England*," *Rare Bits*, Lowell's "*My Study Windows*," the *Family Herald*, Drummond's "*Natural Law in Spiritual World*," and Ouida's "*Moths*." This is, in our opinion, a very satisfactory record, and certainly the wide diversity shown in choice might be taken as a fair sample of the different opinions of the readers, History, Literary Criticism, Fiction, Theology, and Humour were all represented, whatever merit or demerit attached to each particular instance.

The same paper has a long account of an interview with J. & R. Maxwell, publishers, from which we give that portion referring to F. W. Robinson, the author of "*Lazarus in London*," was specially referred to. A series of some six of the best of his novels is now issuing, and his three books on "*Prison Life*" form part of the series. In the recent Report of the Commissioners on Prisons, these books formed really the basis of the enquiry, and one of his best drawn characters, Jand Cameron, was a cook in Mr. Robinson's own household, and he went to Glasgow and satisfied himself personally as to the absolute truth of the facts narrated, and, later on, laid the evidence before the Commissioners. When we remember the effect of the late Charles Reade's "*It is Never too Late to Mend*," and the rousing of the consciences of the upper classes by Mr. Besant's "*All Sorts and Conditions of Men*," and recall Dickens' and others' labours in similar directions, we see the novelist's pen has been as potent as the pulpit's thunders, and we rejoice that Mr. Robinson is so able and spirited a labourer in their fields. Those who read his "*Courtship of Mary Smith*" in his own magazine "*Home Chimes*," will be glad to have it in Messrs. Maxwell's handsome volume.

THE Grip Printing and Publishing Co., Toronto, will issue "*Good Things from Grip*" on May 1st, and "*Jubilee Jollities*" on June 1st. These books will both be illustrated with large and small pictures, no other firm in Canada possessing such facilities in this line, and retailing for only ten cents each, they should meet with a large sale.

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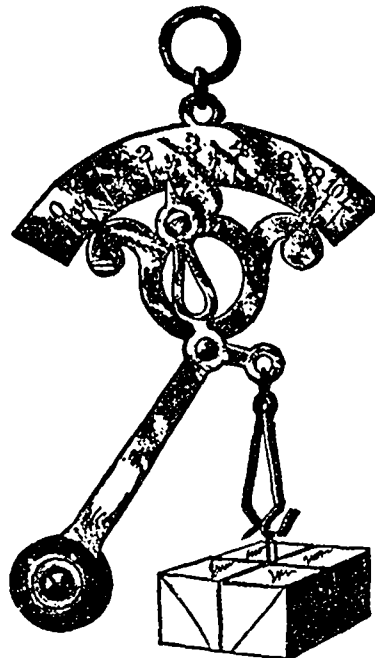
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