

terial has not been as successfully turned into readable fiction as in Mr. Lighthall's romance.

"The Span o' Life" is a marked improvement over the former book. Whether the high quality is due to Mr. McLennan himself, or to his collaborator, it would be hard to say; but the improvement is undoubtedly there. Although the story opens in England, the major portion is laid in New France at the time of the Conquest. The stirring incidents of the siege of Louisburg and the capture of Quebec are well told; and the chief characters are sympathetically drawn.

Still another tale, of an even earlier period of Canadian history, is Mr. Marquis's "Marguerite de Roberval." Mr. Marquis has chosen probably the saddest incident in the history of the continent as his theme. The principal points of Marguerite's history are generally believed to be true,—at least they are so given by all the old French historians. Parkman refers, rather cynically, to the story, in "Pioneers of France in the New World": he evidently had but little respect for the credulity of the French writers. Whether the original account be true or not, Mr. Marquis has turned it into a most delightful romance.

Mrs. Joanna E. Wood is the Miss Wilkins of rural Ontario life, and is doing for the Banner Province what Miss Wilkins has done for New England. Two books of hers were published not long ago, "The Untempered Wind" and "Judith Moore"; and a third has just been completed as a serial in "The Canadian Magazine,"—"A Daughter of Witches." Miss Wood brings to the treatment of her subject more than average talent. She has lived among the people, and understands them thoroughly. The characters in her book, while they are not always attractive, are invariably life-like: and the descriptions of village life in Ontario are excellent.

Miss Marshall Saunders, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is the author of an Acadian romance of the present day, entitled "Rose à Charlitte." The story is rather interesting, although perhaps unnecessarily long-drawn-out. The author takes occasion, through the mouth of one of her characters, to air her views on the much controverted question of the Acadian expulsion: "Only the poets and story-tellers have been true to Acadia. It is the historians who lie." However, the strength of the book lies in the admirable pictures which it presents of life in modern Acadia, along the Bay of Fundy coast of Nova Scotia.

"The Forest of Bourg-Marie," Mrs. Harrison's delightful tale of habitant life, is unquestionably one of the most suggestive and thoughtful studies which have been made of the French-Canadian and his