

THE BOOK PAGE

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There is no better known name on the Canadian platform, especially in the West, than Mrs. Nellie L. McClung, author of *Sowing Seeds in Danny*. She has two great themes, prohibition, and votes for women. Herself a Canadian, she knows Canada and Canadians, and has made herself especially felt in the battles against the liquor traffic. She will now speak even more widely through her book, *In Times Like These* (McLeod and Allen, Toronto, 218 pages, \$1.00), which is chiefly a clever and witty discussion of the present phases of these much discussed and difficult problems. Mrs. McClung charms and carries her audiences; and the same charm and compelling power will be felt by every reader of this characteristic little volume.

"Farming is one of the finest occupations in the world if taken in moderation," is one of the thousand whimsically wise sayings of Peter McArthur in his delightful book, *In Pastures Green* (364 pages, \$1.50, postage 10c.), just issued by J. M. Dent and Sons, Toronto. The sketches and essays, which are strung upon dates from January to December, making a full year of life on the farm, have already been very widely read in the Toronto Globe and Farmer's Advocate. It is the highest praise, that they are absolutely true to Canadian life, and to the human side of country life and the farm. The writer is not farming for profit, although he has "made it go." He is farming for the humor and the pleasure, the wholesomeness of it; and he has evidently got what he went out for. Nothing has escaped his keen and kindly eye. The Index embraces such a variety as an autumn day, an automobile ride, coon hunting, country swindle, the hen (which leads to a characteristically humorous description), an Indian fair, my first stack, little pigs, live horsehair, pioneer days, the retired farmer, turkeys, and rural telephones. He asks the reader to "wander through the pages of the book just as he might wander over the farm if he wished to learn something about country life." The city people, who don't know much about the farm, and the country people, who know all about it, will alike immensely enjoy the wander over Peter McArthur's farm.

Every young man and young woman should read Francis Parkman, the historian of the early days of North America, in full. There are no historical books quite like them in the rare combination of interest of the subject matter, minuteness of detail and charm of style. *Rivals for America* (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 233 pages, illustrated, \$1.35 post-paid) presents an admirable selection made by Louise S. Hasbrouck, of characteristic descriptions from one of these great books, France and England in North America. "The great visualizer," Parkman has been called, and eleven hilltops of the era commencing with the beginning of New France in America and ending with the Fall of Canada to the English, are here presented. This handy series of selections are complete in

themselves, and will give an appetite for the complete Parkman series of histories.

In *The Hollow of His Hand* (S. B. Gundy (for Humphrey Milford), Toronto, 242 pages, portrait of writer, \$1.25 net), by Ralph Waldo Trine, is a vigorous setting forth of "Christianism," in contrast to the antiquated, mediæval survival which he estimates Christianity to be. Christianity he defines, in substance, as getting back to Christ, that is, to Christ the unique man, and to His wonderful sense of oneness with the Father in heaven, and His matchless Sermon on the Mount—the only religion, in the opinion of the writer, that this modern world will accept, or that will suffice for its needs. With very much of which we most heartily agree; but this by no means carries with it any sympathy with our author's wholesale sweeping out of the miraculous and supernatural; or his statement that "nowhere can we find from Jesus' own teaching that He claimed for Himself anything that He claimed not for all mankind;" or his endorsement of such vagaries as the New Thought and Christian Science movements. Mr. Trine's book is well worth reading by those who want to get his point of view,—there is a certain passion and rush in it that carries the reader along. But the reader should remember all the time, that when we eliminate the supernatural from our creed, and especially our belief in the divinity of the Lord Christ, we have disconnected ourselves effectually from the only dynamic which can give the driving power of a life in accord with Christ's example and commands.

The Musson Book Company, Toronto, send us three stories of the hour, each in its own way, full of charm. *Secret History* (319 pages, \$1.25) is by C. N. and A. M. Williamson, and the reader is therefore assured, in advance, of something amusing and exciting. This story is, of course, a love story—of the charming Lady Peggy O'Mally—but intertwined with a curious bit of international diplomacy, and so modern, that the hero, Eagle March, is still a busy airman. A crackling winter fire and this *Secret History* will go well together. *Hempfield*, by David Grayson (335 pages, \$1.50), and *The Idyl of Twin Fires*, by Walter Pritchard Eaton (304 pages, \$1.35), are both stories of the country: "Hempfield," the discoveries—amongst them, his own sorely love-stricken heart—which a very quiet neighborhood yielded, and a very quiet "old bachelor;" *The Idyl of Twin Fires*, the brisk and surprising experiences of a New York literary man and story writer, who, drawn by the lure of the land, buys up the "old farm," but finds that Adam, in the veriest Eveless paradise, is in no paradise at all. The illustrations in these two volumes, in each case by Thomas Fogarty, are very true to country life.

Joseph Hocking needs neither introduction nor commendation. Every one knows his stories, strong, brilliant, fresh, wholesome. This latest of them, *Dearer than Life* (Hodder and Stoughton, Toronto, 312 pages, 60c.), has the additional attraction, like his recent, *All for a Scrap of Paper*, of being a story of the war and in the war theatre. It is one of Hodder and Stoughton's two shilling novels, and wonderful value for the money.