

POPULAR  
AUTHORS

**B**ARONESS ORCZY, the talented authoress of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" and "A Son of the People," is a Hungarian by birth and never came to England or spoke a word of English until she was fifteen. She is the last descendant of an ancient Hungarian aristocratic family. Early developing a taste for art, she devoted herself to painting, producing some pictures which were deemed meritorious enough to be hung in the Royal Academy. While studying art she met her husband, Mr. Montagu Barstow, likewise an artist. Both of them of late years have done considerable work for the magazines.

It was only six years ago that Baroness Orczy discovered that she possessed a literary as well as an artistic gift. Happening to be paying guests with a family, whose chief recreation consisted in writing short stories, she was led to try her hand at short story writing. Her work was accepted by Pearson's Magazine and ever since she has devoted herself to writing.

Her first novel was "The Emperor's Candlesticks," but as it appeared during the Boer War it attracted little



Baroness Orczy

Author of "The Scarlet Pimpernel," "A Son of the People," etc. (Wm. Briggs).

attention. "The Scarlet Pimpernel" was first written as a play, her husband collaborating. It was accepted by the very first management to whom it was submitted. Baroness Orczy's latest novel, "A Son of the People," is a story of her own country, depicting faithfully the crude, half-civilized life of this forgotten corner of Central Europe.

The many friends of Mr. George Porter, the Goderich bookseller, will be glad to know that he is recovering nicely from his long and serious illness. He spent part of the Winter in the south and is now back in Goderich, superintending Spring buying.

Mr. George H. Doran, of the Fleming H. Revell Co., New York, was in Toronto last week. He was present at the convocation of Knox College when the degree of D.D. was conferred on Rev. C. W. Gordon (Ralph Connor).

THE MOST POPULAR

# Spring Fiction

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