

Books for Christmas

A selected list of books suitable for Christmas gifts and holiday reading.

THE MEASURE OF A MAN. By E. Livingston Prescott. The Musson Book Co., Richmond Street, Toronto.

The style of this book is at first a little pretentious. The interest, however, grows with a fuller acquaintance. "Miranda" is the heroine's name, and the hero is a Sergeant Monck. After an interesting crossing of events all ends happily.

ROBESPIERRE. The story of Victorien Sardou's play adapted and novelized under his authority. By Ange Galdemar. Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto. 324 pages. \$1.50.

This is one of those stirring stories of the troublous times of the French Revolution. It has special interest for the historical student, but makes a very attractive story for the general reader.

NATURAL HISTORY. By Alfred H. Miles. George N. Morang & Co., Limited, 90 Wellington St. West, Toronto.

This is an interesting volume, describing, in language free from technicalities, the nature, habits, and customs of various animals.

THE ROAD TO PARIS. By Robert Neilson Stephens. The Musson Book Co., Toronto.

That this volume is written by the author of "An Enemy to the King" is a recommendation in itself. It is a pleasing account of the adventures of one Dick Wetherall in the days of the American Revolution. The whole story is splendidly told and the interest is well sustained throughout. Several historic personages are introduced; there are numerous striking scenes and plenty of action. The artistic binding and illustrations make it a desirable Christmas Book.

TURRETS, TOWERS AND TEMPLES. The great buildings of the world as seen and described by famous writers. Edited and translated by Esther Singleton. (Illustrated). The Publishers' Syndicate, 88-90 Yonge St., Toronto. 8vo., 317 pages. \$2.

Distinctly a Christmas book, quite out of the usual line and fills a long felt want. It is made up of a series of masterly descriptions of famous buildings, written by such men as Ruskin, Thackeray, Hugo, Ebers, Loti, Dickens, Symonds, Grant Allen, Gautier, and others; and embracing as many different styles of architecture as possible. All the translations, with one exception, were made expressly for the book. The typographical work is good and the illustrations, which are numerous, are exceptionally well executed. The binding is green cloth and gold. A book for the book lover.

THE COURT OF BOYVILLE. By William Allen White. The Publishers' Syndicate, 88-90 Yonge St., Toronto. 8vo., 358 pages. \$1.50.

This is just the book to stir up one's good humor. It is a thoroughly bright and lively transcript of boy nature, but very truthful withal. The *impenetrable* will around the town of Boyville is successfully stormed in the author's own fashion and we watch "the young human animals at play." Piggy Pennington and Jimmy Scars and Mealy Jones are aptly called "limbs," but by their very roughness, which is not of the heart, they afford the reader a rare pleasure. The volume is a happy combination of humor and feeling. Special features of the book are the poems which preface each chapter, and the unusually attractive illustrations.

GREAT BOOKS AS LIFE TEACHERS. By Newell Dwight Hillis. Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto, 154 Yonge Street. 12mo., 331 pages. \$1.50.

This book bears the sub-title "Studies of Character—Real and Ideal." In this, his latest published work, Dr. Hillis gives to the public studies of five ideal characters from poetry and fiction and of five real characters of this century, basing his interpretation of these latter upon recently published biographies. Dr. Hillis is a strong optimist and his introductory chapter on "The Prophets of a new Era" is hopeful and invigorating. He has himself no small measure of the prophetic power of vision, and has besides the artistic appreciation of the beautiful. These two elements in his character enable him to interpret clearly and sympathetically the masterpieces of Ruskin, George Eliot, Hawthorne, Hugo, Tennyson and Browning, and the lives of Drummond, Shaftesbury, Livingstone, Frances Willard and Gladstone.

The volume is clearly printed on good paper, it is artistically bound and altogether presents a most pleasing appearance.

FISHERMAN'S LUCK AND OTHER UNCERTAIN THINGS. By Henry Van Dyke. The Musson Book Co., 17 Richmond St. West, Toronto. 8vo., 247 pages. \$2.

Dr. Van Dyke was born a fisherman. Even yet he loves the craft for its own sake and returns to Nature with all the enjoyment of the great lover of Nature who loves her for herself, not for what she gives. This is perhaps the most unique thing about Dr. Van Dyke. His thorough education has only served to chasten and refine sensibilities naturally fine, and the result is that he goes to Nature with an open heart into which is breathed woodland secrets that the seeker can never gain. A distinctly fresh and invigorating



note is thus projected into this book. We feel the wind blow about our heads, we hear the song of the bird and the murmur of the brook; we take a fresh lease of life and a new joy in living. There is only one way to gain a vital knowledge of nature and scarcely any book could be a greater help in gaining it than Dr. Van Dyke's. The binding is very handsome, being green cloth and gold, and the illustrations are a nature-treat in themselves. This book would make a most suitable Christmas gift.

BOOKS I HAVE READ. George N. Morang & Co., Limited, 90 Wellington St. West, Toronto.

This is the outcome of rather a happy idea and will meet a need appreciated by many readers. It is to serve as a sort of literary index or record of one's reading. The pages are blank, save for the headings under which the reader may enter title, author, etc., of books read.

TALES OF SPACE AND TIME. By H. G. Wells. The Musson Book Co., Toronto, 17 Richmond St. West. 8vo., 358 pages. \$1.50.

Mr. Wells has scored a distinct success as a writer of imaginative fiction. These stories deal, it is true, with things and people far away from us in space and time; yet, whether this author writes of the inhabitants of Mars, of Paleolithic Man as he lived in England fifty thousand years ago, or of strange twentieth century happenings, he manages to give them a real and living interest. In this volume of tales strange people in strange surroundings are depicted with pleasing boldness and vividness. These stories, indeed, seem to us to surpass in interest Mr. Wells' earlier work.

ESSAYS ON WORK AND CULTURE. MY STUDY FIRE. UNDER THE TREES AND ELSEWHERE. SHORT STUDIES IN LITERATURE. ESSAYS IN LITERARY INTERPRETATIONS. MY STUDY FIRE (Second Series). ESSAYS ON NATURE AND CULTURE. ESSAYS ON BOOKS AND CULTURE. THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT. By Hamilton Wright Mabie. George N. Morang & Co., Limited, Toronto. Cloth, 12mo.; per volume, \$1.25; the eight volumes in a box, \$10.

The place which Mr. Mabie has undoubtedly taken in modern criticism has yet to be fully and adequately recognized, but already he has won a large following by his delightful books, and there is abundant evidence of an increasing interest in the literary career of one who has made a niche for himself in the world of letters.