

Literary Notes

THAT part of the Dominion which has been exploited so successfully during late years by Miss Agnes C. Laut, Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, Mr. Robert W. Service and Mr. Rex Beach, the American, is to be again well covered this year. Some new writers have been caught by the mystery and vastness of the great Northland, and its spell has gripped more the better known Canadian writers. Mr. Robert W. Service is quietly enjoying the five thousand dollar royalty which he received for his last year's work, and is busy with Arctic hexameters. His third volume of verse will be ready sometime during the summer, it is expected. The call of the wild has come to Mr. Arthur Stringer, whose novels hitherto have dealt with peaks in the underworld of the United States metropolis. Mr. Stringer is going to breathe the pure air of his native heath in his next book. A few days ago, he sailed from New York for the south. On a tropical isle, far from the hum and distraction of Broadway, he is to collaborate with Mr. Arthur Heming, formerly of Hamilton, Ontario, the celebrated wild life artist and animal storyteller, on a novel, the subject of which is to be life in northern Canada. Mr. S. A. White, of Snelgrove, Ontario, a young man—not quite thirty—who for some time has been figuring in various magazines, announces a first novel, "The Stampeder." Mr. White's story is to be a cosmopolitan one. The scene opens in Algiers, and rapidly shifts to the Yukon. The house of William Briggs, Toronto, which is publishing "The Stampeder," also have on their list a novel, "God's Frontiersman," by Rev. H. A. Cody, St. John. Mr. Cody will be remembered as the author of that excellent biography, "The Apostle of the North."

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Seymour Charlton.

HAVE you read W. B. Maxwell's latest novel, "Seymour Charlton"? If not, you have missed something, or you have a treat in store for you. De Morgan's novels are a little longer, but Maxwell's novels are long. Nevertheless they are clever, and he is as much entitled to be called the modern Dickens as De Morgan. His characters are real men and women, not over-painted puppets stalking grandly through impossible parts. They are English also, typically English, and modern English at that. In "Seymour Charlton," he deals with the problem of inherited wealth, its dangers, its handicaps, its value, and its possibilities. He also deals frankly with the weaknesses of men and women—sentimental, temperamental, moral and intellectual. He preaches as Thackeray did, but perhaps less pointedly.

A younger son idling his life away on a mere pittance meets a young girl of the people and decides to marry her, and to try to redeem a wasted series of years. Suddenly he is plunged into rank and wealth by two rather unexpected deaths. Like the Lord of Burleigh he carries his russet-gowned maiden into a castle—but not to happiness. The strain tells on him. He falls and his wife, learning of this, refuses to be but a nominal wife. For a long time he again woos her, and eventually wins. The great wealth is dramatically lost and they retire to a quiet country estate to enjoy "Time, Love, Peace," which is the only solid wealth in the opinion of this novelist. (Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co.)

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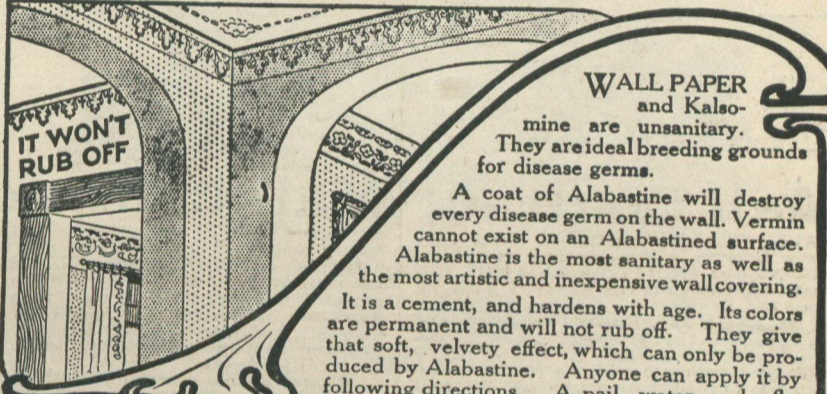


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