

author nowhere indicates that the narrative purports to be given by anyone living during the exciting period of which the story is told. Yet words, phrases and constructions occur in the writing, outside of the speeches, which are either loose or archaic in their use. While the consistent employment of such in a tale narrated in the first person is a legitimate device, the occasional and rather haphazard introduction of them in what is admittedly an author's own description is not excusable.

The story is of a lad in his teens who, hearing for the first time that his father is living, leaves his Roundhead grandfather and uncle to seek him in the King's army. The boy's bravery and spirit are shown in surmounting difficulty and withstanding rebuff more than in powers in fight, though the closing chapters bring their opportunity for the latter also. Hugh is every inch a boy, and a manly one at that. The right and wrong of England's civil strife, and the political motives and movements of the conflict are not touched upon. Only an occasional glimpse is caught of any historically important figures, as the sequence of events is developed among independent troops of cavalry mustered and commanded by brave country gentry. The account of Hugh's plucky dash through hostile sentry lines to carry word of coming relief to his besieged father—the father whom stubborn pride had refused him recognition as son—together with the description of the stubborn fight in the old church, form a fine climax and ending to the action of this story for boys, and “old boys.”

S. R. T.

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“RED ROCK.”\*

The work of Thomas Nelson Page is not so well known to Canadian readers as it deserves to be, but now that his latest, and, as many able critics say, best work, “Red Rock,” has been given a Canadian edition by the Publishers' Syndicate, Toronto, the Canadian public will, we are certain, desire to know more of him and his works. His stories of the South and his descriptions of life in Old Virginia with its old-world charm and grace are delightful to read. Those who have read them will know what a pleasure is in store for them in “Red Rock.” That this story is popular is proved by the fact that already over forty-six thousand volumes have been sold, and that the demand continues. The Canadian edition contains all the exquisite illustrations of B. West Clineinst, as published by Scribners', and is in every way a model edition.

In our short space it is impossible to give any adequate idea of the many and varied interests of the book. Mr. Page calls it a chronicle of reconstruction. Before we read it we were fearful that to a large extent it might be a description of the war between the North and South. The American magazines have so nauseated us with their in-

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\*“Red Rock,” by Thomas Nelson Page. Illustrated by B. West Clineinst. Toronto, the Publishers' Syndicate, Limited.