

but it is a sign that the modern north-country Christian has thrown off his cold reserve and is not ashamed to let the world know that he has a heart. The popularizing of pure religion and undefiled is, next to living it out, as noble a task as man could set himself, being a picture of the realization, however partial, of the mind of Christ in the world. As for the theology of it, you cannot tell what a man's mechanical system of theology is from any number of essays or character sketches. Even the apostles were given different aspects of divine truth to bring into prominence. Nevertheless, it appears that even the critics who have taken exception to Ian Maclaren's doctrine are satisfied with that of "Heather from the Brae."

Gilbert Parker's "Seats of the Mighty" is his most finished and interesting story. It is founded on fact, the narrative of a certain Captain Stobo of the English colonies, who was taken prisoner during the war of the conquest of Canada. The hero being made prisoner and carried to Quebec, falls in love with a beautiful Canadian lady on whose hand a handsome and brave, but unscrupulous son of the French King has intentions. Plot and counterplot between these actors, the governor, the intendant, and many minor personages, hair-breadth escapes, adventures, disappointment of hopes, and the hero's final aid in the capture of Quebec, are all admirably told, with a fidelity to historical circumstance which shows how patient and thorough must have been Mr. Parker's study of his period and characters. The tone of the book, as happily may be said of almost all our Canadian works of fiction, is lofty and pure.

"Barabbas," by Marie Corelli, is a powerful but unpleasant book. The author is paradoxical. She makes Barabbas out a fine character, and Judas Iscariot hardly his inferior. The romance of the book, however, centres in the sister of the traitor, Judith, a woman of wonderful beauty and demon pride, beloved alike by Barabbas and Caiaphas, and false to all the world. The story of our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection is told graphically, with reverence and no little awful dignity, yet one experiences a shock in finding the most sacred facts