

## NEW BOOKS REVIEWED—Continued.

by the "unco' guid" and her life made as miserable as possible. The promise made to the betrayer is kept, and no one knows his name. The girl-mother wins the love of an honorable man, Homer Wilson, but she declines to marry him. Homer saves the life of her little boy, but the child dies, and Myron is heartbroken. She becomes a nurse, and, going to the cholera hospital, which other nurses shun, she meets her betrayer, who is the surgeon in charge. Taking the disease, Myron dies, being united on the deathbed by marriage to the doctor, who promises to place over the child's grave the name he should have borne. But the promise is never kept. The tale is pathetic, tragic even, and the picture of uncharitableness, malice and un-Christian persecution of a woman, who expiates one misstep by a life of self-sacrifice, is drawn with great power.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN BRITISH GUIANA.**—By Henry Kirke, M.A., B.C.L., Oxon. Cloth, 364 pp., map, illus. Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Limited, Fetter lane, Fleet street, London, E.C. From his position as Sheriff of Demerara, Mr. Kirke fully explored British Guiana, its resources, its climate, its scenery, its native races, etc. He presents an entertaining account of the country, is not disposed to be mealy-mouthed about describing the moral and social conditions of the colony, and records many racy anecdotes that could hardly be told over the dinner table. The book bears the appearance of being a thoroughly truthful and candid view of British Guiana, and is written in a strain of good humor and common sense, which makes it very enjoyable.

**THE FALSE CHEVALIER; OR, THE LIFE GUARD OF MARIE ANTOINETTE.** By W. D. Lighthall. Cloth, gilt top, illustrated, \$1.50. T. E. Grafton & Sons, Montreal. Mr. Lighthall has written a thoroughly delightful novel, recounting the exploits of a young French-Canadian both in Canada and at the court of France. The young man, Germain Lecour, possessing many fine qualities, obtains, accidentally, the entree to great circles at Paris. Under strong temptation he assumes the arms and name of a noble family. To keep up the deception he is forced into many awkward situations, and finally falls a victim to the guillotine in the revolution. The author, as is already well-known, has carefully studied the history of Canada under the Governorship of Guy Carleton, and reproduces the very atmosphere and events of the period with fidelity and success. In the story is reproduced the sequel of the "Golden Dog," the subject of Mr. William Kirby's fine

novel. The tale throughout is lively and eventful, and the accuracy and charm of the scenes laid in Montreal, Quebec and St. Elphege, the home of Lecour's old merchant father, will commend the book to all Canadian readers. The final scene in which Lecour accepts death as his punishment for deception and falsehood, and declines to save his life by avowing a plebeian origin is dramatic. This edition appears simultaneously in London and Montreal.

**CHARLES THE GREAT.**—By Thomas Hodgkin. 254 pp.

**MIRABEAU.**—By P. F. Wilbert. 230 pp. Macmillan, London; The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. 2s. 6d. each. These volumes are two of the Foreign Statesman Series, which are well spoken of by the critics as creditable historical studies. In the first, the times of Charlemagne, who was crowned Emperor of the West in 800 A.D., the effects of his rule, the personal qualities of the man, all are graphically told. One gets a faithful reproduction of a period which is a landmark in European history. The biography of Mirabeau is a wonderful picture of this extraordinary personage, who, steeped in vice from his early years, and after a career of extravagance, grotesque folly and immorality, played for a short time, by his oratory and courage, so great a part in the French Revolution. His life must always be a romance to modern readers, and a monograph like this, which consults the best authorities, provides for student and ordinary reader a highly attractive work.

**NATIONAL DEFENCES.**—By Major-General Maurice, C.B. Cloth, crown 8vo., 210 pp., 2s. 6d. Macmillan, London. The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. This is a useful book. Intended for popular reading, it is not technical or dry. The whole subject of the defence of the British Empire is dealt with in a pleasant, concise, and informing style. General Maurice, a soldier of experience, is a competent authority. He recognizes the labors of Canada and other colonies to provide for their own defence. He has no fad to air, no new theory to discover. The book was written in 1897 and recent events are thus given their due weight and importance. In brief, he believes that "a supreme navy" is the Empire's best defence.

**JOHN MARMADUKE.**—By Samuel Harden Church. Cloth, illustrated, 328 pp., \$1.25. The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. The purpose of the author, who has written a life of Cromwell, is to portray the invasion of Ireland in 1649 in a light as favorable, consistent with truth, as he can. The tale is crowded with exciting incidents and will be read eagerly from start to finish. Marmaduke

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