



*The Queen's Promise* (Benziger Bros., New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, 60c.). By Mary T. Waggaman.

The story is indeed a tribute to the author. The title is acquired from a legend. A queen had planned the marriage of her daughter to a great prince. The daughter, however, wished to enter a convent. The queen vowed that not until the thistles which surrounded the convent should turn to roses would she consent to her daughter's entering the cloister. Next day roses bloomed in place of the thistles. These wonderful flowers were called the "Queen's Promise." They were transplanted to many other convents, and happily to the one at which our little heroine, Kitty Dillon, was attending. Kitty's father was a sea-captain and away most of the time. She also had a hard-hearted uncle who was owner of the Blackstone ridge smelters. This uncle was on bad terms with Kitty's father, but he decided to pay all arrears due for Kitty,—our heroine's father had been reported lost,—and take her to live with him. With much sorrow Kitty parted with her convent friends. Soon after her arrival at Blackstone Ridge, the men employed by her cruel uncle rise in rebellion and burn his mills. Kitty while seeking refuge, accompanied by her two cousins, discovers the unconscious form of her uncle who has been struck down by the mob. She renders what assistance she can, sends her cousins for aid, and whispered words of penitence into the injured man's ear. Soldiers arrive, who suppress the riot. A priest also comes, and hears the uncle's confession. The uncle recovers and is a changed man. He becomes a kind employer, and a devout Catholic. A church is built at Blackstone Ridge, and the men hear the word of God. Where formerly there existed discontent and strife, now all is peace and harmony. And to our angelic Kitty is due the credit for this great change.