

In all probability, "The Man From Glengarry" is Ralph Connor's most popular novel. His latest production, "The Doctor," hardly ranks with that story or with "The Sky Pilot." The narrative is decidedly uneven, and the style is sometimes too strained. Ralph Connor is at his best in describing contests or feats of prowess. Consequently, the story of the raising of the exploits of Ben's gang, and the fight for "a lady's honour" are the best parts of this book. But when the author attempts to depict an ambitious woman of the "smart" set he falls into the language of the most common-place melodrama. This description is easy to recognize: "For Iola was possessed of a fatal, maddening beauty, and an alluring fascination of manner that wrought destruction among men and fury among women." There was an article by Myrtle Reed in the New York "Critic" last year in which the writer dealt amusingly with "Women's Clothes in Men's Books." She might add this item to her list of masculine discrepancies. "She chose her simplest gown, a soft, creamy crepe de chine trimmed with lace, and made so as to show the superb modelling of her perfect body." As Iola was a music student in Toronto and had formerly been a country school-teacher, her simplest gown would hardly be the rich and rare garment mentioned by Mr. Connor. But Barney's heroic life as camp doctor and the friendship, "passing the love of woman," which existed between the two brothers lift the book to a higher plane than a chronicle of the moods of Iola. (Toronto: The Westminster Co.)

Rev. Frederick George Scott is a Quebec poet whose verse long since won an honoured place in Canadian poetry. His latest volume, "A Hymn of Empire and Other Poems" contains less than forty short poems, some of which, including the title number, appeared in print last year. "The Hymn of Empire" is a stately rhythmic paean of the true Imperialism.

"Lord turn the hearts of cowards who prate,  
Afraid to dare or spend,  
The doctrine of a narrower State  
More easy to defend."

Mr. Scott believes in Greater (not Bigger) Canada and has the poet's courage as well as imagination.

His nature poetry is simple and true, with a note of gladness. There is a naive sparkle in this address to "The River":

"Why hurry, little river,  
Why hurry to the sea?  
There is nothing there to do  
But to sink into the blue  
And all forgotten be.  
There is nothing on that shore  
But the tides for evermore,  
And the faint and far-off line  
Where the winds across the brine  
For ever, ever roam  
And never find a home."

In the four lines "By the Sea" there is a glimpse of its immensity:

"Ever the strong, salt life, ever the dream,  
Ever the pulsing force, the mystery  
Of tireless Nature working 'neath the stars,  
Her destiny apart from human things."

(Toronto: William Briggs.)

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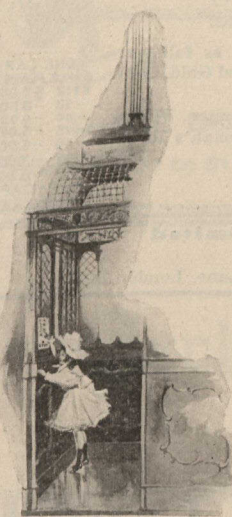
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