

Railway Children is almost as good in a different way (MacMillan, \$1.50). Our own Sara Jeanette Duncan has written a beautiful little story of the Indian Mutiny called *Sonny Sahib*.

Some of the elders may be glad to know that books loved by their generation and earlier ones are still to be had: Miss Edgeworth's *Early Lessons* and *Popular Tales*, (Dutton, \$1.00), and Jacob Abbott's *Franconia Stories*, (Harpers, 60 cents) and the *Rollo Books* (Crowell, 50 cents.) Two books well worth having are *Child Life in Prose* and *Child Life in Poetry*, compiled by the poet Whittier, and published by Houghton, Mifflin & Company (\$1.50).

CHILDREN AND STORIES.

The children's room in the St. John Public Library has for years been a pleasure resort for the children who love to read. This year another step was taken in helping them to enjoy good reading. Every Saturday morning all the little girls and boys who like to come gather in one of the upstairs rooms in the library to listen to stories. Begun in April, the story telling has gone on with spirit ever since. Volunteers are never lacking to tell the stories, and the audience never fails. No grown-up listeners are allowed, but no one who has seen the children's faces as they come and go can need the assurance that they are delightful and delighted listeners, nor wonder that the story tellers enjoy their task. It is hard to tell which stories give most pleasure, but fairy tales and animal stories are very popular. Among the stories that the children ask to have repeated are: The Three Bears, The Three Pigs, The Pig Brother, The Bell of Atri, The Pied Piper, Snow White and Rose Red, and Cinderella. The average attendance is thirty-five. The work is carried on very informally. There are no committees, no officials, no set programme. Could not the same thing be done in places where there is no library and so where there is all the greater need of it? Children who grow up without knowing the classic fairy-tales, the more famous myths and legends, and the standard children's stories, not only lose a great deal of pleasure, but come poorly equipped, as all high school teachers know, to the study of great imaginative literature. We can hardly think of a prettier and pleasanter bit of social service, nor of one more easily arranged for, than this.

THE ALLIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY,

Arranged by Alice L. Fairweather.

CHARACTERS: Eight children, chorus of children.

CANADA.	FRANCE.	ITALY.	BELGIUM.
BRITANNIA.	RUSSIA.	JAPAN.	SERBIA.

COSTUMES.

CANADA.— White dress, draped with flag or trimmed with maple leaves. Wreath of maple leaves on head.

BRITANNIA.— White dress, worn by an older girl. Flag and high gilt crown, red roses.

FRANCE.— A boy in blue coat, red baggy trousers; or a girl in a white dress, with head-dress of a gilt band with one fleur-de-lis in the centre.

RUSSIA.— Either a boy or girl in a dark dress with gray fur cap. Blue cloth cape thrown over one shoulder.

ITALY.— Girl in white dress draped with flag. Chaplet of pearls on head.

JAPAN.— Dark-haired child, dressed in kimono. Fan, paper flowers, etc.

BELGIUM.— Smaller child, white dress draped with flag.

SERBIA.— Smaller child, white dress or suit. Serbian flag.

SCENE.— A room with several chairs.

The scene opens with BRITANNIA seated, knitting.

CANADA.— "Mother BRITANNIA, for your first visit to my home, I have planned a Christmas party and asked some of our friends to come today to help me."

BRITANNIA.— "How well I remember the good old days at home."

"On Christmas Eve the bells were rung,
On Christmas Eve the mass was sung.
The damsel donned her kirtle sheen,
The hall was dressed with holly green.
Forth to the woods did merry men go
To gather in the mistletoe.
Then opened wide the baron's hall
To vassel, tenant, serf and all.
The heir, with roses in his shoes
That night might village partner choose.
All hail'd with uncontroll'd delight,
And general voice, the happy night
That to the cottage as the crown
Brought tidings of salvation down.
The fire, with well-dried logs supplied
Went roaring up the chimney wide.
Then was brought in the lusty brawn
By old blue-coated serving-man.
Then the grim boar's head frowned on high
Crested with bays and rosemary.
The wassail round in good brown bowls
Garnished with ribbons, blithely trowls,
There the huge sirloin reeked hard by
Plum-porridge stood, and Christmas pie.
Nor failed old Scotland to produce
At such high tide, her savory goose.
Then came the merry maskers in
And carols roared with blithesome din.
England was merry England when
Old Christmas brought his sports again."

CANADA.— "I have brought from home many of the old