

God, and this God source and shield of all justice and all morality—these must have all been the genuine and specific thoughts of Moses."

We wish we could follow further this brilliant exposition by a man who believes that "the whole history of humanity has produced nothing which can be compared in the remotest degree to the prophecy of Israel. . . . Let this never be overlooked nor forgotten: the costliest and noblest treasure that man possesses he owes to Israel and to Israelitic prophecy."

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Recent Fiction.*

"**MOLLY Darling**," by Mrs. Hungerford, is a volume of stories which are trifling and pretty. The same *motif* runs through all. The course of true love never did run smooth. We cannot honestly say that the stories add to Mrs. Hungerford's reputation as an authoress nor do they deserve extended notice.

"**Tales of an Engineer**" are written by an enthusiast in railway matters. A description of a thousand mile trip on this continent is followed by an account of a voyage across the Atlantic, and that by a description of an English, a French and a continental railway. The most amusing chapter in the book is an account of the railway between Jerusalem and Joppa. Apparently the author knows how to keep his hand on the throttle, but we fear, to judge from the verses at the end of the book, he cannot write poetry. The prose tales are well told; the verse is feeble and ought not to have been published.

"**A Magnificent Young Man**" is simply rubbish of the worst kind. How the author of such good work as "**Bootles Babies**" could produce this stuff we cannot understand. The hero is a fool, the heroine uncommonly silly, and there is not one single character in the book worth remembering.

"**Lady Bonnie's Experiment**" is another collection of stories which might just as well have been left unwritten. They not only do not add to the reputation of the author but they positively detract from it.

"**A Singular Life**," by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, is a beautiful story. This book is so good that if we had space it deserves a lengthened review. The life of an earnest young minister in a down east fishing town is most feelingly described. His efforts to rescue the perishing are set forth; and with it all is intertwined a love story of a delicate and sympathetic strain which appeals to every sentiment of romance. The last scene of all is worked up with a natural effect which makes the reader single out the book as one to be remembered. We cannot recommend a better book for a

*"Molly Darling and Other Stories." Mrs. Hungerford, author of "**Molly Bawn**," "**Phyllis**," etc. London: T. Fisher Unwin. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. Autonym Library. 1895.

"**Tales of an Engineer with Rhymes of the Rail**." A. Warman. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. \$1.25. 1895.

"**A Magnificent Young Man**." John Strange Winter, author of "**Bootles Babies**," etc. London and Bombay: Geo. Bell & Sons. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. 1895.

"**Lady Bonnie's Experiment**" Tyne Hopkins, author of "**The Nugents of Carriconna**," "**The Incomplete Adventurer**," etc. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1895. Buckram Series.

"**A Singular Life**." Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. Boston & New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Riverside Press. \$1.25. 1895.

"**A Ringby Lass and Other Stories**." By Mary Beaumont. Illustrations by J. Walter West. Macmillan's Iris Series. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. 1895.

"**The Nimble Dollar, with Other Stories**, By Charles Miner Thompson. Riverside Press. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.00. 1895.

"**Through Russian Snows: A Tale of the Russian Campaign of 1812**." By G. A. Henty. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50. 1895.

"**A Knight of the White Cross: A tale of the Siege of Rhodes**." By G. A. Henty. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. \$1.50. 1895.

"**Daniel Defoe's Journal of the Plague Year**." Edited, with notes, by George Rice Carpenter. Longmans' English Classics. New York and London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1895.

"**A Bubble**." A story by L. B. Walford, author of "**Mr. Smith**," "**The Baby's Grandmother**," etc. The Aemé Library Westminster: A. Constable & Co. 1895.

"**Kafir Stories**." By William Charles Scully, author of "**Poems**," etc. Autonym Library. London: T. Fisher Unwin 1895.

"**A Chosen Few: Short Stories**." By Frank R. Stockton. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1895.

present to young people than "**A Singular Life**." It will give them a high ideal and make them understand that there is something better to go by than the trash they so often get—and yet, not in the least "goody."

"**A Ringby Lass**" and other stories we can also cordially recommend. The fragrance of an English garden hangs about the pages of the story of "**the Ringby lass**." "**Poor Jack**" is a very pathetic tale, almost too sad. There is also a curious Norwegian story, "**The White Christ**," which is worth reading.

"**The Nimble Dollar**" is a pleasant contrast to the general run of story. There is some humour in it and the characters with their dry sayings and their curious doings give one a relief from overstrained sentiment or clap-trap horrors. This book, also, we are able to safely recommend, and to say that its readers will have a pleasant hour or so. The last story of the book, which deals with the fright of a small boy got through the silly but unintentional act of an elder brother is, we imagine, founded on fact. It is certainly a fright which might easily be caused exactly in the way described.

Any father or uncle who wishes to give a small boy or young lad a Christmas box cannot go wrong in giving either of Mr. Henty's books "**Through Russian Snows**" or "**A Knight of the White Cross**." We prefer the former. There is considerable ingenuity shown in getting two brothers, one on the Russian side and the other on the French side, in the Napoleonic expedition into Russia in 1812. An account of a duel between a fire-eater and one of the brothers is very well told. The adventures of the other brother with the smugglers and then in the French army are all consistently enough worked up.

"**The Knight of the White Cross**" introduces an English boy as a Knight of St. John in the island of Rhodes. His adventures with the slaves are the best part of the book. We hope all uncles and aunts who have promising nephews will take the hint and invest in one or both of these books.

As to the next book on our list, "**A Long Vacation**," by Charlotte M. Yonge, we fear Miss Yonge's many admirers will be disappointed. We do not wish to write harshly of so old a friend as the author of "**The Daisy Chain**," but we feel that this book is a disappointment. The characters are jumbled up. The situations are strained and there is a current of Pharasaical self-satisfaction running through the book. We wish it had not been written. "**The Daisy Chain**" was a beautiful book in its time. It is not easy to revive in these days the feelings which were then dominant in a certain section of the middle-class. Even if it were possible this book is not the one to do it. It would repel instead of attract, and defeat its very laudable object.

Defoe's "**Year of the Plague**" has been selected as a text book for school boys. We must say we pity them. We cannot understand the selection. A more dreary book to read we do not know. There are isolated passages in it of vivid ghastly description, but the bulk of it is very heavy reading. In this edition there is an elaborate and useful preface by the editor. But we protest most decidedly against the selection of the book as a school text book. School is often bad enough, but to have the *Plague* of Defoe rammed down the throats of scholars as a text book is too bad. Of the edition itself we have nothing but praise, but why choose a book from which to teach English, which, on every page, requires explanatory notes to make clear the sense on account of obsolete phrases or unimportant local allusions. Whoever chose this book it seems to us blundered cruelly.

"**A Bubble**," by Mrs. Walford, is an exceedingly pretty story. It is the old fable of the moth and the candle reproduced in the shape of a modern young lady and a Scotch student. The poor young fellow loses his head and his heart at the same time and General Mauleverer and his charming daughter find themselves in an exceedingly unpleasant position. A good fellow named Havering appears on the scene too soon for the student's peace of mind, for the bubble bursts with sad results. It is a pathetic book and will repay perusal.

"**Kafir Stories**," by William Chas. Scully are very powerfully written. We do not know that we can single out one above the other. We do not know any set of tales which we have found, on the average, more impressive. There is a local colour about these stories which gives them an air of verisimilitude very direct in its effects. A glossary of South African terms is provided for the use of the unin-