

BOOKS OF THE HOUR

THE MISDEMEANORS OF NANCY. By Eleanor Hoyt. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.

Nancy is a creature who pleases the heart of man very much like Anthony Hope's inimitable Dolly. She is wholly captivating, whether she chooses to adopt the role of a demure housemaid or a bachelor girl or an intriguer in hearts. Her charming personality gleams forth from the pages of this book in a thousand different lights and shades. Little wonder she broke many hearts—a fact which the reader of her misdeemeanors will soon discover. Through it all, however, "the man who came after," stands firmly ensconced in the background, coming forward at last at the proper time. It is a very pleasant book indeed, and the pretty illustrations by Stanlaws add an additional charm to its pages. The dialogue, in which form the greater portion of the book is written, is both clever and animated and some of Nancy's descriptions of her conquests and her occasional defeats are decidedly witty. As a summer gift book, "The Misdeemeanors of Nancy" is unparalleled.

THE TRAIL OF THE GRAND SEIGNEUR. By Olin L. Lyman. Toronto: MacLeh & Allen. Price \$1.25.

It is seldom that the War of 1812 is adopted as the groundwork of a modern novel. United States writers prefer to glory in the surer victories of the Revolution rather than in the doubtful struggles of the later conflict; and there are so few novelists of merit on this side the border, that the subject has never as yet been adequately treated in Canadian fiction. "The Trail of the Grand Seigneur," however, centres about this war, with its scene laid principally at Sacket's Harbour. It is of course written from the United States standpoint and naturally is somewhat partisan. What surprises the Canadian reader in perusing its pages, is the marked esteem in which the British regular is held. This in itself would not be so astonishing were it not that favor is extended to the red-coat at the expense of the Canadian Militiaman. The latter is depicted in no very creditable light. For this we are sorry, since it is an incontrovertible fact of history that the salvation of Canada, at that time of British stress and strain, depended on the manly valour of the Canadian Militia. Apart from this error of judgment, the "Trail of the Grand Seigneur" forms as engrossing a romance as one would wish to read. Adventures in plenty are to be found in its page, all well-described and the love interest never wavers from the dramatic beginning to the cleverly constructed climax at the end.

EVERYMAN. A METAL PLAY. New York: Fox, Duffield & Co.

The new publishing house of Fox, Duffield & Co., of New York, are to be congratulated on the excellence of their initial publication. It is an artistically executed edition of the quaint old moral play, "Everyman," which has interested so many thoughtful theatre-goers this winter. The play is quite ancient. In fact it has been traced far back to the reign of Edward IV. The quaint language and many of the old wood cuts which embellished early editions, are preserved in this volume. The theme of the play is the mortality of man. To Everyman comes Death, bidding him make his pilgrimage to the throne of God and there present his reckoning. Everyman turns to

Fellowship, Kindred and Goods and asks their company, but all desert him. Then Beauty, Strength, Discretion and the Five Wits are appealed to, but they, too, fail. Only one thing remains to comfort him, his Good Deeds.

"All earthly things are but vanity.
Beauty, Strength and Discretion do man forsake,
Foolish friends and kinsmen, that fair spake,
All flesh save Good Deeds."

SUMMER SONGS IN IDLENESS. By Katherine H. McDonald Jackson. Toronto: William Briggs.

The two most ambitious poems in this small book of verse are "A June Idyll" and "A Legend of the Isles of Shoals." The former is most characteristic of the general tone of the collection. It is a delightful spring day, with all the richness of coloring and happiness of expression that make the scene appeal to the sympathetic mind. But the poem is not all of nature. The mystery of love and the sadness of life mingle with the general theme and give to it the human touch necessary to its completeness. Into the other poem designated, another element enters—that of human tragedy. The blood-curdling tale of what befel two peaceful homes on the Isle of Shoals is dramatically portrayed in simple yet powerful verse. The remaining poems in the book are much shorter, dealing for the most part with nature and love. A few beautiful little lullabies, under the general title of "Sleepy Time Songs," complete a volume whose merits far outweigh its faults. If fault were to be found it would probably be with the lack of smoothness in the rhythm which frequently occurs.

IN THE DAYS OF THE RED RIVER REBELLION. By John McDougall. Toronto: William Briggs.

This volume is a sequel to the author's earlier work, "Pathfinding on Plain and Prairie." The latter brought the reader down to the autumn of 1868. This book takes up the thread of the story at that juncture and carries it on to nearly the end of the year 1872. Mr. McDougall, it will be remembered, was a missionary of the Methodist Church in the territory of Saskatchewan. In the discharge of the arduous duties of his office he was called on to cover an immense tract of territory. His constant movings to and fro gave him admirable opportunities to study both the country, its people and its customs, and these he has embodied in his present book in rich variety. The value of a testimony such as this regarding conditions in the West at the time of the Red River Rebellion is manifest, and Mr. McDougall has done worthily in painting the situation in its true light. Of the vicissitudes as well as pleasures of life in the West in those early days, the book is full. Dealings with the Indians, hunting, travelling on dog-sleds, adventures by day and night are all to be found in this most interesting volume. The style is simple and pleasing, and there are several good illustrations.

MR. CLAGHORN'S DAUGHTER. By Hilary Trent. New York: The J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Co. Price \$1.00.

This story is designed to illustrate the evil consequences of a blind adherence to an impossible religious standard. A woman, trained to be an agnostic, becomes the wife of a pro-