

Notes on Books.

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From Fleming Revell Co., Toronto.

CHINA'S ONLY HOPE: An appeal by Chang Chih Tung, translated by Rev. S. I. Woodridge. This is a small well printed book, said to be the most remarkable and influential publication that has appeared in China for 600 years. It is said to have been the prime cause of the Emperor's reform movements, which resulted in the *coup d'etat* and culminated in the present uprising. One cannot read the book without feeling that in China there is a powerful party in favor of progress, and it is this party that ought to be put in power at the present time. Chang Chih Tung is a master of literary style, and anyone who is interested in China and begins to read "China's Only Hope" cannot stop until he reaches the end. Montreal; Wm. Drysdale & Company.

THE WRONGS OF INDIAN WOMANHOOD, by Mrs. Marcus B. Fuller. Fine paper and good printing mark the mechanical appearance of this work, making it well worthy the excellence of the contents. Mrs. Fuller brings special fitness and long experience to the treatment of her deeply interesting theme. Nothing has ever been written on the subject that can at all be compared with it either for clearness of presentation, fearlessness of statement, or delicacy of touch. The tender pathos that pervades in many passages cannot fail to touch the heart. Our lady readers interested in the trials and disabilities of their sisters in India will doubtless buy this book. Montreal; Wm. Drysdale & Co.

WINSOME WOMANHOOD, by Margaret E. Sangster. Mrs. Sangster needs no introduction to our readers. She is well known from her connection with many American publications. This new book is a very lovely one, both in dress and matter. The illustrations are photographic studies from life of beautiful young women reproduced in sepia from pictures by W. B. Dyer. The pages are decorated with exquisite initial pieces, copies of famous lace handkerchiefs. The book is addressed to all women, but Mrs. Sangster's love for young girls makes it specially suitable as a gift book for them. It is divided into four parts—Daybreak, High Noon, Eventide and Rounded Life. It is difficult to imagine a more beautiful book, or one written in a sweeter spirit and with more knowledge of the needs of womanhood. Montreal; Wm. Drysdale & Co.

From Lee & Shepard, Boston.

THE HOUSE-BOAT ON THE ST. LAWRENCE, or Following Frontenac, by Everett T. Tomlinson. This is the second book Dr. Tomlinson has written about the same four boys, who are all jolly young college chums. This story tells of how they spent their summer on the beautiful, historic St. Lawrence river. One lad, who takes a great interest in history, has read up Frontenac, and in the evenings he tells his companions interesting stories of this leader in the new world. The book is bright and sparkling with fun, while the descriptions of the river are delightful. Altogether it is a most desirable book for boys.

BETWEEN BOER AND BRITON, by Edward Stratemeyer. This book is very timely, coming as it does when the eyes of all the world are fixed on the war which is ending in South Africa. It relates the experiences of two boy cousins, one American and the other English, whose fathers were engaged in the Transvaal. The scene opens in Texas on a cattle ranch, whence it is transferred to South Africa, where the cousins meet. While the two boys are off on a hunting trip the war suddenly breaks out and they find themselves placed between two hostile armies. Their thrilling experiences are well told by the author, and a good idea is given of the war from the beginning to the fall of Pretoria.

From Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto.

BROWNIE, by Amy LeFevre. Miss LeFevre is well known from her "Probable Sons," which is such a popular book for children. This new book should be quite as widely read, for it is a dear little story. Brownie and Buffle are the children of a young widow who earns her livelihood by her pen. The little heroine is a very sweet, imaginative child, and the story of her fancies and her adventures with her brother is charmingly written. Throughout the book there is a strain of religious thought which without being oppressive will be helpful to the little ones. The cover is very dainty, and several illustrations add to the pleasure that children will take in this attractive book.

From Copp, Clark Co., Toronto.

THE HOSTS OF THE LORD, by Flora Annie Steel. Any one who has read "On the Face of the Waters" will be anxious to read Mrs. Steel's new book, which is just as strong in its way as the first great success. The scene is again laid in India, but the revolt of a mere handful, not a great mutiny, is the theme. Mrs. Steel tells her story with a peculiar vividness, which brings the characters before us in picturesque array. The action takes place in the space of a few days and never drags. The book deals with that most fascinating theme which must always occupy the attention of the writer on East Indian life, the contact of two civilizations. The usual contingent of British officers and civilians figure in the story, as well as the native who apes the fashion of the English. The book is one that should not be overlooked. Ottawa; James Ogilvy.

TOMMY AND GRIZEL, by J. M. Barrie. "Sentimental Tommy" implied a sequel, and now Barrie has given us "Tommy and Grizel." We must confess to a feeling of disappointment in the book so eagerly expected. As a character study it is remarkable. It is seldom that so searching and true an analysis of the "artistic temperament" is made. But as a story it is a failure. There is practically no plot; all the details seem to owe their presence simply to the fact that they bring out the character of Tommy. Moreover, throughout the story we cannot rid ourselves of the feeling that Barrie is laughing at us, that he is parodying his first conception of his hero, until the denouement compels us to think that he is serious. To have Grizel's husband hanged by his over coat when attempting to follow the haughty Lady Alice, in order to continue to make love to her, is not tragic—it is burlesque. And yet the strength, the conscientiousness of the work is undeniable; and everybody will read the book for the sake of "Sentimental Tommy," if for no other reason. Messrs. Charles Scribners Sons, New York, also send us a copy of this work. Ottawa; James Ogilvy.

THE HOUSE OF EGREMENT, a romantic novel by Molly Elliot Saewell, author of "The Sprightly Romance of Marsac." This is the longest and most pretentious of her stories, the hero has a wonderfully varied and trying career but comes to his inheritance at the end, with recompense for his years of waiting. The time of the story is the closing years of the seventeenth century, when William of Orange came to England and King James was forced to fly to France. Roger Egremont, the hero, on his own estates in Devonshire was one of the first to meet the royal invader, entertained him against his will and displayed his resentment by flinging a platter of beans in the face of the prince as he sat at the table to which he was not invited. Roger is imprisoned, escapes and flees to France, where adventure is plenty—meeting with the Princess Orantia; his love for her; her marriage with the Prince of Orlamunde; the princess, death, and finally the death of Hugo Stein the pretender to the Egremont estates, the recall of Roger by King William III. and the princess already free and won, goes to England with him. Price \$1.50. Charles Scribner's Sons, Publishers, New York

From W. J. Gage and Co., Toronto.

SPRINGTOWN ON THE PIKE, by John Uri Lloyd. This story was selected as the Bookman serial for 1900, so that it goes without saying that the book is well written. But it is more than that; it is a distinctly strong book. The scene is laid in Kentucky, and the action begins at the time of the War of Secession, when the hero is a ragged, little urchin trudging along the dusty pike, and continues until the boy is well into manhood and has become a professor of chemistry in an Ohio university. The book is fresh and vigorous, full of fire and dramatic situations; while the weird negro superstitions of Cope, the son of an African king, forms the centre point of the story, for this old negro sees written in the ashes of the fire all the events which come to pass in the lives of the chief actors. His belief in his own powers of divination, and the way in which his prophecies are fulfilled, compel attention. The book is full of negro dialect and negro superstition, and in that way is a study. Ottawa; James Ogilvy.

THE SHADOWS OF THE TREES: And other poems, by Robert Burns Wilson: a charming book of nature poems with twelve beautiful illustrations from nature, by C. Grant LaFarge, reproduced in photogravure. We cannot resist quoting the following verses from "Lines to a Child," which will show the author's style:

Dear little face,
With placid brow and clear up-looking eyes,
And prattling lips that speak no evil thing;
And dimpling smiles, free of fair-seeming lies,
Unschool'd to ape the dreary words of pretence,
Sweet imager of cloudless innocence,
The tenderest flower of nature's fashioning:—
A dewy rose amidst the wilderness,
Amidst the desert a clear-welling spring,
So is thy undissembling loveliness,
Dear little face.

Dear little heart
That never harboured any ill intent,
That nothing knows of bitterness or care,
But only young life's nestling wonderment
Amidst thy strange new joys—thy incomplete
Unfledged emotions and affections sweet,
Veiled by the unived years, thy field, but there
The sowing for thy harvest has begun:
When thou shalt reap and bind, may no despair
Rise from thy ground, betwixt thee and the sun,
Dear little heart.

The volume is daintily bound in green and gold cloth, price \$1.50. R. H. Russell publisher, New York.

ROCHEFOUCAULD'S MAXIMS: These maxims written by a cavalier of Richelieu's times, one who knew the world as few have an opportunity of knowing it, are witty, suitable and true. The author has grasped the whole of life; the weakness of human nature, of fashion, and conventionalities is strongly depicted. This volume is one of a series of literary masterpieces, or living thoughts of master minds in poems and essays, printed on deckle edge paper, full leather, limp cover, boxed 75 cents. H. M. Caldwell Co., Publishers, New York and Boston.

Houghton Mifflin & Co., Boston.

THE HALF-HEARTED, by John Buchan, Mifflin and Company, Boston. This is a very strong story of a psychological turn. It deals with a young Scotchman who comes of a long race of gentlemen, but who is cursed by something in his nature which makes him "the half-hearted." A fatal hesitation stamps all his actions. When the story opens he has just returned home from foreign travel, heralded by a remarkably clever book on Kashmir. He shows his constitutional half-heartedness in a love affair and in the contest for a seat in the House of Commons, failing in both. Disheartened he goes to the frontier of India on a somewhat dangerous errand. Here in the end the half-hearted became the great-hearted and "was caught up by kind fate to the place of the wise and the heroic." The book is among the best of the year, and is well worth reading.