

"Their Choice."—Henrietta Dana Skinner. Benziger Bros., New York, etc.; \$1.00.

A new book, and new in all that the name implies. The plot is new and interesting—but not a mere transitory interest—the memory of the story stays. The details are new and show the unmissed hand of a literary genius. The development is new, for the story is written as taken from a diary, and so the law of contiguity is not left unobserved. Of course we cannot invade the writer's individual aptitudes by offering suggestions for developing resources, but Mrs. Skinner in our estimation needs no suggestions. The development is exactly as we would suggest, and she has very neatly solved the two problems which confront any author; how to give ideas such treatment as to make them cohere in the reader's mind and memory, and how to give them such movement as shall have the desired effect.

The extracts dated May 6th and August 10th are very touching and pretty. Mrs. Skinner has cultivated a lovable and delicate expression.

"Australia and Imperial Naval Defence."—F. M. Cutlack, *National Review*.

So much is being written about the naval policies of almost every power which boasts of a navy, and such a diversity of ideas and views expressed that it would be unfair to refuse to recognize an article on a question of such momentousness.

There are two aspects to the discussion of the Australian naval policy: the Imperial aspect and the local aspect. The Imperial aspect demands that Great Britain retain her position as mistress of the seas and especially of the Pacific. Australia's naval policy was, we believe, before the radical suggestions of the Home Power, quite similar to that of the Laurier Government in Canada before its defeat. However, Great Britain was dissatisfied and suggested that Admiral Sir Reginald Henderson be asked to look into the matter and report accordingly.

His report was immediately accepted by the Australian Commonwealth, and it was decided to build the 52 vessels which will comprise two divisions and include depot and repair ships.

Mr. Cutlack's article contains an exhaustive report on the cost and maintenance of this fleet and shows the work of a master mind.