

nix, although the latter did smell of soap. The easy conquest the disingenuous French captive made of the beautiful Edinburgh girl, is without parallel in history, but Stevenson was Stevenson, and must be allowed to tell stories as it pleased him. In the days of my youth I met with very many French noblemen, and there was not one of them who in any way that I remember resembled the rollicking Saint Yves. Nevertheless, the tale is well told, is full of incident, and will delight many to whom Stevenson's name is a household word.

Mr. Chapman, of St. Catherine Street, is in the same holiday mood as Messrs. Drysdale & Co. He sends to the "Journal" six books, one of which, however, is the already noticed "Spanish John." Another is "A Story Teller's Pack," by Frank R. Stockton, of 380. pages and sixteen illustrations, published by the Copp, Clark Co., of Toronto, at a dollar and a-quarter. It contains eleven of Stockton's peculiar stories, which relate in a dry, matter-of-fact way, things probably improbable and ludicrously possible. I like Stockton's tales as a relaxation; they make one laugh internally. In this volume, however, "The Magic Egg" and "The Bishop's Ghost and The Printer's Baby" are serious, while "Stephen Skarridge's Christmas" is a burlesque. "The Widow's Cruise" is in no sense a parody of the Scriptural incident bearing that name, for Mr. Stockton is always reverent, but a woman's sea-yarn that out-herods those of four ancient mariners. "The Staying Power of Sir Rohan," "Love before Breakfast," and "Captain Eli's Best Ear," are in the author's peculiar vein of sly humor, and much of the same character are "As One Woman to Another," "My Well and What came out of it," and "My Unwilling Neighbor." Mr. Stockton's actors are purely American, New Yorkers, or New Englanders, pertaining to the middle and lower middle classes, shrewdly simple and humbly heroic. They do funny things mean and funny things valiant, funny things clever and funny things stupid, with the utmost nonchalance, as if they were the only right things to do, causing the expansive beam of amusement