

The Printed Page

"Of Making Many Books there is no End."

—The Preacher.

THE FOOLISH LOVERS. By St. John G. Ervine.
New York: The Macmillan Company.

A story of an Ulsterman who, young and forcible, went to London to seek his literary fortune. The opening of the book is laid in a small town in Ulster, reputedly the home of the proudest people in Ireland. The author describes the lower middle class Ulster people very well. He makes his hero fall in love at different periods, and does it with a facile pen. He also becomes interesting when he tells us about what the young man met with in London. "The Foolish Lovers" is very true to life in this regard. But there is no doubt about the lovers being foolish.

THE ISLE OF THE SEVEN MOONS. By Robert Gordon Anderson. New York G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The seeking of buried treasure is, in this novel, ostensibly of secondary interest, but all the same it adds greatly to the thrills of the volume, which come upon us with a pleasing frequency. Mr. Anderson has the films beaten by a mile. The best painted character in the book is Carlotta, the vulgar but forcible cabaret-dancer of New York. In fact she is so much alive as to be very entertaining. There are several first-class villains, and as a matter of course the mystic island of the Southern Seas. Romantic and impossible as the story is, in places, it adheres to reality in others, and affords good entertainment for a railway journey.

THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC Geographical and Social Studies. By J. C. Sutherland, B.A. Montreal. Renouf Publishing Co.

The author of this book is the Inspector-General of the Protestant schools of the Province of Quebec, and a special official of the Department of Public Instruction. The work is designed for the general reader, though of undoubted value to teachers and high school pupils. It is the first work of the kind on any Canadian province along the lines of modern geographical thought. During the last thirty years geographical literature has been developing along new lines of scientific, historical and human interest, and this compact volume is in line with this trend.

It was said of a certain Scottish divine that his sermons always began with the flood, by which the epigramist who made the remark meant to say that the reverend gentleman was in favor of going back to fundamentals. In like manner Mr. Sutherland begins with the geology of the province he writes about, and his sketch on this subject is illuminating and readable. He goes on to tell us a good many things we wanted to know about Quebec, and we can highly commend his work. It would appear from what he says that Protestant schools in Quebec do not suffer any lack of freedom and advantage, and as Inspector General Mr. Sutherland ought to know.

DIES HEROICA. War Poems 1914-18. By J. L. Crommelin Brown. London: Hodder & Stoughton.

The author of this book is a scholarly Cambridge man who went to the war, and looked at the tragedy straight and with unflinching eyes. But there are a few sonnets and minor poems of earlier date which show us that when he

answered the call he was already a poet. Take for instance the following beautiful sonnet on the writer's experiences of life:

They talk and move about me as a show
Where all are adequate and none sincere,
And everything correct and nothing clear,
Studiously cloaking what is hid below.
Yet do I know that underneath there lies
A separate soul, a striving pulsing heart,
A spark of the eternal fires, a part
Of God Himself, that looks with mortal eyes.

O human thought beyond all human speech.
O human heart beneath the fashioned pose.
O human love that craves for the divine.
Would that my yearning deep desire could reach
The secret springs from which all being flows,
And touch and talk with that white soul of thine.

LLOYD GEORGE by Mr. Punch. (Canadian edition published by McClelland and Stewart, Toronto.)

A biography in caricature—such is this delightful volume, compiled from the pages of Punch. Here is the most prominent statesman of the time presented by almost a generation of artists in various roles, guises—and disguises—from the time he was a mere "back-bencher" in the Commons, to the present day when he is known as the greatest convener of International Conferences that ever lived. Punch is always impartial—in the end. In this gallery of cartoons Mr. Lloyd George is not always the conquering hero, but is "put through it" by the mentor of Bouverie Street. It is interesting to observe how he emerged from the Parliamentary background, getting an occasional "show" in a cartoon in company with some other politician, until in 1906 he attained the dignity of "a one-man" performance. Since then he has many times occupied the position of honour in Punch's "big cut," and in one or two special years he has "almost" held the field there.

It is a book of compelling interest—artistically as well as politically. There are nearly 200 drawings reproduced, extending from 1903-21, and the artists represented include Mr. Bernard Partridge, Mr. L. Raven Hill, Mr. George Morrow, Mr. E. T. Reed, Mr. A. W. Lloyd, Linley Sambourne, and F. H. Townsend. Mr. W. A. Locker has written an introduction to the book, and Mr. Alfred Leet has designed a special cover for it.

LOVERS AND FRIENDS. By E. F. Benson. Toronto. Thomas Allen.

This is a story of love and intrigue in high society. As a consequence it is somewhat sophisticated, and brings before us the frequent insincerity of the fashionable. But Mr. Benson's early training as the son of an Anglican archbishop, probably saves him from many extravagances. A clever writer, he does not let his pen run away with him as so many of our younger novelists—especially of the American school—too often do. It goes without saying that this novel is very entertaining, and many of the characters are well-drawn and original. We are introduced to Bernard, Lord Matcham, a meritorious government official who in former days of travel picked up an ancient Greek bust of a beautiful girl which in his eyes seemed like idealized perfection, and roused in him the hope that some day he might meet a living young woman like it. This he does, and falls in love with his imagined ideal in life as he formerly had in marble. Their courtship, marriage, and what they did afterwards are the central things on which the story revolves.

—X