

CHURCHILL, WINSTON

The Celebrity: *Crown, 8vo. Cloth, \$1.00; Paper, 50 cents.*

This is an exceedingly amusing book. It is written by Winston Churchill, and the author terms his book "an episode." The "Celebrity," is a popular American author of short stories, who temporarily assumes the name of his double, "Charles Wrexel Allen," the treasurer of the "Miles Standish Bicycle Co." The absurd predicaments in which the "Celebrity" is placed by his masquerading remind the reader somewhat of Sir Clement Downton, and Josephs, the barber, in J. M. Barrie's "When a Man's Single." The character-sketching and dialogue in "The Celebrity" are more than usually clever. The portraiture of Farquhar Fenelon Cooke, the wealthy lumberman with sporting tastes, bubbling over with good-nature, who knows everybody intimately after a five minutes' acquaintance, is most amusing. All the characters are drawn with the firm sharpness of a master hand. To read "The Celebrity" is to laugh. —*Brockville Times.*

"The Celebrity," by Winston Churchill, published by George N. Morang, Toronto, is a capital story. The work is readable and entertaining, and, though Farquhar Fenelon Cooke savors of "mire," the plot is well carried out, and the supple content of the "Celebrity" is admirably portrayed. His double succeeds in paying him out in his own coin, but the story ends well, a rare thing in these days of novels with a purpose. —*Ottawa Citizen.*

"Mr. Churchill's story ought to have a popular success; it has the elements that win the sort of favor that causes the publishers to issue hastily a bulletin announcing large sales; and then, perhaps, after it has had its day, its good points may be quoted, and with much likelihood they may not. This is merely to illustrate the fact that, while The Celebrity deserves all the nice things we have said about it, we are not pronouncing it a masterpiece of fiction, nor the great American novel, but simply an ingenious story, with a nice style and containing much promise, considering that it is an early attempt of its author. —*New York Advertiser.*

"The Celebrity" is a novel of complications, the story of some excessively awkward situations which sprang from the desire of a certain young author to escape from the admiration of his contemporaries for a while and play at being a nude. Involuntarily Milton with another man's name. We can only say that the chain of more or less exciting events is handled with notable tact and strength, so that the surprise at the end comes only when all the interest that could possibly have been extracted from the development of the story has been used to the fullest advantage. The dramatic effects are unforeseen, they come smoothly and legitimately from the play of character which goes on incessantly. The men and women seen portrayed from life. Somebody has perhaps been satirized in this brisk, incisive and entertaining novel. We wonder who? —*New York Tribune.*

DUNBAR, PAUL LAWRENCE

Lyrics of Lowly Life: *Cloth, 12mo.; \$1.25*

Mr. Paul L. Dunbar is a poet of the African race; and this novel and suggestive fact at once places his work upon a peculiar footing of interest, of study, and of appreciative welcome. So regarded, it is a most remarkable production. There are three things illustrated in Mr. Dunbar's volume that will be of especial interest to the scientific students of his race: the negro's gift in telling a story, illustrated in the humorous and dialect pieces; the negro's serious revelation of his passion of Love; and perhaps of far greater importance just at present, the negro's sense of rhythm and verbal melody. Of the last, the entire collection of poems is a triumphant, well-nigh unerring demonstration. The verses called "The Poet and His Song," afford a good example of the author's perfect ease, his sincerity, his sensitiveness to the outer world, his limited philosophy of life, and the sweetness and pathos in the temper of his race. As the effort of a man who has worked up from the ranks to a high literary position, "Lyrics of Lowly Life" must always possess a special interest. Mr. Dunbar has written stories and fragments of verse since he was twelve years old. When he was working as elevator boy in a big office-building in Dayton, Ohio, he was reading Virgil and laying a foundation in literature. His verse is so much above anything that has been done by any poet of the negro race that he may well be called the African laureate. Nor are there absent from his poetry the signs that denote the possession of high ideals. Taken altogether "Lyrics of Lowly Life" is an encouraging revelation.