

The title, **Joyous Gard**, which Mr. A. C. Benson gives to a new volume of essays (The Musson Book Company, Toronto, 235 pages, \$1.00) is the name in Tennyson's *Morte D'Arthur* of Sir Launcelot's Own Castle, which he had won with his own hands. According to Mr. Benson's interpretation, "the Castle of Joyous Gard . . . is the fortress of beauty and joy." It is the purpose of these delightful essays to show how each of us, amid the cares and distractions of busy days, can, in our inner life, build for himself such a fortress. The same publishers send us another volume by Mr. Benson, namely, **Along the Road** (383 pages, \$1.75), a second impression of a collection of articles written under the same name in a British religious weekly. The subjects are very varied, as the two or three chapter headings,—Old England, Robert Browning, Gambling—taken at random, sufficiently indicate, and the short papers are interesting and profitable reading.

One of the last books written by Alfred Russel Wallace, the famous scientist who shared with Charles Darwin the honor of originating the theory of evolution, is, **Social Environment and Moral Progress** (Cassell and Company, London and Toronto, 158 pages, \$1.00 net). We may not agree with the author's conclusion, that the present "social environment, as a whole . . . is the worst that the world has ever seen," but his strong indictment is fitted to stimulate thought on existing conditions, which are certainly inimical to moral progress, while the remedies suggested are worthy of the consideration of all earnest minds. Another of Cassell's recent books is, **Can we still follow Jesus?** by Alfred E. Garvie, M.A., D.D. (120 pages, 45c. net). Principal Garvie, in this little volume, discusses, with the utmost candor, the question, whether, in the light of modern theories of life, the teachings of Jesus can be worked out in every day conduct, and it is after frankly facing every seemingly opposed fact, that he declares his deepening conviction that the following of Jesus is as possible for us today as it was for Paul in his times.

A new volume of poems, by Albert D. Watson, **Love and the Universe, The Immortals: And Other Poems** (The Macmillan Company of Canada, 191 pages, \$1.25 net), takes its main title from the longest single poem and a series of poems contained in it. The series is the outstanding feature of the collection, attempting, as it does, and with no small degree of success, to give, in monologue form, an insight into the minds of the world's great ones in every department of human thought and activity. Some of the shorter pieces, like *Breeze and Billow*, *My Star*, *Evangeline* and *April*, reveal, in their melodious lines, the true poet.

A story of mountain climbing amongst the peaks of the Andes, of the shooting of swift rivers, with toilsome portages round their dangerous rapids and lofty falls to the Madeira, one of the chief sources of the Amazon, of trails through the home of savage tribes, leading to an occasional rubber camp is, **Across the Andes**, by Charles Johnston Post (Outing Publishing Company, New York, the Musson Book Company, Toronto, 362 pages, profusely illustrated, \$2.00 net). It is a vivid narrative of travel and adventure in a con-

tinental only beginning to be known. **African Camp Fires**, by Stewart Edward White (Mussons, 378 pages, \$1.50), tells of the hunting of big game in the jungles and on the plains of Africa. The descriptions are in the author's best style, and the more than eighty illustrations are triumphs of the photographer's and the engraver's art. Plenty of adventure there is in this book, but also a vast deal of interesting information pleasantly given regarding the black men and their wonderful country. The Macmillan Juvenile Library (each volume 50c., with 10c. extra for postage) includes **The Horsemen of the Plains**, by Joseph A. Altsheler (The Macmillan Company of Canada, 390 pages), just the kind of book which boys will love to read, a story of the West, full of Indians, scouts, trappers, fur traders and exciting adventures galore.

**Magpie House**, by Andrew Soutar (Cassell & Co., Toronto, 350 pages, \$1.25), takes us to the southern downs of England. In Reuben Blunt, the shepherd and "antikyary," Verity, the blind daughter of Dr. Lavender, the "shilling doctor," Adam and Stephen Black, reputed descendants of "Iron Gapp," a famous wrecker, their Uncle Phineas and Aunt Hannah, Mr. Soutar has created characters which will long live in the world of fiction. In **The Lely or the Lady** (same publishers, 307 pages, \$1.00), the story turns upon the determination of a descendant of a noble house in England, who has lived in the Yukon, to possess himself of a painting of Sir Peter Lely preserved in the ancestral home of his race. The "lady" is the daughter of the family, who is resolved that the picture shall never leave its place.

**The Westminster Service Book, 1914**, by E. Morris Fergusson (Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia, 71 pages, 35c.), proceeds upon the assumption—a quite inevitable one in the case of Sunday Schools using Graded Lessons, and possibly a very proper one in any Sunday School,—that the superintendent, as the chief teacher of the School, should have a Lesson of his own, and the further assumption that, through this Lesson, the great missionary work of the church, and the great problems and undertakings in connection, for example with Social Service, should be taken up in the School. Accordingly, a special Lesson is provided for each of the fifty-two Sundays of the year, which shall be given from the superintendent's desk at the opening of the School. It includes also schedules for the weekly statistics by which the superintendent can keep track of how the School goes on. Mr. Fergusson's book is specially adapted to the Schools of his own church, the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., but it is well worth the study of all superintendents, and is a suggestion for other churches to follow suite in providing a similar little book for their own constituency.

New Testament students are familiar with **The New Testament in Modern Speech**, by R. F. Weymouth, and find it full of valuable suggestion. Messrs. James Clarke & Co., London, U. C. Tract Society, Toronto, have issued a pocket edition of this most useful book, without notes. Beautifully bound in cloth, this little volume may be had on Eible paper for 50c. net, and on Oxford India paper for 75c. net.