

The Most Important Canadian Historical Romance of the Year

THE SPAN O' LIFE

A Tale of Louisburg and Quebec. By WILLIAM McLENNAN, of Montreal, and MISS J. N. McILWRAITH, of Hamilton. With 29 excellent full page illustrations by F. de Myrbach. Price, Paper, 75 cts. Cloth, \$1.50.



This is a book deserving of great success, not only on account of its well-written and interesting contents, but also because it is a Canadian story by Canadian writers. No better piece of writing on this subject has appeared since Gilbert Parker's "Seats of the Mighty." The authors have been fortunate in their choice of old Louisburg and Quebec as the scene of their story, for these historic towns abound with romance and folk-lore awaiting only the ready pen of the author. In "The Span o' Life" the reader is taken through the troublous times following the defeat at Culloden, and is introduced to a young Highlander, Hugh Maxwell, escaped to London, and in hiding. While there he falls in love with a young lady, Margaret Nairn, who favors the Jacobite cause, and is the ward of his godmother. Fearing discovery, the refugee is forced to seek other lodgings, and is directed to apply to a sempstress, in whom he discovers the

wife of his youth long since thought to be dead. On his wife's refusal to resume their old relations, he resolves to banish himself to Canada with the French army, in order that he and Margaret may the more easily forget each other. She, however, attributes to his poverty his failure to meet her advances, and some years later, upon coming heir to an estate, she follows him to the new world, taking with her Maxwell's wife as a maid, without either having any idea of the other's identity. The complications which follow are various and exciting, especially when the presence of a young and beautiful lady alone in a French military colony must of necessity appear strange, and not the less so because she is an Englishwoman. Indeed, it is doubtful if even Margaret's courage could have sustained her but for the memory of an old love song of Maxwell's which was constantly in her ears:

"The Span o' Life's nae lang eneugh,
Nor deep eneugh the sea,
Nor braid eneugh this weary warld
To part my love frae me."

—Mail and Empire.

One of the most absorbing narratives that modern romantic fiction affords.—*Brooklyn Standard Union*.

"The Span o' Life" is a valuable addition to our literature and deserves to be classed with the best Canadian historical romances.—*St. John Globe*.

It is a romance that will thrill anyone who loves a good tale of love and adventure, and it has an added interest from an historical point of view.—*Montreal Herald*.

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