

kind first came upon the stage of life, full many such a flower has been born to blush unseen. Men are said to owe their genius to their mothers. Certainly Mr. Barrie's literary genius bears the maternal stamp, and therefore, he may be justified in portraying his prototype.

There are 312 pages in Sir Walter Besant's *The City of Refuge*, published in Canada by the Copp, Clark Company of Toronto, but sent to the Talker by Mr. Chapman. It is a strange story of chivalry, as many of Sir Walter's are. A baronet and rising politician develops gambling mania, loses his own and much of his wife's money, commits forgery, and is sent away to the United States, where he joins a gang of professional gamblers, commits a murder, and is everywhere wanted by the police. A platonic friend of his disgraced wife undertakes to rid her of her marital incubus. Setting detectives on the erring baronet's track, he succeeds in two years' time, in hunting him down to a community in the State of New York that forgets the past, eschews the world, and engages in labor, the eating of square meals, a little religious dancing, and a good deal of trance-like meditation. The hero watches his degraded prey, by whom he is robbed, and, at the same time, falls in love with a sister whose youthful beauty the sordid dress and ways of the place cannot disfigure. Trances, somnambulism, spiritual communications and prophecies alternate with influences introduced by the hero from the world outside, individual affinities, scheming, rebellion, and the wicked doings of the villain. Happily, the latter dies by his own hand, his widow is free, and the hero marries the heroine of the unlovely *City of Refuge*, who turns out to be of an excellent English family. There is a great deal more than this in the story, which is quite an exciting one, and may hold the reader till he has finished it. It may safely be put into any hands.

Two other volumes from Mr. Chapman are in the *Children's Study Series*, published by T. Fisher Unwin of London. They are in antique cloth, with gilt top, containing each a portrait, and having an illustrated heading and initial letter to each