

triumph, are beautifully and nobly treated. The essence of the volume may be expressed in these words of Richard Watson Gilder :

"If Jesus Christ is a man,
And only a man—I say
That of all mankind I will cleave to Him,
And to Him I will cleave always!

"If Jesus Christ is a God,
And the only God—I swear
I will follow Him through heaven and hell,
The earth, the sea, and the air!"

MARY JOHNSTON.

The success, popular as well as artistic, of Miss Mary Johnston, the author of "To Have and to Hold" and "Prisoners of Hope," is one of the romances of literature, paralleled most nearly by the careers of Jane Austen and Charlotte Brontë. "To Have and to Hold" has not only enhanced her reputation as a literary artist, but has placed her in the front rank of "popular" romancists. On the day of its publication advance orders for 45,000 copies had been received, and



MARY JOHNSTON.

two weeks after it had issued from the press of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., the actual sales amounted to over 100,000. Even "Uncle Tom's Cabin" did not do so well, for two months after publication had passed before Mrs. Stowe's classic had been sold to the number of 100,000. The author of this highly successful novel comes of an old Virginia family. Her father is Major John W. Johnston, who won his rank as an artillery officer in the Confederate army. When his daughter was sixteen years old, he removed with his family to Birmingham,

Ala., and with the exception of a residence of four years in New York City, this has since been the home of the family.

As a child Miss Johnston's health was delicate; and, in fact, she has never been in possession of entirely good health, both "Prisoners of Hope" and "To Have and to Hold" having been written under stress of great physical difficulty. On account of her frail health as a child her schooling was irregular. She read everything her father's library afforded. She read also a great deal of the best of seventeenth and eighteenth century literature, and delighted in history. In 1893 the Johnstons removed to New York City, which they made their home for several years. In 1894, Miss Johnston's health, always delicate, failed so that she became for a time practically an invalid. Forced to lie quietly and to give up all active effort, she could still read and study, and at length she began to write a little for her own amusement. A year or two later housekeeping was given up on account of Miss Johnston's continuing ill-health, and apartments were taken in one of the big apartment houses overlooking Central Park. Here she began "Prisoners of Hope." Work upon it was finished after two years of effort more or less interrupted by seasons of ill-health, and published with eminent success for the first work of an unknown author. So well was the romance received that Miss Johnston determined to make literature a serious pursuit.

A CORRECTION.

In reference to the article which appeared in the May number of the METHODIST MAGAZINE under the heading of "Canadian Poets," I wish to correct some misstatements regarding Mr. Heavysage. He is referred to as "being a carpenter and printer." This is not correct, he was originally a carver and afterwards was engaged in journalistic work in connection with the Montreal *Witness* for twelve years. In circumstances Mr. Heavysage was comfortable, and by no means situated as the article referred to would represent.

In reference to Mr. Martin, I know that he, being wishful to see a third edition of "Saul" published, advanced the necessary funds, but the work not proving a financial success, Mr. Heavysage was unable to entirely repay it, but it was later on satisfactorily arranged between them.

A FRIEND.