

story written in which flaws of this kind could not be picked here and there, and this one is singularly free from blemishes of that kind.

"The Seats of the Mighty" is a book which every Canadian should read. Apart altogether from its worth as an absorbing tale, the historical value of the work is considerable. Dealing with the decline of French rule in Canada and the subsequent capture of Quebec by the English, it touches upon an event in which the inhabitants of this country cannot fail to be interested. Numerous charts and maps are shown which we believe have never before been published, all of which greatly enhance the value of the work.

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In the Village of Viger. By Duncan Campbell Scott. Boston: Copeland & Day.

"In the Village of Viger," is the title of a volume of ten French Canadian short stories, by Duncan Campbell Scott, which has just been published by Copeland & Day, of Boston. The readers of *Scribner's Magazine*, who have been charmed with Mr. Scott's Viger stories which have appeared from time to time in that publication, will be delighted to learn that after collecting those which have already been published, Mr. Scott has added several others to the volume which have never before seen the light of day, and which display to the same marked degree the high genius of the author. Within the covers of the little volume, Mr. Scott has given us humor and pathos of a high order, character delineation that could not be excelled, and delicate vignettes of descriptive writing which need to be read to be appreciated.

But not only are the stories Mr. Scott's creation, the village itself is his own making, for outside the book, we are told there is no such place as Viger. After reading the little volume, however, it is difficult to believe that in reality Viger does not exist. The characters are so true to life, the scenes are those met with every day, and the local color has been applied with such brief exactness that Lower Canada may be traced on every page.

In reviewing the volume we have in mind one story in particular, called "The Desjardins." It is the shortest of the ten, being less than two thousand words in length; but those two thousand words are put together with the genius of an artist; every word is made to count, and there is, consequently, no writing to cover space. We have repeatedly read serials containing chapter after chapter of the minutest description, and they have given us less information, apart altogether from pleasure, than this little story. There is so much suggested in it, so much left to the imagination.

Mr. Scott is, without doubt, one of the best writers of short stories that Canada has yet turned out. We cannot speak too highly of his book, and in spite of what the *Bookman* says, we would urge Mr. Scott to continue.

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Kokoro, Hints and Echoes of Japanese Inner Life. By Lafcadio Hearn. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.*

Those who have eagerly awaited further work from the pen of Lafcadio Hearn will give cordial welcome to *Kokoro*—this "Heart" of Japan. Other writers upon Japanese life and manners give but hasty impressions gathered from the limited opportunities afforded by hurried journeys through towns and cities of the coast. Lafcadio Hearn penetrated far inland, mastered the language, studied the religion, wore the native dress, taught in the school, identified himself with the people, married a Japanese wife, and is extravagantly proud of his Japanese son. As a result of this intimate association we have in *Kokoro* the most delightful record which has yet been written of charming little men and women in the country of his adoption. As regards the literary value of the book, it is neither yesterday nor to-day that the author, although more Greek than British, learned the intricacies of classical English. In years gone by the reviewer first knew Lafcadio Hearn. At that time, he had nothing in book form, but, his romances and sketches which appeared in the journals of the day were gems of thought and expression. In