



Through the Desert—(Benziger Bros., New York, Cincinnati, Chicago. Price, \$1.35 net. By H. Sienkiewicz.

Though the author of "Quo Vadis" here shows himself in a new vein, there remains the same power of diction and beauty of description which render his Roman masterpiece so brilliant.

The principal characters in the author's new story are Nell Rawlinson, a lonely eight-year-old daughter of a director of the Suez Canal, and Stanislaus Tarkowski, a sturdy and gallant lad of fourteen years, son of a Suez Canal engineer. Their parents are friends, and the children are as brother and sister. The departure of Rawlinson and Tarkowski on business cause the children to be left in the hands of a governess. Stosch and Nell are kidnapped by agents of the Mahdi, the wish of one of whose number has not been granted by Rawlinson. In the development of the plot, event follows event in remarkable succession. Among these occurrences are Stasch's refusal to accept the Mahdi religion, his shooting of the camel-drivers, the escape and wanderings of the children over the desert, their meeting with a dying explorer, and finally their rescue and restoration to distracted parents.

Throughout the narrative the author's motive is ever before us. Indeed it is a fitting background for so picturesque a story. The author's familiarity with the region is clearly evidenced in his description of the desert, its awesome mysteries, and its silent menace of danger and death. It is with unfeigned pleasure, then, that we declare this work to be an exceptionally interesting story for both old and young.

Review of Reviews (American), February, 1912. "The National Archives"—Rosa Chiles.