

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it—to me it is always a source of lively satisfaction.—Gladstone.

ST. IVES—By Robert Louis Stevenson. Cloth, 438 pp., \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto. This was Mr. Stevenson's last long novel, and the five concluding chapters have been written by Mr. Quiller-Couch from the outline of the plot furnished by the author to his amanuensis before his death. The story is full of exciting adventure, in Stevenson's best style, and it ends happily. Briefly the plot is: St. Ives, a young French nobleman, is imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle in 1813, during the Napoleonic wars. He falls in love with Flora Gilchrist, a Scottish girl, who visits with her brother the prisoners in the castle. St. Ives fights a duel with scissors and fatally wounds a comrade. This escapade and its consequence pursue him after he wins his freedom, with Flora's help, and gets to England, where resides his grand-uncle, a pre-revolution enigma who has saved all his immense wealth by investing it in England. The old count makes St. Ives his heir. But the latter, with the charge of murder hanging over him, and another difficulty to settle (in which he became involved on his road to England) decides to return to Scotland. Danger dogs his footsteps at every turn. He is pursued by the officers of the law, and by his vindictive cousin, who was disinherited in favor of St. Ives. Arrived at Edinburgh he goes through a series of thrilling experiences, always on the verge of discovery. Tracked at last, he escapes by a balloon, and, getting a ship to America, is safe from pursuit for a time. Returning to Paris just after the first surrender of Napoleon, St. Ives finds all his troubles smoothed out for him, and, going to England, he takes possession of his

estate and marries Flora. The tale is highly interesting and must prove a great success.

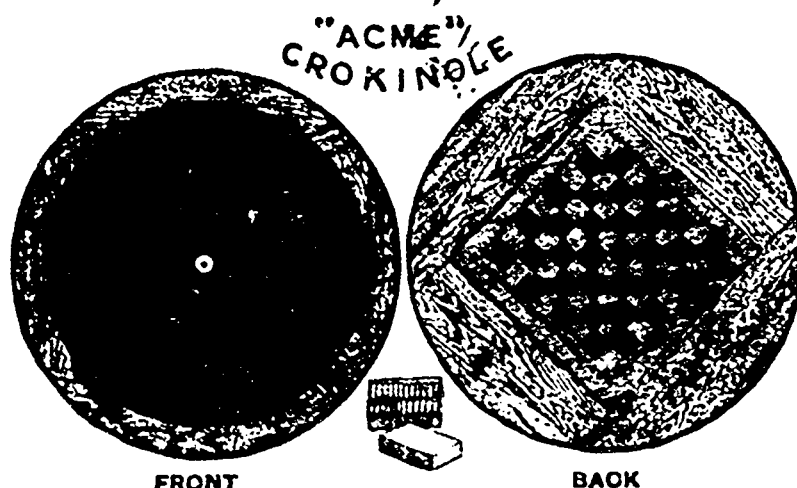
QUO VADIS.—By Henryk Sienkiewicz. Cloth, \$1.50; paper, 75c.; 541 pp. George N. Morang, Toronto. No one who reads this book from cover to cover, and realizes how perfectly the author has reproduced the times of Nero, will wonder at the great vogue the tale has had among English-speaking people since its translation from the Polish. The briefest outline of the plot is this: Vicinius, a young Roman noble, falls in love with Lygia, a Christian maiden. His uncle, Petronius, an intellectual cynic living the licentious life of the day, secures the Emperor's order to have the girl delivered over to Vicinius. Her friends rescue her, and for months she is hidden away in a Christian household. In his long quest Vicinius falls under the influence of Peter and Paul, the Apostles, finally embraces Christianity and retires to Sicily with Lygia as his wife. In the working out of this plot we get vivid descriptions of the orgies of Nero's court, the vices of the monster himself, the burning of Rome, the frightful tortures inflicted on the Christians and the methods by which the Apostles propagated the new faith. The theme is delicately yet strongly treated. The death of Nero is the culminating point, in strong contrast to the happiness which Vicinius attains. Petronius, who consoles himself for the disappointments of life in the love of his beautiful slave, Eunice, is a type of the sceptical Roman in a corrupt age when the best intellects had given themselves over to lust. The doctrines of the new faith are painted in the most favorable light, and the book as a

whole defies Christianity and its founders. We imagine that "Quo Vadis"—whither goest thou?—will be immensely popular in Canada. The edition is a most creditable production.

THE LOVE AFFAIRS OF SOME FAMOUS MEN.—By Rev. E. J. Hardy. Paper, 2s. 6d. T. Fisher Unwin, London, Eng. Mr. Hardy is the author of "How to be Happy, Though Married," which fact says all that is necessary of his ability to write a captivating book. The theme is akin to the other success. Taking the love-making of some famous men—Dante, Petrarch, Milton, Dryden, Shelley, Byron, Tennyson and many others—as a text, the author discourses genially and shrewdly, with a wealth of anecdote, upon the marriages of literary men. In short, a delightful and refreshing book.

KIRKCALDY OF GRANGE.—By Louis A. Barbe. Cloth, 157 pp., Famous Scots series, 1s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. We get in these pages a good deal of the history of the stormy Reformation days in Scotland, France and England, and the part William Kirkcaldy played in them. His adventurous career is like a romance, and as one of the rougher spirits of the time Kirkcaldy is a fitting hero for a story of civil strife, political intrigue and deeds of violence. It would be impossible to realize that Kirkcaldy was, as the author says, "an honorable man, a brave soldier, and a sincere patriot," if we were not given a vivid picture of the period in which he lived. This Mr. Barbe has given, and, having read the intensely interesting narrative, the reader is sure at least of one thing: that the "good old days" are not quite what the phrase conveys to the mind.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.—By P. W. Illustrated by C. D. Gibson. Paper, 50c. J. S. Ogilvie Co., New York. This bachelor's reflections are of the para-



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