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tions to the Company**HAMILTON - ONTARIO****Literary Notes**

MR. HEMING'S STORIES.

ONE of the best volumes of Canadian fiction yet produced is "Spirit Lake," by Arthur Heming. The seven stories are distinct, but connected—seven episodes in the lives of a group of Indians in northern Athabaska. The stories themselves are entertaining, though at times slight, but the wealth of woodlore with which they are embellished makes them important, and gives them a decided dignity. Added to these qualities is a store of Indian legend, fancy and custom interwoven among the warp and woof of the tales by a deft and skilful hand.

Mr. Heming has come by his literary and artistic skill only after years of patient devotion to his twin arts. Naturally, he is possessed of little imagination; yet so carefully has he nursed this small quantity, so earnestly has he studied, so persistently has he gathered, that to-day he has few superiors in his field. As this volume indicates, he can both write and draw. Few authors are able to illustrate their own books, but Mr. Heming is an exception.

His earlier drawings, when Hamilton was still his home, were rather crude, and his animals and men were somewhat wooden. After he got to New York and mingled with the best artists there, his technique continued to improve, until he produced work which the best magazines were proud to reproduce. Now his drawings are found beside the best. The twenty-three full-page illustrations in this volume are the best he has yet given to the public, all of them showing a strong grasp of the picturesque, most of them exhibiting the true painter's softness of outline.

In descriptive quality, Mr. Heming's early writing exhibited some of the faults of his drawing—mainly a too great attention to details. Some of this quality still remains, but much of it has been eliminated. There is a lack of phrase-making and of picturesque sentence-construction, such as marks the work of authors who have won fame as word artists, but there is in its place a knowledge of men and animals and outdoor life which infuses warmth into the simple, unadorned narration. This simplicity is attractive for its own sake.

Mr. Heming is to be congratulated upon achieving such a measure of success in his chosen field—the field of the trapper and the fur-trader. This volume must rank as one of the best contributions yet made in this field of literature.

* *

Perhaps the most important book which Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co. will present to the public this summer is a new story by E. P. Oppenheim, entitled "The Secret," which is considered equal to or better than anything he has yet turned out. Another book which is selling well is "A Strong Man's Vow," by Joseph Hocking, the author of "The Woman of Babylon," which is still a popular favourite.

A notable book issued by this company is "A Man of the World," by Antonio Fogazzaro, being the middle volume in a trilogy of which "The Patriot" was the first and "The Saint" the last. A new and very funny book is "Perkins of Portland," by the author of "Pigs is Pigs."

* *

A novel dealing with the subject of Imperial Federation is entitled "Empire," from the pen of Basil Ewes, while a heavier style of book is "The Native Races of British North America," by C. Hill-Tout, which deals with the Salish and Dene tribes of Western Canada. The last named book contains thirty-three full page illustrations and a map of the country in which the tribes reside.

* *

Morang & Co., Toronto, are issuing their "Makers of Canada" in two cheaper editions. The first set sold at \$100 for the twenty volumes, but the later impressions may be secured at about one-half that price.

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