

profanity of border life. Stories these are—and good stories—but they are more, they are tonics for enfeebled faith, full of literary vigour and instinct with highest truth.

The latest development of modern literature is the short story, and E. W. Thompson, now on the staff of the "Youth's Companion" is a master in that art. There are many others, well known in the popular American magazines, among them Duncan Campbell Scott, better known as a poet; W. A. Fraser, and Dr. Frechette (whose French poetry was crowned by the Academy of France) who has achieved the success of writing a book of capital short stories in English and so of winning laurels in two languages.

Ernest Seton Thompson occupies a place by himself in his books "Wild Animals I have Known," "The Sand-hill Stag," and "The Biography of a Grizzly." The sympathetic naturalist tells these stories from the animal's own point of view—a method which imparts much freshness into the narration. Mr. Thompson's skill as an artist adds charm to his books, and his wife, accomplished not only in the art of getting up pretty books but also in the unconventional art of taking care of herself on the western prairies, has contributed another volume, "A Woman Tenderfoot," to our open air literature. Mr. W. A. Fraser has gone further in this direction and his "Mooswa and others of the Boundaries," makes the wild animals talk as they do in Kipling's "Jungle Book." His hero is a moose whose moral character has developed beyond that of the usual run of the Christians who hunt and trap in the spruce forests of the upper Athabasca. Our natural history is leading us back to Aesop and the dawn of literature, but our wild animals have not the keen wit and didactic brevity of the Greek creatures. They tend towards diffuseness and to the north-west superfluity of expletives.

Canadian history and scenery are beginning to make their appearance in novels by outside writers who, having no real knowledge of either, seek it in the pages of Francis Parkman