

## BOOK REVIEWS.

TAN PILE JIM, OR A YANKEE WAIF AMONG THE BLUE NOSES. By B. Freeman Ashley. Cloth extra, 4to, 260 pp., \$1; illustrated. Laird & Lee, Chicago.

Henty has written superb books for boys, treating of warlike events and historical adventures. W. H. G. Kingston has told thrilling tales of adventures in the China seas in his Boys' Own Series. J. Macdonald Oxley has been writing boys' books for the Nelsons. Now a new writer of boys' books appears, with his book issued from Chicago. It must not be thought that nothing good can come out of Chicago, although it must be admitted that a great deal of trash is issued by the houses there. This book savors of the North American continent: it smells strongly of an intense love of the New World and the races who have made it and been themselves re-made. As an account of Nova Scotia domestic life it is excellent, and written with a glowing descriptiveness and a captivating humor which makes it very readable. A Yankee lad, left an orphan at an early age, is apprenticed to a Marblehead fisherman. Disgusted with his wretchedness, he deserts at a Nova Scotia port and travels inland. One morning at daybreak he is found by a worthy tanner asleep in a hole in his tan pile. An acquaintance follows, and finally "Tan Pile Jim" is asked to discard his rags, his bad manners and his old clothes, and to become the adopted son of the childless tanner and his wife. He grows up into a worthy man, but his adventures are numerous and interesting. Finally a name and a fortune are found for him by a lawyer in Salem, Mass. What is most pleasing about the book is the high moral standard which it raises, and which makes it a safe volume for "our boys."

FLATS. By Evelyn Everett-Green, author of "The Wilful Willoughbys," "A Pair of Pickles," "A Doctor's Dozen," etc. Pocket Novels, No. 15. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.

"Flats" is a London mansion, occupied by different families, often present a ground for watching interesting humanity. The author has picked out such a place as the scene of a "wooing and courting," which is described in a most charming way. The incidents of the story are fresh, the characteristics interesting and admirably drawn, and the end cannot be seen from the beginning.

THE SILVER CHRIST AND A LEMON TREE. By the author of "Under Two Flags," "Two Wooden Shoes," etc. Pseudonym Library, No. 41. T. Fisher Unwin.

These two little stories are charming glimpses of Italian life, such as Ouida might have written. But the author has ideas which will not be agreeable to all. Speak-

ing of the peasant who figures prominently in the story, it is said: "The peasant no more wonders about his own existence than a stone does. The peasant does not look back; he only sees the road to gain his daily meal of bread or chestnuts. The past has no meaning to him, and to the future he never looks. That is the reason those who want to cultivate him fail utterly." "The world has never understood that the moment the laborer is made to see, he is made unhappy, being ill at ease, morbidly envious and ashamed, and wholly useless. Left alone, he is content in his own ruminant manner." Such a doctrine will gain a mighty small foothold on this side of the Atlantic.

WANTED. By Mrs. G. R. Alden (Pansy). 12mo., cloth, illustrated, \$1.50. Boston: Lothrop Pub. Co.

This book has been copyrighted in Canada, and hence will not be imported. It has been previously reviewed, and its main feature is that it takes up the cause of the much maligned stepmother. Pansy may gain the honor of being among the first to turn the tide of public opinion, when the current sets the wrong way.

A HELP FOR THE COMMON DAYS, being papers on Practical Religion. By J. R. Miller, D.D., author of "Week-day Religion." Cloth, 2s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.

This is a charmingly written book for devout persons and covers a variety of subjects, some twenty-six in number. Some of the most striking are "Compensation in Life," "Life as a Ladder," "Shall We Worry?" "People who Fail," and "Hands: a Study." The author has intensely broad sympathies, a wonderful and imaginative descriptive power, a broad culture, and a fearless speech. His books are high in the ranks of this class of literature.

A FOOLISH MARRIAGE. By Annie S. Swan. Canadian Copyright Edition. Wm. Briggs, Toronto.

This book, which is an Edinburgh story of student life, appeared serially under the title "Two Fools." It is a touching tale of life, beginning with the experiences of an orphan girl left penniless on the world. Her struggles with her pride and her circumstances, her need of assistance and counsel, her somewhat disappointing life is but a type of the many. Her troubles and her sorrows rouse the sympathies and refine the feelings of the reader, and in such ways are the people's humanities increased and their sympathies broadened.

THE QUEEN OF EQUADOR. By R. M. Manley. Paper, 50 cents. The Hagemann Pub. Co., 114 Fifth avenue, New York.

A more absorbing story has rarely issued from the press. The plot while intricate is

very clear, is original and happily conceived. The interweaving of the romantic South American scenes with the daily life of the suburb "within the orthodox hour's ride of New York" is successfully accomplished, and so natural are the transitions that the reader is not shocked by incongruity. Mr. Manley knows how to tell a story in a very entertaining way, but it is in the delineation of character that he is at his best. Denny O'Halloran and Dennis O'Halloran, Esquire, are living portraits, and so well do they point a moral and adorn a tale that one wishes for their more frequent appearance. Mr. Boggs, the philosopher, Mrs. Boggs, the inscrutable Dr. Mulgrave and his testy colleague Millard, Ellen Clay and Jelfie are all well-drawn characters.

MY DUCATS AND MY DAUGHTER. By P. Hay Hunter and Walter Whyte. A new edition. Paper covers, 1s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh; Cooper & Co., Toronto.

This book has had a wonderful sale in Great Britain, and has come to be a standard popular novel. It contains admirable descriptions of Scottish life, such as the humors and characteristics of a Scottish election, and the push and bustle of a daily paper office at the time of going to press. But besides these characteristic sketches, it is a pleasant tale from life of a love dilemma which tests and displays the qualities of the parties concerned. It is on the whole a singularly pleasant and wholesome story told with considerable pathos and much humor.

THE LOST LADY OF LONE. By Mrs. Southworth. Paper, 25 cents. Robert Bonner's Sons.

This is a bulky novel from the pen of a well-known author. It is very different from any of Mrs. Southworth's other novels. The plot, which is unusually provocative of conjecture and interest, is founded on thrilling and tragic events which occurred in the domestic history of one of the most distinguished families in the Highlands of Scotland. The materials which these interesting and tragic annals place at the disposal of Mrs. Southworth give full scope to her unrivalled skill in depicting character and developing a plot, and she has made the most of her opportunity and her subject.

THE RED SULTAN. By J. Maclaren Cobban. Rialto Series, No. 64. Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago.

This book is a tale of the remarkable adventures of Sir Cosmo McLaurin in West Barbary. The adventures are sometimes simple and sometimes appalling, but always interesting. The author has entered new territory, and described new characters. In this book a new field is presented for the first time, and the local coloring seems to be very faithful. It is the purest type of the class of literature known as the "Romance of action" class.