

Mr. Barrett's tale is one of Rome in the time of Nero. The tyrant himself is described not flatteringly, and other historical characters depicted are his second wife Poppaea and his infamous minister, Tigellinus. Imaginary courtiers, male and female, are introduced, clothed with all the luxuries and vices of their age; and a band of Christians, under the leadership of an aged disciple, named Favius, plays a part in the drama. But the central figures in the tale are a beautiful Christian maiden and orphan called Mercia, and Marcus, the chief patrician and prefect of Rome, a pagan and a voluptuary, but with a soul for higher things. In his capacity as prefect, he was disposed to deal leniently with the Christians, especially since he became acquainted with Mercia, whose beauty and purity attracted him. In his endeavors to favor them and save her, he was opposed by the cruel and profligate Tigellinus, a cunning and unscrupulous rival. Marcus' love for the Christian maiden also brought upon him the jealousy of Poppaea and other ladies of rank. The story of the intrigues and adventures which the opposing principles of love and hate led to is graphically told. The constancy of the martyrs also is pleasingly depicted, and the climax is reached, when, unable to save the pure object of his affection, Marcus avowed himself a Christian and perished with her in the arena. In describing the scenes of one of the most immoral periods of Roman history, there is abundant room for coarse language and immodest suggestion, but Mr. Barrett, perhaps by virtue of his art, carefully avoids anything of the kind, refusing to condescend to any particulars of the vices which he exposes and reprobates. The tone of the whole book is that of a reverent Christian, in earnest sympathy with the struggles and sufferings of the early Church.

Anthony Hope has written another book, which is being well boomed. The Frederick A Stokes Company of New York publish it on this side of the Atlantic in a sixty-five cent paper edition of 306 pages and many illustrations by Wechsler, whoever he may be. It is called *Phroso*, a romance. Messrs