

Lawyer Small goes to England to inherit Blackley Hall, and, as no letter comes from him, his son Harry and Aleck go after him. He is found to have been murdered by an adventurer, but his elder brother, the real heir, arrives from South Africa, and is found to be Aleck's long-lost father. The book is full of incident poorly related, so that comic and tragic situations appear very matter of fact. Charles Stell has not yet caught the trick of story-telling, which is a pity, because he has abundance of material. His work at times is like a school-boy's essay, at others like a series of newspaper paragraphs. Trivial scenes are long drawn out, and great events are slurred over. The unities are not preserved at all. The book is not uninteresting, but there is no beauty in it. Even as a mechanical tale, the mechanism is poorly put together.

A little paper-bound book or pamphlet of 58 pages, price five cents, contains thirty-two hymns, with brief biographical notices of their authors. It is entitled, "The Best Hymns, a Text Book for Memorizing Them," edited by the Rev. Louis F. Benson, D.D., Philadelphia, The Westminster Press. The use of the name "Westminster" by our Presbyterians is snobbery of the worst description. A snob is a pretentious fellow, who assumes airs on the merits of a chance acquaintance with what he deems higher than himself, and to which he toadies. To claim Westminster, because the Presbyterian Church of England occupied for five years one of its chambers, is about as reasonable as the claim of the youth, who had entered the front door of a college, and had been kicked out of the back one, to have gone through the university. The hymns in this collection are, most of them, good, but not necessarily the best. They are the hymns that are found in most hymn-books, and are thus in commonest use. Ordinary congregations do not appreciate the best hymns nor the best preachers. Yet it is refreshing to find not a single Moody and Sankey hymn in this brief collection. It is valuable as furnishing the consensus of Christian people regarding the hymns of which they most approve. "God