

care nothing for the cultivation of the more delicate sensibilities and the higher life. It should appeal strongly to the man who prides himself on caring only for the so-called practical. In these days art, without surrendering her exalted mission in calling out, developing and purifying taste, has become a handmaid to manufacture. For the manufactured product must not only have a utilitarian value—it should also be pleasing to the eye. Few buyers are so devoid of the sense of the beautiful that of two articles serving the same primary purpose equally well they will deliberately choose the one in which the element of taste has been ignored. Hence in a technical or vocational school care is taken to put the art department into the charge of highly competent instructors.

The technical classes of the King Edward high school of Vancouver are now about to be organized as a distinct institution, and they will soon be transferred to a building specially prepared for them. The work of these classes in the subject of drawing has always been of a high order and it will assuredly not suffer in their new home and under the new conditions. And although the School of Arts and Crafts planned by the Art League of British Columbia is not intended to be a department of the Vancouver Technical School, it will nevertheless prove an aid and an inspiration to all associated with that institution.

In some respects Vancouver is already the most attractive city in Canada. Every added source of attraction should be welcomed and encouraged not only because it will tend to draw the travelling public, but, of greater moment by far, it will help to induce a highly desirable class of people to take up their abode with us, making it the easier to build up and maintain a community animated by the highest standard of feeling and thought and life.

Robert Watson's New Book

"STRONGER THAN HIS SEA"

By Robert Watson. (McLelland & Stewart, Toronto.)

Readers of Robert Watson will welcome the latest work from his pen just issued and although, in scene and subject matter, it is widely different from the two novels already published by him, they will find in it the same qualities of brightness and liveliness of style that characterised those.

The writer has gone back to the country of his birth for his inspiration. The hero is a Scottish lad whose fortunes are followed from the age of "five past" through a somewhat chequered and tempestuous school life and young manhood which is made interesting by a somewhat idyllic romance in which the village lad has for his rival the handsome and debonair son of the laird of the district.

Todrick, the village dominie, is one of an old school of pedagogues that has fortunately passed away and his cruelties and injustice bring about a strike of the boys of Piershaws' School in which amongst the demands of the ultimatum pinned on the school gatepost were "no more than three palmies to each scholar every day" and "cushioned seats for the lassies."

Todrick's successor, Mr. Galt takes quite a different method in his teaching. He is everything that Todrick was not, encouraging his young charges in every way both for learning and for sport and so wins his way into their affections. At the same time he works on their pride and boyish rivalry to arouse a spirit of emulation. This has its result in a new zeal and application and the triumph of the school against a rival institution when Sandy, the hero of the tale wins a coveted scholarship open to competitors from both schools.

There is much "pawky" and delightful humour in Mr. Watson's portrayal of the boys of Piershaws'; and the description of the party given to the Sunday School class and their act-

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ing of William Tell and the apple is very happily carried out.

Sandy goes to college and does blacksmithing in the vacation and we have some interesting scenes around the smithy fire, notably the fight between him and Rogers, an old school mate who steals the MSS of a poem that Sandy has just written. The hero has the trick of versewriting and there is more than one lyric in the book. These of course, have their place in working out the plot of the story. This, although somewhat slight, is pleasing; and Doreen, the daughter of the village "vet" is a heroine who is worthy of the homage which she wins from the two suitors for her hand. R.A.H.

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