



voice described as one of those speaking instruments more rare than any voice of song. You nearly overlook Dr. North, so persistently does he sit in the shadow of his friends; but they all love him (and so will you), that large kind man of mental and bodily healing; Mary North, the flitting child-life of the company, the dear glad little girl who loved big, wicked Xerxes Crofter, in whom her child heart saw nothing that was not good; here we have the master character of the book, the huge Crofter, who "plays bear" so perfectly with baby Mary that the critical mind has relapses, forgetting the man's badness, and thinking perhaps this unusual man has only been "playing bear" to terrorize an adult world.

The subjects selected by the author are so vital with interest, so nicely discussed—and *Sibyl Maywood's* love-story is alone worth reading the book for. No theme is neglected, from the secret of fly-fishing to the fate of a nation. Mr. Vincent gives a daring opinion regarding the success of Canada as a colony, and whether we Canadians like it or not, we would read it, and arise to prove the sayer wrong.

Here are some bright sayings overheard in the circle:—

Men are losing their instincts, and not getting brains fast enough to supply the loss of animal talents.

The thing is to make folks curious. You print a placard upside down or spell a word backward, and every second man will be mad to read them.

The worst of being a fool is that experience is of no use.

When you present a man with a true picture of himself, he no more believes it is he himself, than does a monkey who first sees himself in a mirror.

We may divide great men into two sets, those who die too soon, and those who live too long.

Now when this artless child said "beautiful," it acquired a fresh value, like worn gold re-issued from a royal mint.

Genius is a glad freak of nature in a good humor. It has in a sense neither grandfather nor grandchild.

"Oh, tact," said I, "is a gift of nature, unteachable. A duke may miss it, a mechanic have it."

I returned that there was no insurance against the fire of genius and that other folks were apt to get a trifle singed.

Usually in these days of concealment and self-control, only a part of a man's nature gets written clearly on his face. This is the interest of the sixteenth century portraits. The time unmuzzled all passions, all personal qualities. It was fatal to Italy; it was fortunate for the artist.

"Selling is a particular talent," said I. "Yes some men can sell anybody anything. I once sold a threshing-machine to a confectioner. I could sell ice in Greenland, or hot-air furnaces in Ashanti." Published by The Copp, Clarke Co., Limited, Toronto.

THE *Christmas Ladies' Home Journal* offers a superabundance of literary and artistic features in most attractive form. Amongst its nearly two-score contributors are Mrs. Lew Wallace, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Charles Major, William Perrine, Clifford Howard and Elizabeth Lincoln Gould, while A.B. Frost, W. L. Taylor, Reginald B. Birch, Henry Hutt, George Gibbs and as many other illustrators supply its pictorial features. Apart from the articles having special holiday timeliness of interest, the notable features of the Christmas Journal include "The Innkeeper's Daughter Who Dissolved a President's Cabinet," "What May Happen in the Next Hundred Years," "Jerusalem as We See it To-day," "Two Women's Gifts of Twenty-Five Millions," "The 'Little Men' Play," a dramatization of Louisa M. Alcott's delightful story: "Where Children See Saint Nick," "The Fourteenth Man," "Two Christmas Days at Rock Farm," and "The Successors of Mary the First," "The Story of a Young Man," and "The Blue River Bear Stories," which are continued. Edward Bok has a thoughtful article on Christmas celebration, and there are various articles on women's wear, Christmas presents and edibles, while various other practical, helpful themes are ably presented. By The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. One dollar a year; ten cents a copy.



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