

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH—Continued.

not until he has shown himself to be her master in some surprising ways. The gradual coming together of these two makes the undercurrent of the story through a series of episodes, grotesque, laughable or tragic, such as were common in the cattle country. A better illustrator than Mr. Arthur I. Keller could hardly have been found for this story. He contributes eight full-page spirited drawings." We quote from *The New York Commercial Advertiser*. It is a satisfaction to find at last a novel which has summed up this vanishing phase of Western life in a book that will live. It is only at rare intervals that one comes across a book which appeals so directly to one's personal enjoyment. It will not allow you to lay it down until it is finished, and then leaves you with a genuine regret that the enjoyment is so soon ended—a regret which lasts until you discover that a great deal of the book is quite as enjoyable when read for the second time. We advise all readers who enjoy a thoroughly human book to lose no time before reading "The Virginian" (Morang).

One of the most remarkable books of the season is "The Conqueror," by Gertrude Franklin Atherton, author of "Senzor North," "The Californians" and "The Aristocrats." This is a true and romantic story of Alexander Hamilton, the story of whose life has never yet been told in all its completeness. The present story by Mrs. Atherton has been written after an exhaustive research into Hamilton's family records, and also into the public records of the West-Indian Islands, where he was born and spent his boyhood. Mrs. Atherton has been able to solve the vexed question of Hamilton's birth, and her story gives not only a full account of his mother but also of his own childhood and boyhood. For the rest it is a consecutive narrative of Hamilton's life based entirely on the facts, but is treated in the fashion of a story instead of with the usual conventional biographical method. Many incidents of Hamilton's life, which in themselves sound more as if belonging to action than fact, have heretofore been merely stated by his biographers as the driest matter of fact, whereas Mrs. Atherton has thrown into their proper worth these startling and romantic episodes of his life. While adhering in the closest possible manner to the actual facts of Hamilton's life, Mrs. Atherton has written his life's story in the manner of fiction, adding immeasurably to its interest. Hamilton is alive to the reader. One gains a picture of the man from his boyhood up, the man himself moving and acting throughout his many-sided career

brilliant, generous, a favorite of women, and the astute political genius. (George N. Morang & Co.)

A revival of George Eliot is felt in the land, and a new and intensely interesting biography—a very personal one—has just been issued from the pen of Leslie Stephen, author of "A Dictionary of National Biography." ("George Eliot," Morang.)

Of George Eliot, Leslie Stephen says: "When I compare her work with that of other novelists, I cannot doubt that she had powers of mind and a richness of emotional nature rarely equalled, or that her writings will have a corresponding value in the estimation of thoughtful readers. This book is a charming little edition in blue and gold, well printed, and the price is 75c.

Commenting upon Mr. J. H. Rose's latest contribution to Napoleonic literature, his *Life of Napoleon I.* (Morang), the London critics speak very warmly. The Times declares it "faint praise" to say that Mr. Rose has written the best life of Napoleon yet published.

"Religious and Social Work Amongst Girls," by Flora L. Freeman, has just been put forth by Thomas Whittaker. It is a practical and stimulating work on an important topic and its value is attested by an emphatic endorsement and introduction by the late Father Dolling, of East London, lately deceased, whose strenuous and efficient activity in kindred work is famous.

"Those Black Diamond Men," by William F. Gibbons (Fleming H. Revell Co., \$1.50), a tale of the coal mining fields, which at this critical moment comes graphically portraying the life of the anthracite coal miner, with all its privations and perils, its good-fellowship and heroism. Withal a vein of humor permeates the whole and touches even the sublime.

Combine the conditions that compelled Jacob Riis to depict city slum life, and Ralph Connor to portray his Rocky Mountain miners, and we have the problem with which Mr. Gibbons has wrestled as faithfully as either of those pioneers.

A startling, realistic and sympathetic story of that life whose poverty has its riches and whose brutality has its gentleness. Recklessness, wantonness, riotousness and tragedy are a foil to a sweet humanity, heroic devotion and an unconscious humor. Here are the grime, the sulphurous suffocation, the sinking earth, the burning breaker, and the crash below ground in the thick darkness. Here, too, is human sympathy and self-denying love. This many-colored

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