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HAMILTON - CANADA**Literary Notes**

ABOUT two years ago, there arose in the Toronto "News" a discussion, occasioned by a letter from Mr. W. A. Fraser concerning the relative "morality" of English and American fiction, in which the author of "The Lone Furrow" and many other works was rather in favour of the latter as being more healthy in tone than the novels of the older hand. This controversy is recalled by a recent discussion arising from the statement of a New York publisher, that contemporary British fiction has a smaller circulation than formerly in America for the reason that the novel of perfidious Albion "is not innocuous enough for the American public." However, this gentle and flattering theory is knocked on the head by the English publisher, Mr. Alfred Nutt, who states that although the English novel does not sell so readily in America as it did twenty years ago, the British fiction which is most popular with the readers of the United States is of the undesirable class. Much of this morbid stuff is by women writers, and these exploiters of the nauseating may be found in the United States as well as in England. There is no reason whatever for the New York publisher to declare: "We are holier than thou."

* *

Mr. J. B. Kerfoot of New York "Life," who writes ideal tabloid reviews, has a word to say about "Spirit Lake," Mr. Arthur Heming's last work. "It is hoped that neither the Talking Moose nor the Buffalo Spirit will incur the displeasure of the nature-faker baiters, but will, without affidavits, be allowed to join the company of the Unicorn and the Mock Turtle. The stories, although not particularly impressive are sufficiently readable."

* *

The Asiatics and their ways are receiving their full share of attention from the literary world. The most interesting and anxious part of the American continent just now is the coast where East meets West, whether in the "land-locked blue" of British Columbia or the streets of reconstructed San Francisco. "The East Unveiled," by F. A. McKenzie is the rather alarming title of a book which has attracted much attention in England this spring and summer. "The Asiatic Danger in the Colonies" by L. E. Neame, published by George Routledge and Sons, of New York, is one of the latest volumes on Asiatic immigration and will be read with interest by Canadians both in East and West. The importance of the issue is apparent to all those who look beyond parish and provincial boundaries. A Californian authority speaking of this British writer's treatment of the question, says:

"The author tells us that it is indeed the most weighty of all colonial problems, and he finds it easy to make his word good. He writes with moderation, with a freedom from invective, and with a reliance upon indisputable fact which largely strengthen his case and which make his book a weighty and valuable contribution to the literature of a world-wide issue."

This book will probably be read in Victoria and Vancouver and it should be read in Ottawa, Toronto and Halifax as well.

* *

The newspaper, "Tidning" of Stockholm announces that Mr. Kipling has been designated to receive the Nobel literary prize for 1907. What will the Hague Conference say to this?

* *

"Bob, Son of Battle," is one of the novels-of-several-years-ago which we have not forgotten. The author, Mr. Alfred Olivant, has written a new book, which is as odd as it is enjoyable. "Redcoat Captain" is a hero after every childish heart, and those grown-ups who have not forgotten the way to "that country" will make friends with him without the formality of an introduction.

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