

FROM THE PUBLISHERS

STORIES in which more things happen in less time than it would take most of us to go down town, are the rule in the writings of Mr. Louis Joseph Vance. If you liked "The Brass Bowl," you will be sure to like "The Bandbox," which rejoices in a mauve cover, with the very box which worked all the mischief, pictured thereon. An unknown young lady sends a bandbox to an American-bound steamer in charge of Mr. Staff, whose bewilderment is natural and whose curiosity remains ungratified during many chapters. The ocean voyage develops the usual number of complications and the story moves with a rapidity which is amazing. A pearl collar disappears and we are morally certain that the bold, bad bandbox has something to do with it. However, it is unfair to tell too much about the plot in an exciting Vance novel, and we agree with the little man who says: "We don't got any use for inquests at the wind-up of this giddy dime novel." The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto.

A ROMANCE by Payne Erskine, "The Mountain Girl," carries us off to the mountains of North Carolina, where lives a beautiful maiden who bears the ill-omened name of Cas-

of these two curious characters is a young person of tempestuous nature who has an infinite capacity for falling in love, and who is married in a wistaria-embowered pergola before the end of the story. The author has literary gifts which lead one to regret that she should waste her time on women who have a disdain for both modesty and virtue, and men who are quite worthy of such women. Bell and Cockburn, Toronto.

IT is hardly to be disputed that this is woman's century. She has a vast number and variety of books written on her character, culture and calling. "Wage-Earning Women," by Annie Marion MacLean, Ph.D., is an interesting and comprehensive study of an important subject, and the reader learns much about the industrial efforts of women and the reward which accrues to the workers. New England factories, New York shops, New Jersey mills, Chicago shops and factories, Oregon hop fields, and the coal districts of Pennsylvania have been the scenes of investigation. The book has decided informational value. The writer's name is hardly in keeping with the dignity of her style and subject, "Annie," is rather incongruous in association with "Ph.D."



AGNES C. LAUT CANOEING ON A NORTHERN LAKE

sandra. She is marvellously refined in manner and bearing, for her primitive surroundings, but all her innate superiority is explained by the fact that her father was a Welshman of the name of Merlin, whose ancestors were of noble birth. To her lonely home comes a young Englishman, also an aristocrat, who finds health and strength in the mountains, and who finally succeeds in winning Cassandra and defeating a low-born lover of decidedly murderous tendencies. The story of the Englishman's return to his boyhood home and of Cassandra's grief and fortitude is told with graphic effect, and the tender-hearted reader is relieved at the final reunion. It is somewhat difficult to realize that the hero is an Englishman, but the narrative is well sustained and the mountain environment is picturesquely described. McClelland and Goodchild, Toronto.

ARTISTIC life is accused of a lack of those domestic virtues which make ultimately for national well-being. One is inclined to believe in the charge, after reading "The Unknown Woman," by Anne Warwick. This novel deals with the tangled love affairs of half a dozen New Yorkers, who are afflicted with the artistic temperament. The heroine is a marvellous person with copper-colored hair and a habit of posing. Her husband is a sculptor with no principles worth mentioning, whose disolute life is apparently accepted calmly by the wonderful wife. The daughter

What would be thought of a masculine author who appeared in print as Johnnie Smith, LL.D., or Willie Jones, Ph.D.? The Macmillan Company, Toronto.

A SLENDER book of poems, "Lyrics From the Westland," by Margaret A. Cawthorpe, is appropriately named, as "The Wheat Fields of the West," the first poem, is fairly indicative of the scene and spirit of the writer's efforts. There is genuine poetry in the lines of "Slumber Song" and "I Dwell in a Land of Summer." While there is nothing of great imaginative merit in the volume, the writer shows a sensitiveness to lyric grace which may produce more thrilling songs. William Briggs, Toronto.

A STORY of a new town in New Ontario does not sound especially exhilarating; but, thanks to a sense of humor, the author, Valance Patriarche, makes "Rory of Willow Beach," a chronicle of village life of rather unusual flavor. Rory McTavish is an almost worthless but wholly amusing character, whose practical jokes furnish diversion for the dwellers at Willow Beach. The atmosphere of such a locality is faithfully reproduced, and the writer has evidently used her powers of observation to good purpose. The doctor with a lisp is one of the best citizens of Willow Beach. Cassell and Company, Toronto.

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