

life, in which the veil is lifted from phases of human experience that well-to-do people know of only by hearsay. The curiosity of the reader to know how the millionaire got out of his troubles will prevent every reader who begins this book from laying it aside till the end is seen. Some may think that Mr. Smith had too many mishaps, but, without difficulties, there could be no story.

"Hugh Gwyeth, a Roundhead Cavalier," by Beulah Marie Dix. This is a clever historical novel of the time of Charles I. Its pictures of the conflicts of the Royalists and Puritans are vivid and realistic. The action is animated and stirring all the way through. As the reader is kept mainly with the Royalists, his sympathy is naturally drawn to their side, yet they are not always painted in attractive colors. Cromwell does not come on the scene, and none of the chief battles are described. The interest is, therefore, mainly in following the adventures and fate of Hugh and his friends and foes rather than in either cause. Dick Strangeways is one of those characters who never fail. The relations between Hugh and Lois are more those of friendship than love. The reader follows the fortunes of Hugh with increasing interest to the last. This book cannot be read without awaken-

ing interest in the history of those stirring times, when brave men fought and won the battle of English constitutional liberty. This checkered story of a brave boy will be read with special interest by all bright boys.

"Dross," by Henry Seton Merriman. This latest book by the popular author of "With Edged Tools," "The Sowers," etc., has already attracted much attention, but it is destined to secure a still wider circle of readers than any of his previous books.

The scene in "Dross" is laid in Paris, in the time of Louis Napoleon, just before the fall of the



SHE LET THEM SLOWLY SLIDE OUT OF HER FINGERS INTO THE WAVES BELOW.  
Specimen Illustration from "The Path of a Star" By Sarah Jeannette Duncan



SHE STOOD POISED ON A COOLIE'S BARREL IN THE MIST OF  
A RABBLE OF ALL COLORS.

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Specimen Illustration from "The Path of a Star" By Sarah Jeannette Duncan

Second Empire, but it is not, in a strict sense, an historical novel. The story is told by a young Englishman named Howard, and consists mainly of his adventures and the phases of life in Paris of which he was a witness. The moral of the book is that money is not the chief thing in life.

The most prominent characters besides Howard himself are the amiable but loving old Vicomte and his bright-eyed wife and handsome daughter. But what is more important than the materials with which an author builds his story is the use he makes of them. Those who have read "The Sowers" and "With Edged Tools" need

not be told that Mr. Merriman is a master of the art of producing a sustained interest in the actors with whom his pages are peopled. The main thing in a work of fiction is to possess the qualities which absorb and keep the interest of the reader, and this "Dross" does in no common degree. The Toronto Mail and Empire says: "It is a story that will surely improve Mr. Merriman's high reputation as a writer, and will find numberless readers."

"The Mormon Prophet," by Lily Dougall, (2nd edition), is an important contribution to the growing literature of our country, by a Canadian lady, already well known by her writings. Miss Dougall has chosen an interesting historic setting for her novel. She shows no disposition to misrepresent or caricature the Mormons, of whose history she has made a special study. She has made good literary use of the condition of things which the Mormon movement and its history supply. It is a strong book. It has been fitly called "An illuminative History of Mormonism." It is emphatically the story of "a great delusion," well and sympathetically told. Though there is much that is sensational enough in the early history of the Mormons, this is not told in a sensational style. The main interest of the reader is absorbed by the events in the life of Joe Smith and his followers, the character