



Literary Notes

THE WHITE PROPHET. (By Hall Caine. Toronto: McLeod and Allen.)

THE other day a Toronto man was recalling experiences of his summer itinerary, and mentioned an incident which occurred while he was a Manxman. Mr. Hall Caine, whose new novel has just been published in Canada by McLeod and Allen, had returned to the Isle of Man after an Italian tour when the man from the Outcome City when the man from the Canada Oueen City entered upon his visit. One day, the distinguished novelist dashed up in his car to the house where the Torontonian was a guest. He rang the bell. There was no answer, again he pushed the button. He heard voices within, for the doors throughout the house were all open, and as his summons met with no rethroughout the house were all open, and as his summons met with no response he judged that the bell was out of order. Suddenly, he became conscious that his name was being mentioned by the speakers. Impatienthe listened. Judging from the pitch of the voices, he was a subject of earnest discussion.

"I tell you what, Cook, you can say what you like, but them books of Caine's are swell. The 'Ternal City —'

City — 'A long sigh from Cook. "Come off, Jane, they re all right maybe, but I do wish he'd cut his hair. He do



Mr. Hall Caine Author of "The White Prophet"

look a specter his hair hang'in down like a woman's."

One of the servants walked out into the main hall. There was a shrick

Mr. Hall Caine pulled at his beard and smiled.

and smiled.

The eccentric appearing tenant of ancient Greeba Castle on the Isle of Man is quite accustomed to find himself being talked about though not perhaps, under the above unusual circumstances. He has grown used to the criticism of himself and his books which is hurled at him year in and year out by the press. Whether his readers take him seriously or not, Mr. Hall Caine does not appear to worry he keeps issuing his ideas on socialism and politics and has probably, many

ne keeps issuing his ideas on socialism and politics and has probably, many a quiet laugh over the royalty checks. "The White Prophet" expresses the author's opinions upon the government of Egypt. Students of history claim that they have discovered certain resemblances between the characters which move in the story and claim that they have discovered to tain resemblances between the characters which move in the story, and crown officials who have had charge of the administration of Egypt. Lord Nuneham is said to be the prototype of Lord Cromer, and there is a suggestion that his rule was rapidly bringing to an end British control of the Khediviace. The plot of Mr. Caine's book is too involved to set down in the space at our disposal. For the story as a whole, it may be said that while long drawn out, it contains chapters of striking dramatic interest written in Mr. Caine's most brilliant istyle.