



Sheldon's New Book.

A NEW book by Charles M. Sheldon, the famous author of "In His Steps," never fails to excite the interest of thousands of readers. "Born to Serve" is the title of the latest book by Mr. Sheldon, and the advanced sheets indicate a very strong book indeed, one of thrilling interest to the thoughtful reader, one which with a master's hand many of the cankers of social life, of domestic unhappiness, of the broader woman problem, of social reform at the vitals of society—are laid bare, with cultured delicacy, but none the less with graphic, unflinching truth. The Canadian rights have been secured by The Poole Publishing Co., Toronto, but as the story will not appear in book form for some time the publishers will run it as a serial in the *Presbyterian Review*, beginning with the issue of the 3rd inst., thus enabling the readers of that paper to have this most interesting work in advance.

"The House of Egremont."

By MOLLY ELLIOT SEAWELL.

THE principal scenes of this novel are staged in England and in France, during the exile of James II. The story relates chiefly the loves of two women and a man. For the most part, the man had a sorry time of it, living up to the highest ideal of honor, considering that two women loved him ardently, and it must be admitted he had more than one relapse to the level of the ordinary man, though never becoming quite one, but always "Roger Egremont, of Egremont, a gentleman, by God." And he never could be accused of not living well up to the Egremont motto, "Fear God and take your own part," especially the latter command, for life taught him early the necessity of that.

When little more than a baby, he was left motherless, and his father sadly neglected him, the first attention shown being more cruel than all the past neglect; for when Roger was but ten, an imposter was brought into the house, a lad named Hugo, said to be the child of a second marriage contracted in Germany. This explanation was believed neither by the servants nor the villagers; nor was Hugo a favorite with them, and the young heir himself felt a righteous resentment against the intrusion.

The one bright streak in Roger's lonely boyhood was the devotion of a distant cousin (who lived at Egremont) by everybody affectionately known as Dicky boyish Dicky of the round face and dimples, who loved nothing better on earth than to "play the fiddle"; who sinned very humanly one minute, and repented just as humanly the next; who became a Jesuit priest, and finally an angel in Heaven.

There are many other fascinating people, each one worth a column—Madame de Beauvoir, Papa Mazot, Madame Michot, the noble Duke of Berwick—indeed there is not an uninteresting character in the book.

But after all it is Roger the reader is bound up in. The dining-room must wait—the gong sound with incessant din. For who cares to eat while the fortunes of Roger Egremont are at stake?

Roger, but a youth, was sent to prison for treason against the Prince of Orange, the particular act being the flinging in his

Highness's face a platter of beans. Life there (in ways which the story will reveal) was made so interesting for him that he was loath to leave. In fact he had to be flung out of Nowgate at the end of three years. While there, he allowed Bea Lulkens, the gaoler's niece, better known as Red Bea, to love him, even as he believed he loved her; but, alas! when out in the world again, the naughty little boy who had been masquerading as Cupid, ran away. By-and-bye, the real Cupid hunted him down, and his meeting with the new love, Michelle, which happened beside a rose-tree, was like an exquisite fairy tale.

This most readable book comes to us from the press of the Copp, Clark Co., Toronto, is bound in cloth and is a creditable addition in all respects to their splendid book list.

"The World's Work" for January.

THE review of the month in the January *World's Work*, the new monthly of Doubleday, Page & Co., of New York, sweeps over the whole field of activity in its straightforward and cheerful treatment of the most important contemporaneous events—political, sociological, educational, international and literary.

Among the articles are "Great Tasks of the New Century" which point out a dozen or more revolutionary undertakings which the great governments and the great corporations of the world have in hand, the completion of which will change the routes of travel and the direction of civilization.

An article of unusual interest is a character study of Lord Roberts, by Winston Spencer Churchill, an intimate and thorough portrait of the man and an explanation of his career.

The *World's Work* takes the current of contemporaneous events and activities at its flood, and it is written in plain, direct English, without superfluous words. It drives straight towards the main point.

"Good House-keeping."

EVERY woman will enjoy the bright sketch in *Good Housekeeping* for January entitled "A Day Among Intelligence Offices." It is instructive as well as entertaining. The encouraging progress of *Good Housekeeping's* international investigation of the help problem is recorded in this number. A short, bright essay, by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, on "Getting Into Social Life," sets forth truth which every woman will appreciate. An unique club, the Riverside Thimble Club of Binghamton, N. Y., is described with the aid of a full-page picture of the club in session. The most eminent of specialists in his line, Dr. J. M. Groedel, of Nauheim, Germany, writes of "How to Avoid Heart Troubles." This is a splendid article, helpful to the layman and of the utmost value professionally.

LET us be patient. These severe afflictions Not from the ground arise. But oftentimes celestial benedictions Assume this dark disguise.

LONGFELLOW.

FALSE happiness renders men stern and proud, and that happiness is never communicated. True happiness renders them kind and sensible, and that happiness is always shared.

Motto: "Love Thy Land."

THE Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa.

OFFICERS:

- Patron, Her Excellency The Countess of Minto.
- Hon. President, Lady Laurier.
- President, Mrs. Geo. E. Foster.
- Recording Secretary, . . . Mrs. C. O'Connor.
- Treasurer, Mrs. T. Ahearn.
- Cor. Secretary, Miss F. G. Kenny.

The Terrible Bush Fire of 1870 Recalled, and Some Thrilling Incidents Related.

Official Report of the Corresponding Secretary.



THE regular meeting of the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa took place in the Y. M. C. A. Hall on Friday afternoon, December 14th, at four o'clock,

with the president, Mrs. Geo. E. Foster, in the chair. There was a good attendance of members. It was a great pleasure to everyone to see Mrs. Foster resume the headship of the society again, which she has guided with conspicuous tact and ability ever since its organization.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, followed by the report of the executive. The latter included reports from various committees which are deep into work, interviewing old residents, collecting memoirs, etc., all making good progress.

The papers for the day were: "An Historical Sketch of the County of Carleton," by Miss Read, and "A Few Notes on the Early Days of Bytown," by Mde. Pigeon.

The first paper, after touching on the physical features of the county, went largely into the nomenclature of the many townships. Speaking of general events, the writer recalled one of the most dreadful experiences of inhabitants along the Ottawa, the great fire of 1870, which many of her hearers remembered with horror as keen as though it happened only yesterday. She said: "In 1870 the county was visited by a dreadful calamity in the shape of terrific bush fires, which started in several places after a very dry season. The largest originated in Fitzroy, and fanned by a high wind, tore madly forward to unite with the other fires, and so devastated sections all over the county. The conflagration lasted well on to a fortnight, and many farmhouses, with everything in and around them, including even the fences, were consumed, besides large tracts of valuable timber. Some people and a great many wild animals perished. The general suffering was very great. Ottawa itself was in extreme danger, enveloped in dense clouds of smoke, with cinders falling thickly in the streets, and the sun a horrible sight, looking like a lurid fire-ball suspended in the foggy heavens, threatening immediate destruction. Probably the city owed its safety to the cutting loose of St. Louis' dam and the arrival of an engine from Montreal which came up in six hours, a marvel of rapid travelling at that time. On the 17th of August the fire was at its height. The whole of the thriving little village of Bella Corners, ten miles distant from Ottawa, was completely wiped out. Many tragedies were enacted during those days, but I can only allude to one. A family who was living in a lonely spot back from the river had been burnt out of house and home. As the fire closed upon them the husband put his wife and children in a large hole, approaching the nature of a

well, which was sunk in the ground, and with the help of his little son covered them with loose earth and sand and then they proceeded to fight off the fire. The poor little fellow died before morning from suffocation and exhaustion, and the father only lived long enough, when the fire had raged past heedless and ruthless, to liberate his family from their miserable refuge, where the baby had also died during the night. Even now, after the lapse of thirty years, the fires of 1870 are a horrible memory. Yet there were in the midst of its heartbreak humorous incidents. One old lady drove some miles to seek shelter with friends, oblivious of the fact that she had tied on half-a-dozen bonnets, one over the other—quite evidently not of the fashion of to-day."

The second paper embodied the results of an interview of the writer with an "old timer," and was an evidence of the work the committee on memoirs is actively engaged in, of which Mde. Pigeon is not the least energetic member. Mr. Francois Deslages was born in 1818, came to Bytown on the 3rd of February, 1827, and has here resided continuously ever since, so has been connected with all the beginnings and progress of this city. He remembered the cutting down of the forest trees to break through Rideau Street. He could recall the time when the Catholics held their services in a brewery at the foot of Bank Street, and afterwards in the priest's house on Kent Street for the space of two years. His father had built the house. The congregation increased, and they moved their meeting-place to the upper part of the market building standing on George Street, on the very spot where the fountain now plays. Here they remained until 1831, when a wooden church was erected on the site of the present basilica. Three lots were ceded to them by Col. By, on Sussex, Church, and St. Patrick Streets, at the nominal sum of two shillings and sixpence annually.

Probably the oldest house left standing in Ottawa is that one on the corner of George and Dalhousie Streets, which Mr. Dalhousie, sr., built for himself in January, 1827, using the lumber made out of the trees hewn down on the lot in its construction. These and many other events interesting to the members of the society did Mde. Pigeon recount as she had heard them from the lips of the old settler.

After an animated discussion of the two papers, in which quite a number of ladies took part, the meeting adjourned at five thirty until January 11th, 1901.

F. G. KENNY, Cor. Sec.

AGENTS WANTED

Students, Teachers, Clergymen, and Bright, Intelligent Men and Women of Affairs, in Every Town and Village.

CHAUTAQUA wants a bright, well-read man or woman in every town to act as its agent this fall and winter in disseminating Chautauque literature, organizing literary clubs, and encouraging the Chautauque course of Home Reading and study. All our time, or only spare time, may be devoted to the work, and Chautauque will pay liberally for this service. Prizes will also be offered for successful work. Address for full information, Chautauque Assembly, Bureau of Extension (Dept. Z), Cleveland, Ohio.

When you remember that Chautauque is now twenty-seven years old, that it has gone into every State of the Union, that it has enrolled more than a quarter of a million members, that it keeps in successful operation a great variety of courses of home reading, that it conducts the largest and most complete summer school in the world, and that eighty Chautauque Summer Assemblies were held this year in thirty different States, attracting over half a million people—you get some idea of its strength, its scope and its influence.

Chautauque Assembly, Bureau of Extension
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