

and follows upon his previous story, *Coniston*, which is still well remembered. The special points in the later story are, the iron rule of a State by a railroad, and the dark and queer ways of the professional politician in connection therewith. *Austen Vane*, the only son of the great railroad counsel, and who is set on clean and straight methods, is the real hero of the tale, and his winning of Victoria Flint, the railway president's daughter, in spite of mountains of obstacles, gives the love-touch, which will hold many a reader, who cares not a fig for railways and politics.

For a tired man on a dull day, William Le Queux is no bad prescription. His books are sensational, but it is a wholesome sensation that one finds, for instance, in the pages of *The Woman in the Way*, Mr. Le Queux's latest story (The Copp Clark Co., Toronto, 335 pages, \$1.25). The story is all incidents and mystery. The interest is never allowed to flag for an instant. The scoundrels are wondrously daring and astute; but justice and virtue come at last to their own. The book is clean, and very cleverly written: a book for a summer or an autumn holiday.

The art of the storyteller, no less than the dramatist, consists in holding up a mirror to life. This has been done with great skill in, *Aunt Jane of Kentucky*, by Eliza Calvert Hall (Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 283 pages, Frontispiece and Page Illustrations by Beulah Strong, \$1.50). These sketches of rural life in the Blue Grass state are photographic in their representations of its people and their doings. They are commonplace, everyday people, to be sure, and their toils and pleasures belong

to the sphere of the humdrum and monotonous. But their hearts are stirred by the same passions and emotions that influence those in more conspicuous places. We feel as we read that we are akin to these farmers and housewives, and our interest and sympathy are awakened as we listen to their speech and see their actions. "Aunt Jane" has been an acute observer all her life, and her keen humor, sometimes severe, but never ungenerous, her clear insight into character and motive, and, above all, her unflinching kindness of heart and sweetness of temper, lend a lasting charm to her tales of the neighbors amongst whom her long life has been spent.

*Craven Fortune*, by Fred M. White, illustrated by Howard Somerville (The Copp Clark Company, Toronto, 313 pages, \$1.25), is a tale of sordid crime tracked down and brought home to its perpetrators, with a story of pure and true love running through it, like a clear and sparkling stream.

*The Face of Jesus*, by Rev. David Smith, M.A. (46 pages); and *Loyal to Christ*, by J. Stuart Holden, M.A. (44 pages), have been added to the Living Thoughts Series (Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier, Edinburgh, 15c. each). Within the dainty covers of these tiny booklets is many a gem of thought and experience.

*Great Souls at Prayer*, by Mary W. Tileston (author of *Daily Strength for Daily Needs*), a compilation of prayers from various authors and sources, beginning with the fifth century and extending to the present day (H. R. Allenson, London, 366 pages, 90 cents).

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