

the critic of the London Athenæum and the critic of the London Sketch. The former pronounced it "trash," abused the author and read a lecture to the publishers. The latter entered the list on the other side, and made a vigorous and effective defence of the book. We have read it from cover to cover, and agree with the Sketch critic that while "it is not fiction of the first class, "Tom Crogan" is a fresh and exhilarating piece of work." The drawings by Charles S. Reinhart, who, we regret to see, has recently died, admirably illustrate the characters in the book.

*The White Shield.* By Bertram Milford. Illustrated by David B. Keeler. New York and London: Frederick A. Stokes Company. Toronto: Bain Book Company.—The story of "The White Shield" is supposed to be related by an old Zulu induna or commander, and it is well told. The action is rapid, the descriptions vivid; and when once the reader's attention is engaged it is retained to the end. For those who delight in tales of battle there is abundance of slaughter; indeed, the story shows that with many noble qualities the Zulus were

"... A heathen horde

Reddening the sun with smoke and the earth with blood."

The illustrations are numerous and very sensational, as befits the subject-matter of the story.

*At the Gate of the Fold.* A Country Tale. By John Fletcher. New York: The Macmillan Co. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.—This is a tale of English country life and has in it all the motives of an excellent story which the author has used to singularly good advantage. We do not remember a story of the unpretending character of this one in which the passions, jealousies and suspicions of simple village and country life have been utilized more effectively. The characters are well drawn, the contrasts striking, the development of the action natural, and the denouement, if not so sensational and tragical as one might expect, is reasonable and satisfactory. We must confess to an old-fashioned fondness for stories in which wrongs are righted before the closing of the last chapter. It is a story we can cordially commend.

*Walter Gibbs the Young Boss, and Other Stories; a Book for Boys.* By Edward William Thomson. Toronto: William Briggs. Montreal: C. W. Coates. Halifax: S. F. Heustis.—Mr. Thomson's reputation as a writer of stories is so long and firmly established that a new book from his pen is received with a confidence that is never misplaced. In all the stories in this book there is the feature so attractive to boys, of effort and adventure, and besides they have the advantage of being all distinctly Canadian. The first and longest in the collection, "Walter Gibbs the Young Boss," tells how a young fellow in his teens undertook to carry out a contract entered into by his father; and how he succeeded when failure would have been ruin. "Smoky Days" is a story of fire-fighting, and other adventures, and is full of stirring incident from beginning to end. All the rest are much shorter, but no less interesting. The book would make a most desirable birthday or holiday present for a boy.

*The Regicides: A Tale of Early Colonial Times.* By Frederick Hull Cogswell. New York: The Baker and Taylor Company.—The scene of this very interesting story is chiefly in and about New Haven, and the time shortly after the Restoration. Though principally concerning the flight and pursuit of Generals Whalley and Gaffe, two of Cromwell's officers who had signed the warrant for the execution of Charles I., there are throughout the book many entertaining incidents of early colonial life of special value, inasmuch as many of the characters are historical and the incidents themselves are taken from the old colonial records. There is, too, a vein of pleasant humour in the book which gives it an additional charm. Early colonial history presents an inviting but hitherto much neglected field for writers of historical fiction, and the author of this work is to be congratulated on the success with which he has essayed it.

*The Fearsome Island,* being the Modern Rendering of the Narrative of One Silas Fordred, Master Mariner of Hythe, whose shipwreck and subsequent adventures are herein set forth. Also, an appendix accounting in a rational manner for the seeming marvels that Silas Fordred encoun-

tered during his sojourn on the Fearsome Island of Don Diego Rodriguez. By Albert Kinross. Chicago: Printed for Herbert S. Stone & Company, at the Chap-Book offices, in the Caxton Building. 1896.—The above very comprehensive title sets out nearly all that need be said about this little story, which, by the way, is very well printed and tastefully bound. An ancient manuscript is found among the archives kept by the town clerk of the old Cinque port of Hythe, which the author modernizes into the form here given. The story is of the time of Queen Mary, and is full of perils by sea and more startling perils and adventures on land. Our readers will find it well worth perusal.

*Sound Money and Solid Money. Silver vs. Gold.* By C. M. Stevans. *The Nation's Greatest Problem: Arguments on Both Sides.* Compiled by F. Tennyson Neeley. (New York: F. Tennyson Neeley. Paper, 25 cents.)—These are all campaign publications, and they probably contain the most popular, if not the most conclusive arguments on both sides of the question now so profoundly agitating the United States public. The first expresses the views of the gold men, and is a compilation of the opinions of eminent American and other statesmen and publicists from Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson to President Cleveland and Chauncey Depew. The second, though uniform externally with the other, is very different in typographical appearance. The ornamental borders and loud type stamp it at once as campaign literature. There is even some verse in it based on Mr. Bryan's much quoted "You must not force a crown of thorns on the brow of Labour; nor crucify mankind on a Cross of Gold." The third book on our list has no poetry, but it has pictures, many of the campaign cartoons being reproduced in it. It professes to give the strongest arguments on both sides of the question; and the compiler seems to have done the work with very commendable fairness and good judgment.

*Artie: A Story of the Streets and Town.* By George Ade. Pictures by John McCutcheon. Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co. 1896.—Artie, or "Mr. Arthur Blanchard, Esq.," as his sweetheart, Mamie, addresses him through the post-office, is a young clerk in some kind of an office, who discusses with his fellow-clerks and with others, men, women, ward politics, social ethics and things in general with great freedom, shrewdness and philosophical acumen. The trouble with Artie is that he talks on all occasions, and with all sorts and conditions of men, women and boys, in the dialect of the street gamin or the illiterate "sport." Indeed, in one reported interview with a messenger boy, Artie proved his complete superiority by the copiousness of his slang. These sketches originally appeared in the Chicago Record, and are said to have attracted much local notice. They have been revised and rewritten for this work which the publishers have brought out in a way altogether creditable to them; and the artist deserves credit for the way in which he makes his subjects speak. The wonder and the regret is that so much ability, skill and expense should have been expended in bringing out in so attractive a form what cannot be seriously regarded as, after all, but literary rubbish, or as a text-book of Chicago slang.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. evidently realize the increasing appreciation of English readers for the works of talented Frenchmen such as Balzac, Daudet, and Hugo. Two of the recent issues of their Colonial Library are translations from the French, "Modeste Mignon," by Honore De Balzac, translated by Clara Bell, and Daudet's "Thirty Years in Paris," done into English by Laura Ensor. Both translators have done justice in a marked degree to the original French, and the latter book is enhanced by tasty illustration. "Modeste Mignon" has a critical preface by George Saintsbury. This book, which first appeared in 1847, has its own place in Balzac's "Human Comedy," and is a striking example of the great novelist's psychological skill. In the same edition also appears a reprint of Rudyard Kipling's "Plain Tales from the Hills," already too well and favourably known to require comment here. These stories, which originally appeared in the Civil and Military Gazette, were the foundation of their author's reputation. Another recent book, in Bell's Indian Library, is A. Egmont Hake's book, "Gordon in China," which is practically a reprint of "The Story of Chinese Gordon." Copp, Clark & Co. are the Canadian agents for these books.