

THE BOOK PAGE

St. Cuthbert's, by **Robert E. Knowles** (*Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto and New York, 339 pages, cloth \$1.50*), will have a wide sale. The field is new, a Canadian parish romance; the writer has a strong personality: it is his own book, and nobody else's; and the sort of parish in which the story is laid—indeed, of which the story, one would say, is largely a picture—is notable, a bit of Scotland transplanted, and a busy, bustling, keen, quick-witted part, at that. The study of such a parish by one who describes himself—for the story is told in the first person—as one whose "every vein was full to overflowing with Irish blood," promises piquant situations and descriptions; and the expectation is not disappointed. There are some exquisitely done cameos, as of the headle, the Kirk Session, Georgie Lorimer, the "pious profligate," the old precentor, who comes to sing the new song; but, as a story, the main interest is in the strangely intertwined 'love stories' of young Angus, and of Michael Blake, in both of which great love wins out through floods of remorse and sorrow. The book throbs with tenderness; but laughter sits close to tears. Mr. Knowles, who is the minister of Knox Church, Galt, will add to his already wide reputation with this "first novel."

In **A Specimen Spinster**, by **Kate Westlake Yeigh** (*The Copp Clark Company, Toronto, 314 pages, \$1.25*), we have a skillfully drawn picture of Canadian village life. Miss Mary Wogg is a shrewd, clever and kindly maiden lady, who proves herself a good friend

to all her neighbors, old and young. There is real pathos in the story of her care for the baby she adopts when the mother dies, and plenty of humor in the account of her experience with the boy Teddy, who afterwards finds a home with her. The various characters amongst whom Miss Wogg lives—why, as we read, we are constantly coming across people we have known, so close has the author kept to reality. The love story of Dick Gray, the farmer lad, who fights his way to an honorable place in the profession of medicine, and Maud McGregor, a girl full of life and fun, but with good sense beneath it all, adds its share of interest to this bright and well-told tale.

The question of Christmas gifts is often a perplexing one. A help towards the solution is furnished by two new books about animals, by two Canadian authors whose names are a guarantee of their excellence. One is **Animal Heroes**, by Ernest Thompson Seton (*Morning and Company, Toronto, 316 pages, with over 200 drawings, and 19 full-page half-tones, \$2.00*). The heroes—and by a hero Mr. Seton means an individual of unusual gifts and achievements—are a slum cat, a dog, a homing pigeon, a lynx, two wolves, and a white reindeer. Each is the subject of a story that thrills with interest from start to finish, and the author assures us that every incident is founded on the life of some actual animal. The other book is **Red Fox**, by Charles G. D. Roberts (*The Copp Clark Company, Toronto, 340 pages, with nearly half a hundred full-page drawings by Charles Livingston Bull, \$2.00*). It is a wonderful tale that Mr. Roberts tells of the career of a red fox. But we are assured that, like Mr. Seton's

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