

parents were killed by the Indians, is brought up, the household drudge of an unreverend drinking clergyman and his cross-grained wife. But the sweet ministries of nature, and the innate refinement of the girl, develop a noble and beautiful character. But after many soul trials, as her life dream is about to achieve its realization, she becomes the victim of the jealous hate of a French half-breed suitor. It is a heart-breaking denouement. The pictures of old Virginia life, of the hazy, lazy physical and social atmosphere, of the strenuous Highlander twelve years a white slave, of the courtly royal officers, and of the sweet Quaker maiden, are of the highest artistic merit. Mr. F. C. Yohn's admirable coloured illustrations mark a new advance in art.

"The Firebrand." By S. R. Crockett. Author of "The Stickit Minister," etc. Pp. 516. New York: McClurg, Phillips & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

Crockett is at at his best in describing the queer, pawky, Scottish characters with whom he is familiar. One of the best of his creations is that reckless Cock o' the North, Rollo Blair, a hero of this book. The strange contrast between the valiant and often vapouring Celt, and the shrewd and practical John Mortimer, son of a Primitive Methodist merchant, and their entanglement with a Carlist revolution in Spain, and the abduction of the Queen Regent

and Infanta, make, as Rollo would say, "a pretty kettle o' fish." The description of Spanish life and character, and of the events of the revolution, are very graphic. The book abounds in stirring incident and adventure. Like all of Crockett's books, the story has lots of "go" in it. It grips one from the very start, and has strong dashes of humour and pathos and tragedy.

"Letters on Life." By Claudius Clear. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Pp. viii-277. Price, \$1.25.

This is a collection of clever essays by an English writer. They exhibit a nimble wit and terse and epigrammatic vivacity. The titles suggest the style. "A Fellow by the Name of Rowan," describes the man who found Garcia, and enforces the importance of initiative. "Firing Out the Fools," urges the somewhat harsh treatment of the failures in life, whom the survival of the fittest only too surely eliminates. "The Sin of Overwork" is a more sensible plea for relaxation. "R. S. V. P." is a plea for responsiveness to kindness, to need, to courtesy, to nature. These are types of the light and airy treatment of these genial essays.

Claudius Clear is understood to be that genial and versatile writer, Dr W. Robertson Nicoll, editor of The British Weekly and the London Bookman—two of the ablest British periodicals.

JUNO'S FAVOURITE.

AN OLD FABLE.

"Dear Juno, to your favourite's request
Attend!" Thus did her petted peacock plead:
"Richly hast thou endowed me;—mark this breast,
These painted, fan-like glories broadly spread;
But one more gift to bid my heart rejoice,—
That raptured nightingale's melodious voice."

Darkened the brow of the oft-gracious Queen:
"A liberal dower have I on you conferred;—
The grace of stars, the rainbow's tint and sheen
Are proudly yours, my fairest, favourite bird:
Content you, then; nor make a vain pretence
In everything to hold præminence."

—Pastor Felix.