

Books of the Month.

"**THE MINORITY**," a novel by Frederick Trevor Hill, published this month by The Copp, Clark Co., deals with modern business men and their methods, and out of this unromantic substance he has woven a pretty romance, without once losing the vigor of his grasp upon the larger theme. The love story is painted with a delicacy of touch and beauty of style only too infrequent in fiction. Still its main interest centres about the able way Mr. Hill has handled that most complicated of modern institutions, "the trust."

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Seldom has a novel by so young a man won a greater success than that of William Stearns Davis' "God Wills It," and now from the same brilliant pen we have a new story which promises to eclipse the fame of its predecessor, "Belshazzar," a tale of the fall of Babylon. The story grips the reader from the start, the interest never wanes, and it gives a very vivid picture of the period. The Copp, Clark Co. are the publishers. Cloth, \$1.25.

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"Sir Richard Calmady," by Lucas Malet, one of the most remarkable novels of the decade, has just been published by The Copp, Clark Co. Paper, 75c.; cloth, \$1.25. The same house is also publishing Horace G. Hutchinson's "A Friend of Nelson," a stirring sea tale woven about the life of England's great admiral. Paper, 75c.; cloth, \$1.

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"The Seigneur de Beaufoy," by Hamilton Drummond (The Copp, Clark Co.). The adventures of the proud and powerful Seigneur de Beaufoy throw a striking sidelight on the political and social condition of France during the time of Charles VII. and his crafty son, Louis XI. How Beaufoy ruled his wide domain, warred with his neighbors, succored the weak and humbled the powerful, opposed Priest and Abbot, made terms with Dauphin and King—all this is set forth with a purity of style and a dramatic force that stamp Mr. Drummond as one of the leading romancers of the day. Paper, 75c.; cloth, \$1.25.

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"Among the Waterfowl" is a new addition to The Copp, Clark Co.'s strong list of Nature Books. Mr. Job's remarkable portraits of live gulls, terns, ducks, puffins, grebe, and other waterfowl are a notable achievement in bird-picturing. His record

of adventure and photography among these rare and shy wild creatures is fresh, charming, and full of original observations. 100 illustrations; cloth, \$1.25. The Copp, Clark Co. are also publishing Walter E. Groggins' romance, "The King's Sceptre", A. C. Curtis' story of modern naval warfare, "A New Trafalgar", Clinton Scolard's "The Cloistering of Ursula," and Grant Allen's "Sir Theodore's Guest."

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"The Sinker Stories," by J. Joseph Goodwin. Price \$1. J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Co., 57 Rose street, New York. This collection of humorous stories appeared in New York Sun and proved popular with the readers of that paper. Mr. Goodwin is undoubtedly a clever writer and is thoroughly acquainted with the characteristics of the class whose features he is portraying. One is apt to tire somewhat of the wit of Sinkers.

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"A Vacation with Nature," by Frank De Witt Talmage, has just been published by the Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York and London. The price is \$1, net. The book is distinctly religious in tone. It is sure to find favor with certain classes. All will admit that the author has made an effort to give an appreciative, or sympathetic picture of what he calls the doxology of a Summer vacation formed by the conjoint harmony of the beasts of the fields, creeping things, and flying fowls, and all deeps, sun, moon and stars, fire and hail, snow and vapors and stormy winds, mountains and all cedars. Mr. Talmage has studied the situation thoroughly and displays remarkable keenness of observation.

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John Strange Winter has succeeded in writing a very skillful piece of fiction in her recent book, "A Blaze of Glory," published by George Bell & Son, of London and Bombay. The story has a military setting with a denouement in South Africa. The heroine, Betty Garnett, falls in love with a young officer, Victor L'Estrange, all unknown to her mother. The mother is a widow, and insists on her daughter marrying a wealthy clergyman, with the result that Betty runs away to meet L'Estrange. She finds him on the eve of leaving for the Soudan, but discovers that he is engaged to another woman. In her despair she twice attempts suicide. The second time she is rescued by a Colonel Legendre, who falls in love with her and marries her, though

without winning her love in return. Victor is wounded in the battle of Omdurman, and returns to England. Thereafter the plot becomes more and more exciting and involved. The principals travel to South Africa on the same steamer, just before the war, and, to make the situation more absorbing, a beautiful Dutch girl is introduced, who falls in love with Victor. The plot is at last successfully unravelled at the fall of Pretoria. The style of the book is good, the tale runs along smoothly and there are no startling improbabilities. It is a book which will doubtless prove very popular to the great mass of novel readers.

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B. H. Blackwell, of Oxford, has published an attractive little book entitled "Eton Idylls," by C.R.S. "Eton Idylls" is written in the clever conversational style which has been so well exemplified in the works of Miss Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler. There is a great deal of very bright dialogue between a typical Eton boy, named Denis, and the writer, who poses as one of the "tugs," or hard-working students. In the 14 brief chapters contained in the little book, nearly every imaginable phase of Eton life is discussed, and, to those who wish to acquire a general knowledge of life at an English public school, no more entertaining textbook could be recommended. A few incidents are necessarily introduced, which add to the liveliness of the conversations, but even without these additions the dialogue is bright enough to insure interest. The last chapter, which depicts the boys' feelings on the closing day of school life, is perhaps the best in the book, ringing with a true note of pathos.

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In a brief list of best-selling books in New York at the present time, Morang & Co. have the Canadian rights for at least five. They are "Dorothy Vernon, of Haddon Hall," "The Hound of the Baskervilles," "Audrey," "The Conqueror" and "The Diary of a Goose Girl."

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A new novel, "The Virginian: A Horseman of the Plains," by Owen Wister, has already conquered the critics in every direction. It finds its maternal in the career of a young Virginian transplanted to the Far West. "He is a young cowboy of exceptional gifts, who at the wildest period falls in love with a Vermont girl of education superior to his own. He has never before been thrown with a woman of refinement. This awakens in him a strain of native fineness in his own nature that has hitherto had no chance of development. She is attracted by his virility but repelled by his roughness. Quite against her intentions she is at last conquered by him, but