

THE BOOK PAGE

A Quaker corner of England, diplomatic and parliamentary circles in London, the court of Prince Kaid, Ruler of Egypt, the deserts of the Soudan—all these fifty years ago—are the scenes in which Gilbert Parker has set his latest story, **The Weavers** (530 pages, 8 full page illustrations, Copp, Clark Company, Toronto, price \$1.50 net). David Claridge, the young Quaker hero, is, unknown to himself, the heir to a title and a great estate in England. Business takes him to Egypt, and a direful happening early in his stay there leads him, as a measure of atonement, to give his life to the bettering of that land. In this, he has to brave enmity and intrigue in the Egyptian court, and neglect by the officials in England, who should have given him strong backing. The sadness in the love story which runs through the book is relieved by the foreshadowing at the very last of happier days. Readers of Gilbert Parker's earlier work may think he has never since come up to the standard of reality and charm set by his stories of French Canada. But **The Weavers** is a strong book, with an interest that holds, and with scenes that stay vividly in the mind.

The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto, announce the issue of Professor Moulton's **Modern Readers' Bible**, in one volume. Originally in 20 small books, these are now gathered into one beautiful volume printed on Bible paper (cloth \$2.00, flexible Turkey morocco, \$5.00). Professor Moulton's paraphrasing of the text, his introduction to each book, with historical and literary notes, etc., are features too well

known to require notice. All these are preserved in this new edition.

From the Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto, come three volumes, the first of which, **Problems of Prayer** (Hodder & Stoughton, London, 229 pages, \$1.75) by J. G. James, D.Lit., is a most noteworthy book. It is "an attempt to face honestly all the more important speculative and practical difficulties" in regard to the question of prayer. The author holds that the present movements in philosophic thought are "distinctly favorable to a reasoned belief and confidence in a God who answers prayer". The "frank acknowledgment of the teleological element in Nature," which the most recent authorities in science make, works in the same direction. The treatment is luminous and suggestive to a degree, and intensely modern. The Objective Value of Prayer, The Three Stages in Prayer, Is Prayer Always Answered? Prayer for Vindication, may be mentioned as four out of the eleven chapter titles. The man who prays, the man who does not believe in prayer, and the teacher and preacher who have to face objections and questions on this most vital topic, will all benefit by a careful reading of this book.

In **The Life of Christ according to St. Mark** (same publishers, 295 pages \$1.75), an imaginary reader, "an intelligent, well-educated Jew of our own times, devout, yet liberal and modern in his Judaism" is led through a study of Mark's Gospel. He knows nothing of the other Gospels or of Christian theology. What impression of Christ does he receive? In this novel treatment of St. Mark, Professor W. H. Bennett

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