

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## NOTES ON CHOICE HOLIDAY BOOKS

FROM LEADING PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSELLERS.

### From Dana Estes & Co., Boston.

**THE BOY DUCK HUNTERS**, by Frank E. Kellog. Is there a boy who does not long to possess a gun? Is there one who does not delight in shooting? And the next best thing to having a gun and the fun of shooting is to hear the adventures of boys who have been more fortunate. All our boys will be delighted with "The Boy Duck Hunters." It tells about the many adventures of two small boys who have a great many good times with their guns. The heroes are bright, manly lads, and are sure to be liked by all.

**TRAVELLER TALES OF SOUTH AFRICA**, by Hezekiah Butterworth. These "stories which depict modern history" are written by the author of those popular books "Zig Zag Journeys." The writer says in the preface: "My purpose in this book is to present by a connected narrative, with interpolated stories and many illustrations, a picture of the present political condition of South Africa, and the manner in which this part of the austral world has become so active and important a factor in the progress of mankind." The book should be a popular one, judging by the success of the "Zig Zag Journeys" and by the interesting way in which the stories are told.

**RITA**, by Laura E. Richards. All young girls read and enjoy Miss Richards' stories—they are so fresh and wholesome and interesting. Rita is one of the "Three Margarets" described in the book of that name. She is a fiery little Spaniard—though her father was an American—who lives in Cuba, and the story tells of the Spanish-American war and the hardships endured by the women at the hands of rough soldiers. The letters that open the book show the passionate Rita up in arms against the tyranny of her father's widow; while those that end it show her happy in the love of a genuine American lad, who, we feel sure, will make her life "happy ever after."

**FOR TOMMY AND OTHER STORIES**, by Laura E. Richards. This is the daintiest little volume of the prettiest stories, which will come as a surprise to those who know Miss Richards only as the writer of stories for girls. "For Tommy" tells of a tramp who decides that it does not pay to be honest, and so makes up his mind to steal; but everyone with whom he comes in contact shows faith in his honesty, and therefore compels him to remain honest. The little sketch of the minister's young wife, whose clothes are considered by the congregation as too "dressy" for her position, shows the plan she adopted to stop the criticism. It is an amusing little story and very true to life; while the description of another minister's sister, who has to wear the gay clothes which are sent her by her wealthy cousin, is really pathetic. The author has a delicate humor which is delightful.

**WHAT DID THE BLACK CAT DO? GUESS**, by Margaret Johnson. This charming book for little children consists of a number of short stories about the doings of a certain black cat. And the stories are not just ordinary ones, for the littlest child, the one who has not yet learned to read, can help make out the story, for every line or two a word is omitted and in its place is a picture to represent it. This makes the book almost like a puzzle for the children, but it does not take so long to guess. The illustrations are by Miss Johnson, too, and very pretty they are. This will be a favorite book with our little ones.

**THE COUNTESS OF THE TENEMENTS**, by Ethelred Breeze Barry. This is the story of a real little Italian countess who lives part of her life in a New York tenement house. Her widowed mother had sold the beautiful old family estate in Italy and after a few years died, having lost the money the sale had brought. The countess, a child of four or five years, is left in the care of a faithful servant, Carlo, who decides to take her to America and make enough money there to buy back the home of his countess. His unselfish care for his adored mistress and the way in which they do at last return to the home in sunny Italy, is told very sweetly, and all children will love the book, for it seems like a fairy tale and yet might be true, and isn't that what children like best? The cover is a dainty green linen, and there are several illustrations. Montreal; Drysdale & Co.

**THE LITTLE FOLKS ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL** is the very nicest book of the season for small children, for it contains enough reading matter and pictures to keep the average child interested for months, and both stories and pictures are of the very best quality. The stories are of all kinds, for both boys and girls, and the many beautiful pictures will make them delightful to even the littlest tots, who sometimes find stories long and wearisome. The poetry is especially good. The following is called "The Three wishes:"

It was down at the Orphan Asylum one day,  
That three little maids sat round the fire,  
Each telling the thing she wished for most,  
If she could have her heart's desire.

"I'd like a pony as white as snow,"  
Said Maud, "and I'd ride it each day, of course,  
And never would stop as I rode along,  
And say, "Look at the child on the snow-white horse."

Said Alice, "I'd like to own a ship  
And I'd sail clear round the world, I guess,  
And bring back presents for all the girls,  
And a beautiful crutch for dear little Bess."

Then came little Bess, with her gentle voice,  
Said, looking around from one to the other,  
"I'll wish for the loveliest thing in the world—  
That every one of us might have a mother."

**THE ANIMALS OF ÆSOP**, by Joseph J. Mora. Mr. Mora has adapted and pictured Æsop's fables so that they will delight the smallest child. The book is beautifully printed, and each fable is profusely illustrated. Most of the pictures are very amusing, and all aid in impressing the fables on the childish mind, while the dozen colored pictures give a pleasing variety to the pages. Any normal child would be smugly enraptured at receiving this beautiful big volume from Santa Claus; and the child could not learn to recognize the different birds and animals in a more enjoyable way than by reading the fables often.

### From the Publisher's Syndicate, Toronto.

**THREE LITTLE MAIDS**, by Ethel S. Turner. One of the nicest of new books for young girls is "Three Little Maids." It tells of three sisters and their mother, who are left in straightened circumstances, and who leave their English home to go to far-off Australia. The story of their struggles there, and of the happy home they find at last, is very interesting indeed, as are also the literary efforts of two of the girls. The book is natural and fresh, and the children are most amusing in their little escapades. Any girl would be delighted to receive this book on Christmas day.

### From George N. Morang & Co. Toronto

**THE LANE THAT HAD NO TURNING**, by Gilbert Parker. This new volume of stories, dedicated to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, contains some of Parker's strongest work. The opening story, which gives the title to the volume, is exceptionally good. The scenes are laid in a Pottic, which is not, he assures us, the Pontiac of his Valmond and of history, but is a typical settlement of French Canada. The temperaments of the settlers are still as French as their *patois* and their habits, and no one clings more closely to the old traditions than does the local *seigneur*, the hero of the story. When he married the blacksmith's daughter, the beautiful singer of world-wide fame, there was no warning of the terrible hereditary deformity that came upon him and accentuated his peculiarities by rendering him abnormally sensitive. The character of Madelinette, his wife, is a beautiful one, and the whole story is remarkable. The other stories are less ambitious but quite as typical of the place. They picture the simple life of the habitant, neither poor nor rich, whom Parker described as being "born with the golden spoon in his mouth." Ottawa; James Ogilvy.

**THE STICKIT MINISTER'S WOOING**, by S. R. Crockett. In these stories Crockett goes back to the field which most people prefer to the scene of the rather too thrilling tales he has been writing of late. They exhibit all that intimate knowledge of Scotch life, its nobility, pathos and humor, which we know so well in Crockett. The book takes hold of the heart, because it is human nature that is described. All who have read "The Stickit Minister" are glad to hear of him again, and for those who took pleasure in "Lad's Love," there is *Hempie*, surely the most lovable of all Crockett's sweet heroines, and her love story. Ottawa; James Ogilvy.

**THE INFIDEL**, by M. E. Braddon. This new book by Miss Braddon comes as a surprise to readers who know her for so many years as a writer of rather sensational works; for "The Infidel" is quite modern in its tone, though the setting is the reign of George II, and the spirit of that time is well given. Miss Braddon has made us feel that we are indeed back in the time of Walpole and Wesley. The heroine of the story, the daughter of a London rengaude clergyman and hack writer, was brought up steeped in the free thought of Voltaire and the Encyclopaedists. Later, by marrying an Irish lord on his death bed, she gains wealth and position and becomes a leader of society; but coming under the influence of John Wesley, she accepts his doctrine. The picture of the torchlight preacher of Whitfield is most vivid, as are also the wretchedness of the poor and the heartlessness of the rich. The book is altogether a striking one and worthy of a careful perusal. Ottawa; James Ogilvy.

**IN CUPID'S COURT**: A collection of love verse ancient and modern, discerningly chosen and edited by Ira Russell Warren. These are set in old style type, and beautifully bound in cloth, stamped with gold. Decorative borders and full page half tone cupids by Titian, Franceschini, Guercino and Raphael, help to make up a delightful and fascinating volume especially adapted for the holiday season. Price \$1.25. R. H. Russell, Publisher, New York.

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