

THE BOOK PAGE

Three college classmates,—a descendant of an old Southern family, a Jew smarting with a sense of his nation's wrongs, and John Marvel, the hero in Thomas Nelson Page's, **John Marvel Assistant** (Copp, Clark Co., Toronto, 573 pages, \$1.50), find themselves, in later years, living in the same big American city, the first now a clever and courageous, but impetuous lawyer, the second a talented and acrid socialistic journalist, the third the "assistant" clergyman in charge of a mission belonging to a fashionable church. Each, in his own way, is interested in social problems, and takes his part in the fight against the evils that spring up, where wealth is rapidly accumulated by the few, and the poor are a great multitude. The wrongs of civic administration, the tyranny and dishonesty of corporations, are vividly portrayed. A great street car strike, with its accompanying sufferings and bloodshed, to say nothing of the property wantonly destroyed, illustrates the long conflict between labor and capital. With great clearness, the point is made, that the gospel preached and lived by John Marvel, is the most potent force for righting the wrongs of modern society. From the same publishers comes **The Perjurer**, by W. E. Norris (312 pages, \$1.25), a story of English social life, in which the virtues of truth and honor shine out all the more brightly because of the dark background of fashionable vice.

Of three books, from Cassell and Company, one takes us to the old-world metropolis of London, another to America's cosmopolitan city on Man-

hattan Island, while, in the third, we sail the high seas in a British merchant ship. **Adventures in London**, by James Douglas (415 pages, \$1.25) is a collection of thoroughly readable sketches of life in the multitudinous phases it assumes in the gigantic capital of the British Empire. Such chapter headings as, Mainly About Holidays, Mainly About Politics, Mainly About Sport, are suggestive of the scope of the book. The writer has the eye of a penetrating observer, and tells of what he has seen with unflinching vivacity. Walter Wood's, **The Secret Paper** (319 pages, \$1.25) tells how a cipher message from a foreign monarch to his ambassador in London fell into the hands of a young English barrister, who was compelled to flee to America. His adventures, while pursued by a small army of detectives, make up a story crammed with thrilling incident. A capital sea story is Captain Frank H. Shaw's, **A Daughter of the Storm** (326 pages, \$1.25). The heroine, born during a storm at sea, is, all her life, never so much at home as on board a staunch sailing ship when the winds roar their fiercest and the waves are highest.

G. E. Theodore Roberts has written an altogether charming Christmas book, **Flying Plover: His Stories, Told Him By Squat-By-The-Fire** (L. C. Page & Company, Boston, 125 pages, \$1.00). Flying Plover was lucky in his old grandmother, Squat-By-The-Fire, the wisest person in her tribe of the Mountaineer Indians of the Labrador, "deep in medicine and history, and story telling." She relates the battles of King Bear, King Moose, and King Walrus ;

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