

Master of Appleby (another "historical novel of the American species), by Francis Lynde, and "A Whaler's Wife," by Frank T. Bullen, are all selling as well as the month of February will permit. The special dry good sales, with a big discount off holiday goods, are now on, and they have no little effect on the booksellers' trade.

"Dorothy South," by Geo. C. Eggleston, is still going fairly well, and "The Blazed Trail," by Stewart Edward White, is another of last season's books which keeps selling.

"On the Cross," a romance of the Passion Play at Oberammergau, is written by Wilhelmine von Hillern and Mary J. Safford. It has had said of it: "The most daring theme ever chosen for a novel." It is a book so unusual that it is bound to make both friends and enemies. Freyer, who is the Christ in the play, is a name but thinly disguised from the world-famous Mayer, who took that part for years in the real pro-

duction at Oberammergau. A few fine illustrations add to interest. The novel is expected to create a sensation.

Rev. H. A. Robertson has written a deeply interesting account of "The Martyr Isle, Erromanga," where he is stationed. Friends of the missionary cause will eagerly read this book, which shows how much untold heroism there often is in the conduct of Christian missions, and how much the missionary is the pioneer of civilization and trade. It is published by A. C. Armstrong & Sons, New York—price, \$1.50. There are a number of clever illustrations.

"John Mackenzie, South-African Missionary and Statesman," is the title of a biography of a great South-African Imperialist, by W. Douglas Mackenzie, of Chicago Theological Seminary. It has been well received by the public. The price is \$2.00.

THE AUTHOR OF TO-DAY.

GEORGE HORACE LORIMER.

WITH the passing of the holiday season the sale of "Glengarry School Days," which had been the best-selling book in Canada for December, showed signs of falling off, while the continuance of a steady demand for "The Letters from a Self-Made Merchant to His Son" served to place that extra ordinary volume on an equality with it in the January sales.

From the day on which the first "Letter" appeared anonymously in The Saturday Evening Post, of Philadelphia, until the present time, the course of the publication of this work, both serially and in book form, has been marked by the utmost success. As a serial it attracted much attention and added considerably to the circulation of the paper in which it appeared. Later, when the several letters were collected in book form, and the identity of the author was revealed, an enormous sale took place, the proportions of which are even to-day quite considerable.

George Horace Lorimer, the youthful author of the already famous "Letters," is also editor of The Saturday Evening Post. Though a young man, his career has not been entirely devoted to literature and journalism. He began work with commercial aspirations, and for some time occupied positions of trust in the firm of Armour & Co., of Chicago. But, as the son of the brilliant scholar and orator, Dr. George C. Lorimer, all his traditions were of the sort to lead him into a literary career.

He accordingly sacrificed his business position, went to Boston, and started at the lowest rung of the journalistic ladder as a reporter. At this work he continued until he felt that he had obtained a mastery of the art of reporting. He then retired to Waterville, Maine, where he took a special course in English with a professor whose work he held in high admiration.

It was in 1889 that Mr. Cyrus Curtis, owner of The Ladies' Home Journal, took over The Saturday Evening Post. Mr. Lorimer saw the possibilities of the situation and applied for a position. He was immediately appointed reviewer and an assistant editor. Shortly afterwards the editor, Mr. A. S. Hardy, became U. S. Minister at Athens, and Mr. Lorimer practically drifted into his position. His work promptly justified his elevation and ever since The Saturday Evening Post has forged ahead with a unique and progressive record behind it.

In writing his "Letters from a Self-Made Merchant," Mr. Lorimer's earlier experiences stood him in good stead. While in commercial life he had knocked about among men of various classes and had learned something of their tastes and habits. He had experience in dealing with all sorts and conditions of men, from the humblest workman to the highest paid official. With this basis of practical acquaintance with the subject on which he wrote, and with his added journalistic and literary experience, he was readily able to make the "Letters" true in color and sound in detail.

In the editorial department of The Post Mr. Lorimer has introduced some modern and thorough-going methods of administration. He has made a specialty of the special article, and for such he is accustomed to give commissions outright. This he does with no little freedom and with excellent results. He likewise does a

great deal of the planning for The Post himself, not believing in allowing the ingenuity of possible contributors to direct the policy of the paper. In regard to the return of manuscript submitted for consideration, he displays business-like promptness in his method, no manuscript being kept in the office longer than seven days without some decision being rendered upon it.



GEORGE HORACE LORIMER.