

and in closest fellowship with the hills and woods, valleys and marshes, rivers and tidal mysteries of the Minas Basin country, is disqualified to pass judgment on such a book as this. The scenes so radiant to one's youthful spirit live forever in an ideal light. Such a one must recognize, however, that Mr. Roberts has put his heart in these pages, and that his experience of beautiful cosmic effects, of the magic lights and shadows and color, has given him the key of the simple golden land in which the story is set.

He on honey-dew hath fed,
And drunk the milk of Paradise.

The exiled reader is transported into the land of dream and desire, and feels a touch of youth upon his spirit.

One who reads this book for what it is doubtless meant to be, the interlude of a trilogy, will find it satisfying and very beautiful. The book is slight, as it should be to serve best its artistic purpose. There is little character drawing, as such. Yet character is sharply, though spiritually revealed. Yvonne is a woman unmistakably French, but Paul is not a typical Frenchman. He is Mr. Roberts himself. A few charcoal strokes give us La Garne as we saw him in "The Forge in the Forest." Grûl is a little unmasked, and proves in his grotesquery to be no madman after all. He confides to Paul the secret of the Black Abbé's life. This idyll needs no intricate unfolding of character for its perfection. A weaker artist would have blundered here. Still, the story would have gained, we are sure, had the author given us a fuller view of the social life of the Acadians. The absence of this seems to us the one thing lacking in the story.

While the materials of the Grand Pré tragedy supply all the elements of a great epic, or a thrilling drama, we think Mr. Roberts does well to weave his rich and splendid stories of romance therefrom. They are gracious sidelights, revealing sweetness and human tenderness along the fringes of the darkest cloud in our historic sky. The epic or drama may come by and by. It is clearly Mr. Roberts' design in his trilogy to bring to the light what he believes to have been the real causes at work that culminated in the expatriation of the Acadians. The background of the two stories published gives a cumulative and powerful impression that the Black Abbé was the procuring cause of the tragedy. Many will await his final volume of the series with intense interest.

T. H. R.