

THE AUTHOR OF TO-DAY.

THE LATE FRANK NORRIS

It is much to be deplored that Frank Norris did not live to enjoy the fame which his last book "The Pit" secured for him. "McTeague," "The Octopus" and his other books had all been well received, but they were in great measure immature and they failed to earn for him that universal approbation which "The Pit" called forth. To-day this important work takes rank among the most sought-after books, not only in Canada, but in the United States.

It is now four months and a half since Frank Norris died in San Francisco at the early age of 32 years. Sufficient time has elapsed for the mere sentimental grief at the death of one so young and so promising to have passed away. His work, incomplete as it is, can now be judged calmly for what it is worth.

Norris left Chicago for California at the age of 14. After spending three years there, he went abroad and studied art at Paris. Then he returned to California and spent four years at the university. His college course was rounded out by a year spent at Harvard, from whence he graduated in 1895. On his return to California he accepted the post of an assistant editor on The San Francisco Wave. For this paper he acted as special correspondent to South Africa at the time of the Jameson Raid. Later he served as war correspondent for McClure's Magazine in Cuba, and on his return to New York he was

made a reader for the Doubleday & McClure Company. Though he had written some fiction before this, notably "McTeague," it was only now that he set himself seriously to the work of writing. The inspiration which set on foot the

G. J. Morris



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"Epic of the Wheat," came to him shortly afterwards and "The Octopus" was the first fruits of his toil. This has been followed by "The Pit," and it, in turn, was to have been followed by "The Wolf," dealing with the problem of consumption in the countries of Europe. The novelist had been making extensive plans for the production of this work, when death came. He had purchased a ranch in California, where he was to have done his writing, and he had planned a journey to Europe to secure his material. However, all was in vain, and the projected novel was doomed never to see the light.

Norris, the man, was a lovable character. Kindliness and good-humor were never absent from his disposition. The finely-chiseled, boyish face, with its contrasting crown of white hair, inspired confidence in all with whom he came into contact. Sincerity was his personal habit as well as his literary creed, and no

author ever wrote less for fame and more for truth than he. No difficulties, save those of lack of confidence, ever worried him, and no one ever heard an irritable word from his mouth. He was a frank and earnest seeker after truth.

SOME FEATURES OF THE MAGAZINES.

SCRIBNER'S—Canadian writers are receiving notice from the editors of this magazine. The March number contained another of Harvey J. O'Higgins's fire department stories, and the other leading story of the issue was by the Toronto author, Sydney Preston. The latter will write again in the April number. Among other articles of importance in the coming issue may be noted "The Treasury," by F. A. Vanderlip, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; "Below the Water-Line," an unusual article on the work of engineers and stokers on the ocean steamships, and "An Explorer-Naturalist in the Arctic." Fiction is supplied by F. Hopkinson Smith and Josephine Daskam, among others.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY—The April number of The Atlantic will open with a paper upon "The Functions of the Stock Exchange." Brander Matthews will write on "The Makers of the Drama of To-day." Some hitherto unpublished corres-

pondence between Emerson and Grimm will appear, and S. M. Crothers will give a cheering exposition of "The Honorable Points of Ignorance." J. T. Trowbridge's "My Own Story" will deal in its fourth installment with reminiscences of Emerson and Hawthorne.

CANADIAN—There is a wealth of good reading matter in the March Canadian Magazine. The Hon. Clifford Sifton writes of "The Needs of the Northwest." Professor J. E. Le Rossignol deals with "Railway Subsidies in Canada and the United States," and shows how much more extravagant Canada has been than her neighbor. Frank Yeigh describes the "Strange Stone Monuments of Brittany and Cornwall" in an article which is profusely illustrated. J. M. Jackson writes of "Ice-boating on Toronto Bay," and Katherine Hale tells some interesting things about Albani, the Canadian prima donna.