

THE BOOK PAGE

"I had a little bedroom specially prepared for him in the new mission-house, but he preferred lying down on the floor, as he said he was not accustomed to sleep in bed." Thus writes one of Bishop Bompas, whose life, under the title of **An Apostle of the North**, by H. A. Cody, Rector of Christ Church, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory (The Musson Book Company, Toronto, 386 pages, 42 full page half-tone illustrations, \$2.50), is one of the most memorable of mission biographies. The good Bishop kept up his Hebrew and Syriac, but he lived mostly on the Indian's scantiest fare and in his primitive way. Born in 1834, volunteering, as an English curate, for missionary work amongst the scattered Indian bands of the Far North of Canada in 1865; nine years later, consecrated first Bishop of Athabasca, including the enormous territory watered by the Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers, and the Yukon basin; by later divisions, first Bishop of Mackenzie River, and first Bishop of the Yukon:—this is the outline of absolute self-denial, of amazing energy and fortitude, and of a simple trust in the power of the gospel. His first dash from England to the frozen North in the depth of winter; his numberless journeys, by canoe, by dog train, on foot—any way, so long as he got there; his singular influence with Indians and Esquimaux; make good reading. Canada is the richer for such a life lived within her borders, although he saw almost nothing of Canadians: when the sudden irruption of miners and traders came into the Yukon, the poor bishop was aghast: he had been so long with the

Indians. The story of Bishop Bompas work reminds us also of how great a debt we owe to the Church of England for its long line of noble, self-denying Indian missionaries in the north; and it proves once more that whether as soldier, sailor, explorer, or missionary of the cross, the Britisher is likely to give a good account of himself in all manner of surroundings and circumstances. Every Christian worker will receive a fresh inspiration from the life of this hero of the cross.

A tale of the Jacobite plot at the time of George I.'s accession to the throne is, **The Fair Moon of Bath**, by Elizabeth Ellis (William Briggs, Toronto, 342 pages, \$1.50). The title of the book was the name given to the beautiful heroine of the story, on her appearance at Bath, then a centre of fashion, and also a rendezvous for the supporters of the pretender, James Edward. Her lover, a Whig, but far too honorable a gentleman to use underhand methods against those of an opposite party, comes under the suspicion of being a spy in the service of the government. Eventually he is cleared of the charge, but not until he has passed through many an exciting adventure and thrilling escape. About these two main figures circle a company of gay ladies and gallant gentlemen, making in all a vivid and interesting picture of the times.

Well-nigh a score of books stand to the credit of John Oxenham, and yet there is no waning of his power to interest and charm. Like Carette of Sark, his latest story, **Pearl of Pearl Island** (The Copp

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