

A Ghost in the City.

BY LEONARD MERRICK.

The jovial solicitor who smacked his clients on the back had absconded, and the minor poet had no longer fifty pounds per annum. Although he was a minor poet, which—strangely enough—is a term of contempt in this country, he was as humorous as minor novelists and minor critics, and he suffered. Also he wrote; he realized how small had been the world's demand for the wares he dealt in— he acknowledged that for twenty years he had been living on his little income, not on his little books.

His name was Smith. It was, perhaps, one of the reasons why he was so hopelessly mild. Only a reviewer possessed of unusual courage could have discovered "the great poetry of Mr. Smith." Only a poet devoid of commercial instincts could have failed to adopt a name de guerre.

In the face of disaster Mr. Smith did not make precisely this reflection, but he reflected painfully that a lack of commercial ability was no longer a matter to be recognized with a smile. He stood among the daffodils in the village garden, and asked Heaven what would become of him. He was seven and thirty; the only craft that he had learned was useless, and he had to earn his bread and cheese.

As Heaven returned no answer, he sought the advice of friends. He was a lovable creature, though a writing man, and his friends were sympathetic. They all invited him to dinner, and assured him warmly they would bear his necessities in mind. If anything turned up, he might rely upon their disinterested help. Being of a trusting disposition, Mr. Smith returned to the daffodils encouraged.

And they withered while he waited for a telegram. When they hung their heads he sought advice again. This time his friends did not invite him to dinner, but they pointed out to him that he over-looked it that he was a poet—in other words, that he was a difficult person to serve. "You have no experience, you see," they said, frankly. "You are intelligent, but you have no experience. Robert, when a man is unfamiliar with the groove, we tread ourselves, we say that he has 'no experience.'"

One afternoon the poet went abroad. The journey cost him a penny, and he travelled from "Charing Cross" as far as the "Buckingham Palace" station, where a clerk showed him promptly to Mr. Hutton's private room.

The business man who received him had once been a little boy in a sailor's suit, and he and Robert had played together in a nursery. Robert had had numerous financial trials in the fire, and one of them required an obedient figurehead to watch the stocks. Mr. Hutton suggested that the poet, in his duties were simple, and the salary was slight, but if the iron came out in good condition, there was to be a share.

They chatted for a long while. Robert was admitted to some confidences about the other iron-works, and the shares, and the concessions. All the time he listened he was seeing the business man as a little boy in a sailor suit again, and he went to bed with a heavy heart, and a heavy head.

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TO MAKE POTTERY.

One Needs No Other Qualification Than a Wish to Learn, Says Miss White. In continuation of her series of excellent manuals on beadwork and basketry, Miss Mary White has now written a handbook on the making of pottery, under the title "How to Make Pottery" (Doubleday, Page & Co., New York). The object which at once occurs to the reader that pottery is a more technical subject than either of the others and a much more difficult one to practise satisfactorily at home by persons with no previous art training is to some extent met by the author in her preface. She says:

"There is, however, another thought that comes to mind—that this art, like every other, had to have its beginning. Moreover, every potter, from the primitive man who first realized that clay which held water could be moulded into portable vessels for a like purpose, to the artist potter of to-day, has learned the first steps of the craft. "It was this thought that encouraged me to study the beginnings of pottery, and that leads me to offer this book to those who would also start clay working with no other qualification than the wish to learn how to make pottery."

Miss White gives careful instruction as to clay and tools, glazes, working on the wheel, firing, methods of decoration, the building and management of kilns and the other minutiae of the art. Like all Miss White's handcraft manuals, the book is abundantly illustrated by the author. Chapters on Indian and modern American pottery supplement the more technical ones. In another chapter, Miss White says, can primitive pottery be so conveniently studied as in ours. Within our borders, he who likes may read the history of clay working from the earliest days. Those who are devoted this study at first hand will find in museums plenty of material—quaint bowls and jars, some of them smoke-stained and cracked, but all wonderfully well preserved, when one thinks of their age. Miss White says, that the character of the tribes ranks first, and close to that, the character of the Mississippi Valley and the Gulf Coast. Where the pottery is crude and imperfect it does not necessarily indicate that the people who made it were inferior in culture, but that the natural conditions were not favorable to pottery making.

A little thing called "pottery" is a very old thing, and the pottery of the South is more than that of the North, she attributes to different conditions. The pottery of the South is more than that of the North, she attributes to different conditions. The pottery of the South is more than that of the North, she attributes to different conditions.

Turning to modern American pottery, Miss White finds one of the most encouraging signs of the day in their appreciation of the pottery which is now being made in this country. In the case of the pottery of the South, she says, the pottery of the South is more than that of the North, she attributes to different conditions.

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THEIR TASTE IN BOOKS.

Favorites of Rich Children Are Those of Poor Children. What do the children of the rich read? There have been many studies of the tastes of the children of the masses, as revealed in the public and travelling libraries. Now comes a woman with her children's library in one of the fashionable streets just off Fifth-ave., to cater to the tastes of the children of wealth. They must pay \$5 a year to belong here, after which they may come and change their books, or send a maid to do so; or if there are five subscribers in a neighborhood, they may have a travelling library among them.

Chiefly, though, this is a bureau of information for the mother engulfed in the torrent of children's books that pour from the press. The illustration of children's books is very inferior. The artist who illustrates children's books is not the artist who illustrates the books of the masses, as revealed in the public and travelling libraries. Now comes a woman with her children's library in one of the fashionable streets just off Fifth-ave., to cater to the tastes of the children of wealth.

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OUR BUSINESS IN LIFE.

Our business in life is not to get ahead of other people, but to get ahead of ourselves. To break our own record, to outstrip our yesterdays by to-days, to bear our trials more beautifully than we ever dreamed we could, to whip the tempter inside and out as we never whipped him before, to give us never have given, to do our work with more force and a finer finish than ever—the this is the true idea of a ahead of ourselves.—Malibee Davenport Babcock.

MONEY RECEIVED.

M. F. B., of New-Jersey, has sent her check for \$25, "in appreciation of the T. S. S. work, to be used for Christmas pleasure and happiness for others." Mrs. G. L. S., also of New-Jersey, sends \$5 for the Christmas dinner fund; Mrs. Y. N., of Brooklyn, \$5, and M. P. W., of Newark, N. J., \$2 for the fund; A. E., of Manhattan, \$1, for coal fund; Mrs. S. S. Furt, of Middletown, N. J., 20 cents; Mrs. Mabon, of Brooklyn, 20 cents; Bentley-ave., Jersey City, 20 cents, and M. W. Child, of Greenwell, Jersey City, 20 cents, for dine album. As only 10 cents was needed to complete the first album, the balance of the fund is being used for the purchase of a new album for the fund. The fund is being used for the purchase of a new album for the fund.

DIMM ALBUMS.

Mrs. Andrews, of East Orange, N. J., has sent \$1; C. E. Stiger, \$1; Mrs. S. E. H., of Southport, Conn., 20 cents; A. Vonkers-Walsh, 20 cents; Mrs. A. R. E., of Middletown, N. J., 20 cents; Mrs. Mabon, of Brooklyn, 20 cents; Bentley-ave., Jersey City, 20 cents, and M. W. Child, of Greenwell, Jersey City, 20 cents, for dine album. As only 10 cents was needed to complete the first album, the balance of the fund is being used for the purchase of a new album for the fund.

FOR OTHERS.

The children of the kindergarten at Essex Field, N. J., have sent \$1; C. E. Stiger, \$1; Mrs. S. E. H., of Southport, Conn., 20 cents; A. Vonkers-Walsh, 20 cents; Mrs. A. R. E., of Middletown, N. J., 20 cents; Mrs. Mabon, of Brooklyn, 20 cents; Bentley-ave., Jersey City, 20 cents, and M. W. Child, of Greenwell, Jersey City, 20 cents, for dine album. As only 10 cents was needed to complete the first album, the balance of the fund is being used for the purchase of a new album for the fund.

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THE SEVERANCE HOSPITAL.

There has been dedicated at Seoul, Corea, a new hospital building, the cost of which was defrayed by L. H. Severance, of Cleveland, Ohio, and which is to be known as the Severance Memorial Hospital. It is to be conducted under the direction of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, which has a number of medical missionaries stationed in the Korean city.

The building was erected in the face of many difficulties, as it is extremely hard to build an American structure with Oriental laborers, whose ideas and habits are so totally different from those of their Occidental brothers. An instance of this is found in the fact that all the plumbing had to be placed personally by Dr. O. R. Avison and one of the other workers of the mission. In most respects the new building follows the lines of modern hospital construction.

An interesting fact in connection with this hospital is that the first patient to be admitted was a child, a young girl named Mary Jane, who had been suffering from a severe case of typhoid fever. The child was brought to the hospital by her mother, and she was placed in the ward under the care of the medical missionaries.

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Housewives' Exchange.

PRIZE AWARD. The Housewives' Exchange takes pleasure in awarding the prize for the best article on the burden of Christmas giving to Mary Jane Du Bois, Napanock, Ulster County, N. Y., who has appeared over her signature and with the title "The Art of Giving," in the Exchange of December 14.

WITH LOVE FOR A MOTTO. Let our motto in giving presents at Christmas be love. And let our text be John 15. Then the hearts of both giver and receiver will be drawn closer to our Heavenly Father, who "so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, etc.," by His example, making us to be made better and happier. Let love be entwined in every stitch and woven in all the knitting. Let love overshadow you in all your Christmas shopping.

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