

Literary News and Criticism.

An Amazing Book About South Sea Islands.

IN THE STRANGE SOUTH SEAS. By Beatrice Grimshaw. Illustrated. 2 vols. 2.50. (Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott Company.)

When all the world was new it was the privilege of returning travelers to discourse upon what they had seen, and they might fairly count upon a cheerful audience. But now that every upon is explored and every track is beaten or paved, and the whole earth is full of trippers and tourists and trotters of the globe, one must surely go far afield to discern anything worth writing about in the ordinary way of travel.

Miss Grimshaw has much in common with those old explorers who went exploring for the mere love of it. She is willing to spend her time and energies in chase of the strange, the novel and the remote. She makes it seem the most natural thing for a lone woman from Great Britain to be pushing her way into Tahiti, and Rarotonga, and Fiji, and other places with entrancing names, and having almost persuaded you that it is just the thing you ought to do.

Little goldfish, baked and served with coconut sauce, were among the items on the menu; mackerel, cooked in a hole in the ground, with hot river water, and served with a hot sauce, served with (I regret to say) European butter, native puddings made of raw fish, and some of the most delicious raw fish. Some of the guests would not touch the latter, but the rest of us thought it no worse than raw fish, and it was very enjoyable.

Then there are the dried bananas, which never come into market, but which, compressed in a peculiar way, are pronounced by experts superior to dried figs, not only a substitute for fresh bananas, but a dainty in their own right.

Joan Kelden, the heroine of "The Supreme Gift," is called upon to undergo an ordeal which might well cause the stoutest heart to quail. First wealth must be renounced and then the claims of love, for the sake of the larger love that reaches beyond the individual and gives itself to the poor and needy.

She was dressed in an admirable gown of cloudy white, and she was holding a violin. As she paused under the great arch, its imposing roof effectively accentuated her small, soft, pink-tinted face. Her reddish-brown hair, styled in a fashion of beauty of color, stood up around it in rebellious waves.

To the exhausted traveler in the desert appears the deceptive mirage—"that dazzling, tempting semblance of the phantom oasis." Make of this a symbol of human life, and you have the theme of E. Temple Thurston's latest story. The hero is an elderly, gentle mannered, proud spirited French nobleman, the Vicomte du Guesclin, who, because his fortune has been eaten up and life in the grand old way rendered impossible, has emigrated to England and taken up his abode in a tiny cottage, attended only by one faithful man servant, Courtois.

The roadway had been full of natives in their best clothes, come down to see the passengers—some in both towns, like the victors, some leaguers, but many in the cleanest of shirts and cotton tunics, and scores of pretty Samoan girls in civilized dresses of such and such a color, trimmed with blue and grey silk ribbons. The rain began to spout, as only tropical rain can, and immediately things began to happen. In a twinkling and were really awfully. Under the eaves of houses, beneath umbrellas, out in the street with any shelter at all, the Samoans rapidly began undressing. Smart white shirts, frilled petticoats, lace dresses all came off in a twinkling and were rolled up into tight bundles and stowed away under their owners' arms, to protect the precious contents from the rain.

Of the various strange things seen in that enchanted country there is no need here to speak. Enough has been set down to record the attitude with which this intelligent traveler approaches her subject. With just appreciation and not without humor she notes the differences that appeal to a discriminating eye. It is only when attempting to transfer to paper the color, the vegetation, the fecundity of a latitude so removed from our own that she is thrown into rhapsodies perilously near hysteria. We may lay down these pleasant pages after the more brief excerpt:

certainly an advantage, since it compelled me to measure time in the pleasant island fashion, which simply marks out the day vaguely by hot hours and cool hours and the recurring calls of hunger. No one who has not tried it can conceive the limited freedom and leisure that come of this custom. Time is simply wiped out. One is not aware of the time passing, and the day is passing under an unbearable and unnecessary tyranny all one's life.

NEW NOVELS.

Books by Harold Bindloss, Grace Litchfield and Others.

LONG ODDS. By Harold Bindloss. 12mo, pp. 401. Small, Maynard & Co.

THE SUPREME GIFT. By Grace Denio Litchfield. 12mo, pp. 350. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

MIRAGE. By E. Temple Thurston. 12mo, pp. 320. Dodd, Mead & Co.

Darkest Africa is the scene of "Long Odds," the latest story from the facile pen of Mr. Bindloss. The general standard of West Coast morality is not much higher than that prevailing in East of Suez countries. Cruelly, greed, lust, treachery, take the place of the Ten Commandments. When Robert Ormsgill, a true born Englishman, marries a concubine and a code of honor with him into the interior, instead of leaving them behind, as the custom is, "till wanted," he makes a lot of trouble for himself. Petty tyrants of the up-river fever districts, respecters of no power under heaven, growing fat on corruption and bribery, array themselves against him. It is incredible to them that loyalty to a dead benefactor can be what actuates him in the rescue of a slave girl or the defence of starving coolies. The natives see in Ormsgill no Garibaldi, but a white devil who has come to make their burden heavier—is not that what all white men come for? Even at home his quixotic exploits are misconstrued. His once devoted sweetheart looks at him askance; and when he suddenly turns up at the Canary Island caravanserai, where she is wintering, she frankly tells him that he has grown queer, and requests that, before another day passes, he visit a tailor. "This duck-clad man with the lined face and steady eyes was clearly not of their world, which was, in the case of most of them, an essentially frivolous one."

Joan Kelden, the heroine of "The Supreme Gift," is called upon to undergo an ordeal which might well cause the stoutest heart to quail. First wealth must be renounced and then the claims of love, for the sake of the larger love that reaches beyond the individual and gives itself to the poor and needy. Little Joan is equal to the test. A more unselfish heroine it would be hard to imagine. Her every impulse seems only for the happiness of others. And this loveliness of soul finds its outward counterpart in form and feature "graceful and ethereal enough to have stepped from Burne-Jones's "Golden Stair."

She was dressed in an admirable gown of cloudy white, and she was holding a violin. As she paused under the great arch, its imposing roof effectively accentuated her small, soft, pink-tinted face. Her reddish-brown hair, styled in a fashion of beauty of color, stood up around it in rebellious waves. Her eyes, which were blue and clear as the sky, were fixed on her lover with a transparency for a soul composed of love and joy. It was always as if a white glow entered a room with her.

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Mr. H. C. Chatfield-Taylor's biography of Mollère is to be followed by a novel, the hero of which is that famous French dramatist. The book, which will be published next month, is to be called "Famo's Pathway." It will be issued by Duffield & Co.—who announce, by the way, that they propose to try the experiment of bringing out one of their new spring books in exact imitation, as regards type and cover, of the engaging paper covered volumes of the French publishers.

THE ACCESSIBLE BOOK.

Some one has been calling, and that nothing too early, for a cheaper edition of Pater's works. "Appreciations" costs \$5.64, "The Renaissance" and "Agreeable Studies" half a guinea each, and "Marius the Epicurean" 10s. and although these are not net prices, they are yet too high. A publishing house is, of course, not a philanthropic institution, and although the reading public would warmly welcome a cheaper release, no doubt with the Messrs. Macmillan it is simply a question of business. The question, how-

ever, must be a very simple one: If the prices were halved, would the number of purchasers be doubled? One may safely conjecture that it would. Not only would Pater by this means be brought within the reach of a vast multitude of new readers who would purchase him, but of the glad to acquire his works for their shelves. No one who has not tried it can conceive the limited freedom and leisure that come of this custom. Time is simply wiped out. One is not aware of the time passing, and the day is passing under an unbearable and unnecessary tyranny all one's life.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

Current Talk of Things Present and to Come.

"With the Night Mail" is the title of the long novel which Mr. Kipling has ready for publication. It is said to be a story of the marvels of the future—the marvels in science and mechanics which are to transform existence.

The fourteenth volume of M. Emile Ollivier's work, "L'Empire Libéral," will probably soon appear, as he has finished correcting the proofs. It ought to be particularly interesting, as it deals with the declaration of war in 1870. Ollivier, who is now eighty-four years old, is still an energetic worker. When not busy with his history he finds amusement in walking and in collecting old engravings.

A new printing of Mr. and Mrs. Pennell's "Life of Whistler" is coming from the Lippincott press a fortnight hence. The authors have contributed a new preface, in which they make these statements: "The reception given to our book has enabled us to make some revisions of our own, as well as a few corrections suggested by sympathetic readers."

Of the famous Australian journalist, David Syme—who used to be called "King David of Melbourne"—there is told in "Chambers's Journal" this pleasant story: "One day a friend, who had been a fellow contractor with the poor fellow, called on him at his death, called at the office. He found David in the deepest dejection. Things were going very badly with the poor fellow's business."

What is the true discipline for a writer? The London "Morning Post" declares that whether his work is done under pressure or at leisure this discipline consists in the cultivation of sincerity. "Let him find out," it is added, "what he has to say, and say that and no more, not attempting to furnish up into grandeur thoughts which, though true, may not be of supreme importance, nor yet regard as insignificant anything that concerns the welfare, the character, the interests or the happiness of his fellow men."

Miss Emma Brooke, who wrote in "A Superfluous Woman" a novel which was at one time much talked about, is soon to bring out a new book. It is to bear the title of "The Story of Hanksgarth Farm."

Mr. W. Ward Fowler's book, "Social Life at Rome in the Age of Cicero" is to be issued by the Macmillan Company next week. At the same time will appear from this press Mr. Morris Hillquit's "Socialism in Theory and Practice."

Mr. H. C. Chatfield-Taylor's biography of Mollère is to be followed by a novel, the hero of which is that famous French dramatist. The book, which will be published next month, is to be called "Famo's Pathway." It will be issued by Duffield & Co.—who announce, by the way, that they propose to try the experiment of bringing out one of their new spring books in exact imitation, as regards type and cover, of the engaging paper covered volumes of the French publishers.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- ARCHITECTURE. MIDDLEVAL ARCHITECTURE. Its Origins and Development. With Lists of Monuments and Bibliography. By Arthur Kingsley Porter. In two volumes. Illustrated. 4to, pp. xviii, 482; x, 609. (Baker & Taylor Company.)
- BIOGRAPHY. THE LAWRENCE OF THE PUNJAB. By Frederick P. Gibbon. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. xii, 350. (E. P. Dutton & Co.)
- WHO'S WHO IN NEW YORK CITY AND STATE. A Biographical Dictionary of Contemporaries. Edited by John C. Edgar. Fourth Biennial Edition. 1000. 8vo, pp. vii, 1414. (L. R. Hamersley & Co.)
- EDUCATIONAL. REPORT ON THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH IN THE UNITED STATES. By Arthur Kingsley Porter. In two volumes. 12mo, pp. 88. (Syracuse: C. W. Bardeen.)
- FICTION. ALINE OF THE GRAND WOODS. By Nevil G. Henshaw. 12mo, pp. viii, 491. (Dutton Publishing Company.)
- THE STRAW. By Rina Ramsay. 12mo, pp. 322. (The Macmillan Company.)
- THE BRIDGE BUILDERS. By Anna Chapin Ray. 12mo, pp. 494. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.)
- THE CLIMBING COURTYARD. By Edward W. Townsend. 12mo, pp. xii, 248. (E. P. Dutton & Co.)
- THE BLACK CROSS. By Olive M. Briggs. 12mo, pp. 376. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.)

max, the wrinkles transformed in the smiles that irradiated his countenance. "One night he started and delighted the company by breaking fresh ground. "The other day," he began, "I was walking down Kennington Road, and there was a man, and he asked: "When I say the other day, I mean forty years ago." This story had something indefinite, and he went on to say the other day, I mean forty years ago. This story had something indefinite, and he went on to say the other day, I mean forty years ago. This story had something indefinite, and he went on to say the other day, I mean forty years ago.

"The Story of the Great Lakes" is the title of a volume by Edward Channing and Marion F. Lansing which the Macmillan Company will soon publish. It is understood to be a picturesque narrative including personal sketches and episodes of adventure.

The Russian Grand Duke Nicolas Mikhailovitch has written a book which Goupil is bringing out. The text is in French, and the illustrations are remarkably good. The subject is the Empress Elizabeth, wife of the Czar Alexander I. She was Princess Louise of Baden, and was married to Alexander at the age of fourteen, taking, in accordance with Russian custom, a new name.

Put in his modern prose this declares that the knight in all his life never saw any ally, but he who familiarizes himself with our earlier literature can hardly help being struck with the contrast of a new or two or more negatives to strengthen the negation.

A new and revised edition of the late Professor Jebb's translation of the "Characters" of Theophrastus is to be published soon. The original edition appeared in 1873, and has for some time been out of print. The editor of the new edition, Dr. J. E. Sandys, quotes in his preface a letter in which Professor Jebb indicated the "real interest" of Theophrastus. "Other writers," he says, "whose name is legion, prove to us that all the great organic lines of human nature are the same to-day, yesterday and for ever. Theophrastus is one of the few who survive to remind us that the lighter traits also of character are permanent and universal."

There are many Americans who will be interested in the announcement of an elaborate series to be published under the title of "Trees and Shrubs of the British Isles, Native and Acclimatized." The work is to appear in sixteen parts, illustrated in color and monochrome.

The recent Burns celebration has evoked anecdotes from all directions. One of these, showing how the cult of Burns reaches to the lowest strata in Scotland, comes from the literary commentator of "The Manchester Guardian." "When Lord Balfour was Secretary for Scotland," he says, "he received a letter from a convict at Peterhead bitterly complaining that there was not a copy of the national poet in the prison, and he was excluded against the warden. Lord Balfour looked into the matter, found it as stated, and forthwith sent on the required copy."

There are always with us those critics of the Christian propagandists who resent as an impertinence the missionary's interference with, let us say, the sweet simplicities of a cannibal's faith. Their point of view is not lost sight of by Principal F. E. Jevons, who considers the rationale of missions in "An Introduction to the Study of Comparative Religions" (The Macmillan Company). The missionary motive is not at all mixed up with a belief in the total depravity of non-Christian religions. On the contrary, Christianity is offered to the world on the ground of its intrinsic worth, the fulfillment of all that is true in previous religion and the effective means whereby the end aimed at by all religions may be realized.

A tribute reflecting reminiscent affection and natural piety has been written by Dr. Lyman Abbott in "The Home Builder" (Houghton Mifflin Company). It is the charming portrait of a gentleman who so met the responsibilities of "the common day" that her best monument was the home she reared.

The Rev. Elwood Worcester, of Emmanuel Church, Boston, has written the preface to "A Letter of Hope" (Moffat, Yard & Co.), the story of an invalid's plucky resistance against the inroads of despondency.

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Books and Publications.

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"There has been no such book in many a year. Open it and you can feel the cool air and smell the hedgerows. There are lots of love in it, and of mystery, and of detective work that would baffle Sherlock Holmes, and of good, jolly fun. . . . Taken all in all, I consider The Straw the cleverest and most readable book of the season."
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LITERATURE.
STORIA DO MOGOR. OR, MOGUL INDIA. 1683-1709. By Nicolaus Manucci, Venetian. Translated, with an Introduction and Commentary, by William Irvine. In four volumes. Vol. IV. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. xiv, 603. (E. P. Dutton & Co.)
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A HISTORY OF THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK. By Henry C. Sheldon. 8vo, pp. xii, 596; 267. (Published by the trustees of the Brick Presbyterian Church.)

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