

NEW BOOKS.

An Excellent Tale of Corea.

We have not been favored with so many novels about Corea as to have become cloyed with them, and we have read with a certain unusual and quick assent of the spirit, and with definite enjoyment, Mr. James S. Gale's story of "The Vanguard" (Fleming H. Revell Company). The interest is awakened at once when the steaming ship Karé, manned by nimble and efficient Japanese, and captained by a bold Welshman with a single eye, starts from the port of Nagasaki for its Korean destination. Willis, the young American missionary who is the chief figure in the story, was aboard, together with his friend Shoreland, an Australian. "Regardless of fog or sea or pending night the Karé, of 1,300 tons, child of the Clyde, turned on full steam and ploughed on into the uncertainties."

"That was her regular way. 'It is the only hope,' said the captain. 'There are tides and cross currents and what not; if you want to keep your bearings you must go at full speed; slow down and you are on the rocks.'" As it happened, she did slow down this night, and the rocks were at hand. They were the collection called the Gotos that "the good ship had tried to cut off from the Empire of the Rising Sun." The Karé backed away, badly hurt by the encounter. The author remarks at this point: "Happy the man who has all his accounts straight when the prow goes down and the propeller sours out of the sea!" Happily the Karé kept her prow out and her propeller under. She returned to Nagasaki, and the evening newspapers there reported:

"The Karé Maru has met with resistance on rocks, large and protruding, related in space to the islands of the Gotos; a portion of her covering has been stripped away; she was also damaged internally, but they are hopeful of recovery. The passengers are safe, including two Westerners named Shu-nan-du and Wl-rus, born in the '30s (1830) and Pig (1868) years, at id playing for occupation, that they may eat and live, missionary business and sight seeing."

The Karé was fifteen days in repairing. At the end of that time, passed by our travellers very delightfully in "the strangest, dreamiest, funniest possible fairy land known to mortal man," she performed safely, with much assistance from the sounding lead, the journey to Chemulpo.

Willis established himself in the city of Ping Yang, in which singular community the reader who follows him will find his interest kept very much alive. There is much here that we wish it were possible to communicate in this brief review. We long to acquaint the reader with Ko, as remarkable an all-round rascal as the Orient ever offered to a missionary. We should like to tell of the great and good Western surgeon, Sir James Bruce, established in the capital of the marvellous empire, presided over by Westerners in southern Korea; of the punishments dealt out to the Tong-hak rebels; of the conversion of Kim, the schoolmaster, spite of the eighty cents' worth of opposition prayers purchased by Kim's devoted wife in a temple of Buddha; of the jovial missionary, Plum, who used to amuse the Koreans by standing on his head; of the mad dog soup dreadfully prepared and consumed on one horrible occasion; of the battle at Ping Yang, when Japan and China were at war; of much else that is strange, and shocking, and pathetic, and vastly entertaining as it is related in these vivid chapters. Here is a glimpse of the city in which Willis had his chief experiences:

"Near the same, crowded into a single Yang, on the low ground, eastward to a tangled group of houses, in a narrow court and tiled but [Willis's quarters], to which many callers are drawn day by day. There are in front overhanging eaves and a narrow ledge of veranda, on which shoes are left by parties entering. The outer walls are of mud, plastered on basket lathing. From many places the mud has fallen, and the straw ropes and twigs show through. On the posts are mottoes in Chinese—'Sweep the court and gold turns up.' 'Open the door and joy comes in.' At the side of the entrance there is a stall of dried persimmons, tobacco, oilcloth pouches, strings, head-bands, hat covers, covers of all which towels, smudgy boy presides. Across the street, some twenty feet distant, there is a butcher's shop, where bloody looking meat is hanging. Dogs hang about waiting for offal.

"Past the door go crowds upon crowds dressed in white, some on high stilt shoes made so as to lift them above the mud; others in leather; others, again, with soaked socks waded through the mire. The sewage and night soil is rolled out into the pots and cesspools of the narrow street. On one side an old woman is making pancakes for the passers, pancakes mixed with splashing, cooked and oiled and savory. The eaters regard not and ask no questions, for the Orient is always hungry. Well, too, that would paralyze the soul of a Westerner, are unnoticed by those wise men of the East.

"Horses not much larger than mastiff dogs, loaded with pack or pack saddle, go jingling by. Stolid cattle, mountains of unconsciousness, help to congest the narrow way, and so it keeps up, in rain and sunshine, the year through, in this main thoroughfare of Ping Yang. Sometimes the sun shines and the road dries off and the wind peppers the pancakes with the trampled dust and fans the coolie as he lies asleep amid a noise and turmoil that would waken the gods.

"Not a sign of Western life anywhere! This is the old, old Orient, as it was, and is, and, some think, ever shall be. Men are busy looking out the footprints of the ancestors, and walking therein, without thought or emotion of the desire or hope."

But this last, we imagine, is not to be taken quite literally. The history of Ko, the bad man to whom we have alluded, shows that the Oriental is not without plenty of thoughts and emotions and desires. We commend Ko to the reader. We have met with few who were more entertaining.

Three Biographical Works. There is a good deal of interesting material in the volume of "Personal Reminiscences of the Duke of Wellington," by Francis, the First Earl of Ellesmere" (E. P. Dutton & Co.), which is edited, with a memoir of Lord Ellesmere, by his daughter Alice, Countess of Strathford. Francis Sutherland Leveson Gower, afterward the first Earl of Ellesmere, came of a heroic family. His father was the Marquis of Stafford, and his mother the Countess of Sutherland in her own right and a descendant of Robert Bruce. He was born on the first day of the nineteenth century and his political career began in 1822. As a young man he was attached to several diplomatic missions to Spain, Russia and other countries, and in the preliminary memoir we have several interesting letters written to his wife while on those journeys. He was a Privy Councillor at 24 and was raised to the peerage as a Duke at 52, on the day of the death of the Duke of Wellington. He began to write these reminiscences of the great soldier, with whom he had enjoyed twenty-five years of intimate and frequent association. Hence, in these random notes

PUBLICATIONS.

THE LADIES'

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"The Duke and Croker, travelling in a carriage together, played, to pass the time, a game which consists in guessing at the description of the objects to be first met with after crowning a hill or turning a corner. The Duke had greatly the advantage, and when Croker observed upon his success, said: 'You don't consider that I have been passing my life in the next hill or round the next corner?'"

Another volume of military memoirs is "The Life of John Coburne, Field Marshal Lord Seaton. Compiled from His Letters, Records of His Conversations and Other Sources," by G. C. Moore Smith (E. P. Dutton & Co.). Both as a soldier and a civilian the subject of this biography was a fearless and able servant of his king and country, and from the time when he was gazetted to the old Twentieth Regiment in 1794 to the day when he was appointed at the request of Queen Victoria to the Colonelcy-in-Chief of the Rifle Brigade, the old "Ninety-fifth" to replace the Prince Consort, his career was a brilliant record of bravery and administrative ability. The book contains good descriptions of the campaign in Minorca and Egypt, 1800-01; the Peninsular War, the Battle of Waterloo and Lord Seaton's career as Governor General of Canada, and some interesting appendices in the shape of letters, extracts from diaries, &c., on the subjects of Waterloo and Sir John Moore's campaign.

Though the first Queen Caroline was the greatest of the English Queens Consort and exercised more authority over political affairs than any English Queen Regnant with the exception of Elizabeth and Victoria, she has been somewhat neglected both by historians and biographers. The Queen Consort of George II. has been overshadowed by her unhappy later namesake, the Queen of George IV. Hence the title "Caroline the Illustrious," under which a new edition of her latest and most complete biography appears, is somewhat misleading. "The Illustrious" she was rightly called by her contemporaries; but to-day that title would be applied by nine readers out of ten to that ill-fated other Caroline, made illustrious by her sorrows and the stupid injustice of her treatment by her husband, the royal ruffian George IV. Still, "Caroline the Illustrious, Queen Consort of George II. and sometime Queen Regent. A Study of Her Life and Times" is a valuable work and light enough to be perusable by the reader who seeks pleasure by the way. Its author, Mr. W. H. Wilkins, has made a special study of the history of the house of Hanover, and this volume forms a continuation of those studies of the Hanoverian Court of which "The Love of an Uncrowned Queen" was the first. The new edition is illustrated with a number of portraits and is published by Longmans, Green & Co.

Very Readable. We do not know why "The Boston Path" was chosen for the title of Mr. Richard L. Makin's exceptionally interesting story (the Macmillan Company). There is no path here that is easily discoverable, and no sign of anything but a heroic, without the help of a man who is excepted under the misapprehension that he was the scamp who had run off with Antoine Dupré's handsome and tigerish daughter. The scene of the story is a Pennsylvania manufacturing town. Ashton Leveson lived there in very handsome style on the proceeds of business that he had inherited and

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that, much to his gratification and very luckily for him, was qualified to run itself. He was a large, handsome, sensual, egotistical, domineering man with literary ambitions which might have languished, owing to his indolent disposition and habits of sustained luxury, if it had not been for the jewel of a private secretary, Owen Thallon, who wrote his novels for him while he himself went about in his lordly fashion doing things that were easier—and some of them more reprehensible. The characters are varied and very well drawn, and they do and say things that will keep the reader alert and entertained. There is considerable of a plot. To Thallon there attached a mysterious history, upon which light is thrown after a sufficient period of artful and effective delay. It will be found natural enough that the young secretary should be in love with that ill-treated and deeply injured lady, his employer's wife. Leveson was not really so wicked a man as to make the reader wish that he might have been drawn and quartered. He did, however, stand in the way of the happiness of those who were more deserving, and somehow there will persist a feeling of willingness to say good-by to him, though not for a moment, of course, can anybody excuse Louise Dupré's act in establishing a mine of giant powder in his study fireplace. But the author, rather austere, it seems to us, has permitted no compensations. The results of the explosion were dreadful and nothing else. Leveson's sight was destroyed, and his wife became his faithful nurse. We are not quite sure but that we should consider Myer, the preacher workingman, as the hero of the story, rather than Thallon. He was a good and a sensible man, and we think him just a trifle lugubrious. Highly interesting character are the several other characters—Cuthbert Falcon, the rector; Mohray Doniphan, the eccentric gentleman; Randal Whitelaw, the lawyer; Col. Mortimer Gilbreed, the politician, and the cheerful Dr. Lindley, who has time for a good deal of entertaining philosophy, as have most of the others. The conversations are very readable, and there are plenty of dramatic passages that are quite effective. It has seemed to us curious that the author should so good a story should have split the infinitive so mercilessly. That unhappy article of grammar lies sundered and quivering on almost every page. So frequent an exhibition of its disjected members has given us a pain. Virginia and Her Divorced Lover. Little Eros did not have an easy time at Spinsterville in Kate Langley Boeher's

PUBLICATIONS.

The May CENTURY MAGAZINE

Striking Profile Portrait of President Roosevelt. The Frontispiece. From a recent photograph taken at the White House.

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PUBLICATIONS.

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