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A Tale of London and the Sea—Charming Story of a Puritan Garden—An Indian Detective Tale.

A Twelve-Volume Edition of Richard Harding Davis—Records of American Travel—Other Books.

CASUALS OF THE SEA. (Doubleday, Page.) By William McFee.

We find one of the Gooderich boys snowballing in the opening part of William McFee's story of *Casuals of the Sea* (Doubleday, Page and Company). The scene is in the north end of London, and young Gooderich's snowballing was a much sturdier performance than his attempt to recite "Hohenlinden" at the afternoon session of school had been. In the north end of London battle the bloodless and untrodden snow presently changed its appearance, as the case was in the poem. Young Gooderich's nose suffered. It cast stains upon the snow. He remained, however, valiant and unbowed. The reader will perhaps ask himself whether it is Bert Gooderich who is indicated in the sub-title of the story, which promises for contemplation "the voyage of a soul." We soon make the acquaintance of the whole of the Gooderich family, as well as of many people besides, and the compact and overflowing detail acquaints us with the voyages of many souls.

We go backward for a space to learn of Mrs. Gooderich, mother of the family. She was a farm laborer's daughter. She went into "service." She had an unhappy experience before she married Mr. Gooderich. She had been indiscreet, but she was helped by a kindly world. Mr. Gooderich, a plain man whose occasional visions were confined strictly to the performances of race horses and a few other matters notoriously associated with the sudden acquisition of wealth, was not a drunkard, but he once took a glass too much at the ancient inn called the Apple Tree, and on his way home fell into the brook and was drowned. Little Hannibal Gooderich saw the tragedy of his father's death, and so did Hiram Gaynor, son of the American lady who saw into life so penetratingly and met its troubles and mystifications so wisely. The two boys were out fishing at 11 P. M. in the north end of London brook in which Mr. Gooderich was drowned. It is a pity that Mrs. Gaynor, tolerant, helpful, psychic, should drift out of the book without more of an explanation.

A number of the characters in the story were tolerant, notably Minnie Gooderich, whose life of adventure was quite fortunate; Mrs. Willfey, the journalist, who lived in Clifford's Inn and wrote books and fashions and advertisements; Mr. Gilfillan, the promoter, who carried Minnie off to the "continent," and Capt. Briscoe, the French mariner, who married Minnie. We notice that the story places Clifford's Inn in the Strand. Years ago it stood in Fleet street, east of Chancery Lane. Goodness knows what has happened since the small but respected barrier of Temple Bar was pulled down, but Clifford's Inn ought at least to have been permitted to remain pretty close to the Cheshire Cheese. In other days the Cock Tavern would have gone to the rescue if attempt had been made to slide Clifford's Inn away from its venerable foundations.

It is unpleasant to hear Mr. Julius Fife talking at page 112. Mr. Fife is a fitting character; he is gone in a little while, and we may be thankful that he does not return; but better still if he had not come at all. There is subtlety in the understanding that is brought about when Gilfillan takes Minnie to dinner. But this young woman throughout is distinctly curious. She had small powers of speech, a respect wherein she differed widely from Gilfillan. If she did not have language she understood it; notice her rustling the bank notes in Gilfillan's sumptuous yet tasteful office. It is astonishing that she should have gone plump to Mrs. Gaynor with her frank confession regarding herself and Gilfillan. Mrs. Gaynor, however, was qualified to hear any sort of revelation with considerable composure. Minnie's mother was the only one who took in the matter in the old fashioned romantic way. Was Mrs. Gaynor's genius subliminal? Was her influence catalytic? The story says that her genius and her influence were of this sort. It may be that the reader, knowing so much, will be qualified to understand Mrs. Gaynor.

The story takes us to Ruen, where we make the acquaintance of Capt. Briscoe, and to sea. Little Hannibal, who saw his father drowned in the brook, becomes the central figure. We travel around the world. Hannibal, the London boy, was a steward and a coal heaver. The detail of Hannibal's experience is enormous. It is too much crowded for pure enjoyment. We go to Singapore. We wander in New York. Fire breaks out in one of the coal bunkers. We pass through distressing heats and fevers. The nautical conversations are remarkable—not in the least in the old manner. Capt. Briscoe made us think of a spinning top. His crew also were flighty. They were lucky to get back to Europe. The marriage and death of Hannibal are pathetically described. The "voyage of a soul" may mean his voyage. But Minnie also voyaged. And so did others in the tale.

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MASTER SIMON'S GARDEN. (Macmillans.) By Cornelia Meigs. ($1.25.)

A charming and poetical story of a very unusual character is told by Cornelia Meigs in *Master Simon's Garden* (Macmillans). In the wilderness of New England, which the first settlers found, a tolerant and kindly sage makes for himself a beautiful garden regardless of the comments of his utilitarian Puritan neighbors. He withstands the persecution of the unorthodox, and though he incurs hatred he makes his neighbors understand what is right. Brought up in the peace of the garden his children and descendants perpetuate the tradition of tolerance and kindliness. Girls learn to love in it; in later days his people stand out against Cotton Mather's hunting down witches and when the break with England comes his representative is an old man who works wisely for liberty and is left with an adopted daughter. The garden is then destroyed maliciously, but the girl is able to build it up again when all kinds of people send her seeds and slips from the plants that had been given by the owners of the garden in bygone years. There are pretty love stories connected with the garden, very pleasant memories of New England history, and delightful people. It is an artistic piece of work which older people especially will enjoy and which will be stimulating to the right kind of young girls. It is sweet and clean, as few books are nowadays.

KING OF THE KHYBER RIFLES. (The Bobbs-Merrill Company.) By Talbot Mundy. ($1.35.)

The hero of Talbot Mundy's *King of the Khyber Rifles* (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis), is in the Indian secret service and is ordered to do a piece of detective work on which the salvation of the empire depends. He is told also to collaborate with an adventuress of doubtful reputation. He measures his wits against hers long before he meets or reaches the dangerous place to which both are bound, and shows the remarkable intuition and the ability to assume disguises that belong to proper detective heroes. In one respect he shows strange obtuseness, for the reader will guess the truth long before he does. It is a capital detective tale with hair breadth escapes till the hero reaches his mysterious goal. This is a sort of hollow mountain full of caverns, dark passages, waterfalls, antiquarian curiosities and disaffected native fanatics over whom the woman wields a mysterious power. The author's imagination seems to run away with him here; he not only perplexes the hero but confuses the reader. The adventuress's mental processes are violent but inexplicable; she is apparently a composite of all the sirens in literature. The hero is kept busy and is deprived of sleep so long that it is a relief when the mountain is blown up with its contents. Why the lady is not sent up, too, we cannot make out, nor why she and the hero should be brought together at the end.

OUR NATUPSKI NEIGHBORS. (Henry Holt & Co.) By Edith Minister. ($1.35.)

The overrunning of New England by foreigners speaking strange tongues and following stranger customs is a startling phenomenon of recent years that has even engaged the attention of writers of fiction. The rise of a Polish family in a rural community is described by Edith Minister in *Our Natupski Neighbors* (Henry Holt & Co.) with much humor that is not wholly kindly. The point of view is that of the American lookeron who is ignorant of and not interested in the thoughts and traditions of the strangers observed. These Poles are naturally dirty and ignorant and have ludicrously large families. The man is brutal, grasping, beating and maltreating his wife and children and exacting all possible labor from them, but he makes his land pay. The woman is merely a bearer of children and a beast of burden. The career of each child as it grows up and strives to become Americanized is described. The oldest son has the pioneer instinct; he works in a factory and saves money, then he figures out how he may become powerful, crams up in a single year so as to enter Harvard, which is a feat even with Slavic precocity and with the modern elasticity of college requirements. There he makes such good use of his opportunities that he graduates with a better idea of his duties as a citizen and better fitted to fulfil them than his American classmates. He straightens out his next brother, on whom the blame for most of the village wrongdoing was put. The oldest girl wants to improve her condition; she becomes a servant for a few months, learns the American way of doing things, then tries to force them on her family, but gives it up in order to marry early. The next girl is lazy and shiftless, caring only for pleasure; she marries early too. Then comes one who becomes a school teacher rather against her will, but is wholly Americanized. The stories of other children are much more human and the good natured, shiftless American farmer and his wife who watch the progress of the Poles are lovable.

THE BIGAMIST. (John Lane Company.) By F. E. Mills-Young. ($1.35.)

The artistic simplicity and truthfulness with which F. E. Mills-Young relates the story of *The Bigamist* (John Lane Company) may compensate for its unrelaxing painfulness. A young wife in South Africa who has been married for five years to the man she loves suddenly discovers that he has left a wife behind him in England. Her love for him and the thought of her children makes her yield to his entreaties to keep on living with him. He loses his respect for her, however, begins to neglect and to abuse her, takes to drink and to running after other women. He avoids marrying her when his real wife dies and turns out to be as despicable a cur as any woman has painted. He is paralyzed and the girl, who has ceased to love him, decides to marry him and to take care of him. A man who loves her tries in every way to dissuade her and to have her marry him instead, but she has learned her lesson and sticks to what she believes is her duty. It is a pitiful and tragic story.

KINSMEN. (George H. Doran Company.) By Percival J. Cooney. ($1.50.)

Some sense of his responsibilities and duties toward the clansmen he took with him to Canada would have given force to the central figure in Percival J. Cooney's *Kinsmen* (George H. Doran Company). As it is he, through his agent, discloses merely the vulgar trickery of a modern land swindler, modified by occasional outbreaks of senseless violence, in which he is protected by the laxity of the law and the corruption of the officials. He never shows the qualities of a Scottish chief, though he tries to enforce his privileges. His suffering clansmen are picturesque, so are the superstitions which the author describes. The love story is satisfactory and the hero is capable and gallant; the heroine's gentleness to the chief's dissolute son seems out of place in view of what she knew about him previously.

THE WOMAN OF MYSTERY. (The Macaulay Company.) By Maurice Leblanc. ($1.25.)

The crimes of a fiendish German spy who has the happy faculty of being able to change from a woman of fashion into an army officer are described by Maurice Leblanc in *The Woman of Mystery* (The Macaulay Company, New York). She is ever present and all powerful, but is no match for the hero's remarkable intuition. Making her a Hohenzollern and dragging in the Kaiser and his family do not help to make the story attractive.

TOM ANDERSON, DARE-DEVIL. (Houghton Mifflin Company.) By Edward Mostyn Lloyd. ($1.50.)

Beginning with an elaborate and painstaking account of an interesting Virginia family during the Revolutionary war the reader of Edward Mostyn Lloyd's *Tom Anderson, Daredevil* (Houghton Mifflin Company) will believe until he is well into the story that the author is painting a historical picture. It is full of strange and romantic figures who employ an amazing variety of dialects, negro, Irish, Scots, Indian, mountaineer, as well as the language of courts and of ordinary life, and it bristles with fragments of recondite history often quoted in the words of the chronicler. The hero at first is a normal, spirited youth of sixteen. After a period of captivity in the hands of bandits, however, he turns into a pure hero of romance, endowed with every accomplishment and rushing from one hazardous adventure to another. This removes him almost completely from the scene of war. In the last chapters adventures crowd so thickly that the reader becomes confused; it looks as though the author were trying to heap all the exploits in the literature of romance on one man's head. The confusion is increased by the author's fondness for splashes of impressionism and for jerky paragraphs. He has filled his mind with interesting miscellaneous information and pours into this one tale material enough for a whole library. It will call for mature and well informed readers to appreciate the book; it is far above the head of youth.

Richard Harding Davis.

A complete library, "Crossroads" edition of *The Novels and Stories* of Richard Harding Davis in twelve octavo volumes has been prepared in time for the holidays by Charles Scribner's Sons and is sold by subscription. To those familiar with the uniform editions of Kipling, Stevenson, George Meredith and Gilbert Parker, produced by the same firm, it will be needless to expatiate on the beauty of the type and page or on the taste shown in making up the books and in the binding. Two portraits serve as frontispieces, and there are ten photogravures by well known artists. As a preface to each volume appears a short appreciation by some friend. The longest of these, containing most information, is by John T. McCutcheon, who accompanied Mr. Davis on his last trip to Europe, while among the others who write are E. L. Burlingame, Mr. Roosevelt, Gen. Wood, Booth Tarkington and well known contemporary novelists and humorists.

It is a very respectable contribution to American letters that these twelve volumes contain, a lot of genuine, boyish fun in which this generation has shared, from Van Bibber and Gallegher on, a good deal of successful artistic work of a more serious kind. For entertainment purely it would be hard to match the variety and the interest of the many short stories gathered here. The many admirers of Mr. Davis will find all his published works in this edition; those who do not know him will find much to attract them in it. ($24.)

Seeing America.

It is no adventurous expedition into byways and new summer possibilities that Hildegarde Hawthorne plans for her readers in *Old Seaport Towns of New England* (Dodd, Mead & Co.), but quiet visits to easily accessible and well known cities as they are to-day. She begins with Portland and then goes to Portsmouth, Newburyport, Beverly and the North Shore, Gloucester, Salem, Marblehead, Plymouth, New Bedford, Provincetown, Newport, New London and New Haven. Boston she omits. In each place she describes pleasantly the interesting sights she saw with no attempt to be exhaustive. Her descriptions are accompanied by charming drawings by John Albert Seaford. ($2.50.)

An entertaining description of the Hub of the Universe by an outside barbarian untroubled by reverence has been written by Robert Shackleton in *The Book of Boston* (The Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia). The author's attitude is that of the innocent and inquiring visitor for whom the guides that infest the one time Brimstone corner are on the watch. He sees Boston as strangers do, slurs over many objects of local pride and is blind to the Boston point of view. He visits the suburbs also and the historic places that visitors from other parts of the United States associate with Boston. It is a helpful guide, a book that should be read particularly in Boston if Boston cared for what the outside world thinks of her. It is illustrated with good photographs.

The story of *A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf* (Houghton Mifflin Company) taken nearly fifty years ago by the late John Muir has been edited from the journals he kept by William Edward Badé. Muir took the tramp for his health. He started from Indianapolis and made his leisurely way through Kentucky, the Cumberland Mountains, Georgia and Florida. Thence he went to Cuba, and afterward by way of Panama to California. His notes are those of a naturalist. The book has the charm of thoughts put down just as they came to the author before he had taken the trouble to put them into literary shape. The book will be welcomed by all who love nature and by all who admired John Muir. ($2.50.)

CARTOONS OF RAEMAEKERS, THE INSPIRED HOLLANDER

The Raemaekers cartoon reproduced at the top of this page, which has never before been published in this country, is one of the latest pieces of work of the celebrated Hollander. He is constantly sending over new specimens, showing amazing up to dateness in all details of world politics and keeping surprisingly up to his high standard of art. These new drawings are being added constantly to the exhibition of Raemaekers cartoons on view at White, Allom & Co.'s galleries at 19 East Fifty-second street.

Supplementary to the collection of Raemaekers already issued by Doubleday, Page & Co. a splendid collection in a limited de luxe edition, beautifully reproduced and bound, is in course of preparation by the authorities in charge of the exhibition. Particulars in regard to this limited edition may be learned at the galleries, 19 East Fifty-second street.

The strong religious tendency which so often distinguished his work has brought forth the question as to what church the artist belongs. His reply is that he belongs to none, but was brought up a Catholic, and his wife a Protestant, and the differences which in later life severed each from their early teaching caused them to meet on common ground.

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