

"He Who Breaks"

"The Joyous Trouble Maker"



HE WHO BREAKS has all the seeming of a first novel by a very young author. It is somewhat long drawn out and repeats itself again and again. A number of the truths that have been written here with the intensity of newly discovered ideas. The novel has, of course, the virtues of its naivete and newness as well. It is fresh and vital and romantic.

Elsa Colt, a rather colorless small town girl with a gleam of fire somewhere about her, attracts the attention of Biran, the great sculptor. He believes he detects genius in her playing of the violin, and

delays his departure from the stupid Western town to teach her something more than the fat and comfortable Elton can give her.

Elsa's awakening begins in these first lessons, and is continued later in New York, where she goes to study under a famous music master—and, of course, under Biran as well. The latter has the theory that no artist can create who has not loved and suffered (surely, a familiar theory by now), and he undertakes to give love and suffering in plentiful measure to his docile protegee.

HE WHO BREAKS. By INNA DEMENS. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.



HERE is a tale of the Far West, *The Joyous Trouble Maker*, with a generous admixture of romance and adventure. The high spirited Beatrice Corliss, mistress of many millions and of the "Queen's ranch," finds her queenly peace of mind seriously disturbed by one Bill Steele, superman.

He alone of all the people she has known fails to take her arrogance seriously and laughs at her regal ways. He calls her "Trixie" on their first meeting, and comments flippantly on her dimples, to the utter consternation of the humble funkeys who are of the Queen's train.

Beatrice is, of course, passionately indignant at this upstart of a William Steele, who insists on camping on what

she thinks is her property. From then on a pitched battle begins between the Queen and the man who thinks she'd be a nice little girl if she didn't put on so much side. A most interesting battle it is, with, of course, another man to complicate the promised romance, and with a primitive out of door setting.

At first it looks as though Steele were going to have a pretty rough time, with Beatrice ordering all the shops for miles about not to give Steele any provisions, but Bill isn't the man to be daunted by any odds.

The Joyous Trouble Maker has a lot of humor and fun in it.

THE JOYOUS TROUBLE MAKER. By JACKSON GREGORY. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.40.

Virginia and Her Ancient English Flavor

IT is a perennially popular question just what was the original basis of the aristocracy which flourished in the Old Dominion so long and which is represented now by the somewhat faded glories of the F. F. V.

It is rather an idle curiosity, for the gentle character of the people themselves is the important matter.

The most that needs to be said is that England was the great ancestor and that the survivors of the terrible extremities the infant colony suffered were worthy of the breed; and that their happier successors did not mingle enough of the base to stamp their posterity.

The First Settlers.

The early colonists, we know, included a number of men of noble families, refugee cavaliers and others of good county families with their servants. If in the terrible test of the winter and famine struck settlement some of the latter proved the sturdiest and were among the few to survive, their descendants, surely, have a high title in the stoutness and courage of their ancestral stock.

After the colony had struck root the

immigrants were more of the purely commercial and adventurous type, with not a few of the criminal and vicious who were impressed as laborers for the new country. Just where they figure in the increase of the population is mercifully lost to sight.

The charm of *Colonial Virginia: Its People and Customs*, is the discrimination with which items of the early social life and the domestic equipment of the colonists are presented in a graceful style and in a coherent sequence. Nor is it without novelty to the unlearned in such matters. The fact that England and English manners always remained the background is adequately brought to mind. It was there that George Washington got his bridal furnishings and the clothes from head to toe for young Custis and his little negro servant; the pier glasses, the leather chairs, the "scrutoires" (characteristic of a doubtful literacy), the plate and all the paraphernalia of this little and aspiring world were either purchased in London or formed on its models.

Early Virginia Days.

The author of the book, Mary Newton Stannard, notes that the Colonial in architecture, that interesting modification of the Georgian and, further back, of the Palladian and classic type, was not introduced until just after the Revolution. China did not begin to appear until 1700, and there were mosquito curtains for the rich.

There are many selections from the diaries and other intimate records of distinguished individuals, masters of the large plantations and hospitable homes, which go far toward depicting, with a little imagination, the habits of this primitive but spirited society. That it never reached the scale of its model need hardly be said.

But as English travellers testify, there

were among the Virginians of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries some at least who retained all that was admirable in manners and character in the boasted civilization of England. That there were general crudities inseparable from a new country is equally true. The author has evidently had access to and the industry to select with much care a thousand evidences from which to build up at least the external fabric of Colonial Virginia.

The illustrations, which number nearly

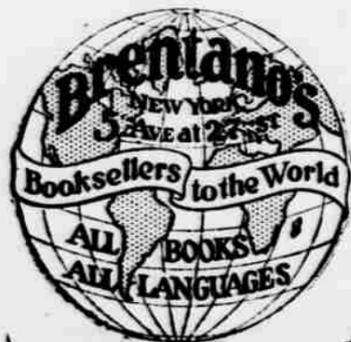
a hundred, are drawn with equal intelligence and scrutiny from contemporary prints and portraits.

Altogether, from a popular point of view, this is an important contribution to the subject in which Virginians are everlastingly interested and other Americans of native stock only less so.

COLONIAL VIRGINIA: ITS PEOPLE AND CUSTOMS. By MARY NEWTON STANNARD. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$3.50.

Over the Threshold of War, a particularly handsome book published by the J. B. Lippincott Company, is the work of Major Nevil Monroe Hopkins, U. S. A., who kept a diary in the first few months of the war when he was in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Russia. He saw France, Germany and Russia getting under way, and saw the fighting be-

tween Mons and Paris. In Belgium the Germans put him at forced labor. He describes the execution of three German spies. His camera was kept busy, as the book shows. Major Hopkins is to give all royalties from the sale of his book to the fund of the Belgian Scholarship Committee, for the relief of Belgian scholars. He is chairman of the committee.



The Chicago Post says of THE HOLY CITY JERUSALEM II By Selma Lagerlöf

"We find very attractive her simple, strong folk style, her homely poetic phraseology, her fine characters, so human, so heroic. It is an epic, moving in its strength, its simplicity, its tragedy, its joy, its loves—in its very artistry."

While this book is complete in itself, it really is the continuation of the story of the Dalecarlians; those Swedish peasants whose religious pilgrimage to Jerusalem was so magnificently told in "Jerusalem." Ingmar Ingmarsson in particular is a central character in this new book.

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