

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAY BUYER

Captain Mahan's Story of the War of 1812 One of the Season's Most Important Offerings---Attractive Fiction, Biography and Gift Books.

By W. P. KIRKWOOD.

CAPTAIN A. T. MAHAN has completed his monumental series of works on "The Influence of Sea Power Upon History" with the publication of *Sea Power in Its Relation to the War of 1812* in two large volumes. Captain Mahan in his work declares with added emphasis his adherence to the policy of sufficient navy. The lesson of the war of 1812, he says, is wholly in favor of such a policy. He says that "as a matter of national experience the lesson is rather that of the influence of a negative quantity upon the national life." Yet, he goes on, "it illustrates, in a distinguished manner his principal thesis—the controlling influence upon events of naval power, even when transferred to an inland body of fresh water." Whatever "the brilliant evidence of high professional tone and efficiency" reached by the American navy in the war of 1812, the effect, in the eyes of the captain, may be actually harmful, to be permitted to conceal the deeply mortifying condition to which the country was reduced by parsimony in preparation, or to obscure the lessons thence to be drawn for practical application now. There is no need of a diagram to make his inference clearer. The series of great works on sea power thus culminates in a work which brings close home the lesson that naval power is a striking influence and should never be neglected thru parsimony or thru reliance upon past victories.

Understanding Captain Mahan's purpose in enforcing the above lesson, which may be gathered from his previous work, one is prepared to follow his extended account of the war of 1812 with a clear conception of its underlying philosophy.

For him who reads for the mere narrative, however, the work leaves little or nothing to be desired. It is a masterly marshaling of fact, undiluted with romancing; beginning with the historical bases of the war in the principles governing commercial, colonial and naval policy from the middle of the seventeenth century down to the time of Napoleon, and continuing with the events immediately preceding the war, and then with the struggle itself.

It is worthy of note, in passing, that the author does not blame upon the British. Great Britain was in a desperate struggle with Napoleon, in which she laid her hand to any weapon she could find, to save national life and independence. The measures which overrode Napoleon grievously injured the United States; by international law grievously wronged her also. Should she have acquiesced? If not, war was inevitable. Great Britain could not be expected to submit to destruction of another's benefit.

The dispassionate fair-mindedness that characterizes the author's attitude toward the Britons is shown thruout the work and renders the narrative both convincing and tenfold more valuable than it would have been had the author sought to wave "old Glory" and shout of America's naval victories. Nevertheless the story is, thrilling enough to suit the reader who must have "bits to keep him from dozing over his book. Charts, maps and illustrations add greatly to the interest in the work, both for the student and the casual reader.

Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

THE HIGH PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE.—Many fine things have been said about love; indeed, it has been held to be the greatest thing in the world, and with scriptural warrant, too; nevertheless, most of us are left to find out its meanings by experience. Perhaps that is the only way one can ever approach the inner secrets of this high motion. Yet why need one be left altogether to his own gropings, unguided, to find out its higher beauties to glimpse if he can, the far fair goal to which it may lead? Would it not be quite as reasonable to expect one, having felt the impulse to self-expression, to follow on handily to the heights of literary art or of the art of music or painting? Can we learn nothing of love except by our own experience? Hamilton Wright Mabie evidently believed not, otherwise he would not have written the series

The most powerful and dramatic Christmas story you will read this year is Russell's "Soldier of the Common Good," in Everybody's for December.

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of brief papers that make up *The Great Word*. "The Great Word" is made up of studies of love, that love which for its fulfillment "needs the limitless range of eternity and the boundless vastness of infinity," and brings one face to face with that mystery of life which "lies not in the absence of the lines of order, but in the majestic curves with which those lines sweep beyond our vision into the silence and space which hold the little hour and place of speech we call life in their keeping." Such love as this has, like everything else worth while, its small beginnings, but developed, nourished, ministered to, it be-

comes to a new interest in the discoveries in the far northwest in 1804-06, by *The Trail of Lewis and Clark*, a member of the Minnesota Historical society and writer of the Northern Pacific annual "Wonderland."

Mr. Wheeler's work, two fine volumes, containing in all more than seven hundred and fifty pages, is a departure from the usual story of the expedition. It tells the story of the trip exhaustively yet entertainingly, and at the same time turns the light of the author's own recent explorations of the territory upon the old narratives, connecting the original discoveries with the present. Furthermore, it is characterized by great thoroughness and a lucid and forceful style, and is illuminated with great numbers of illustrations from old paintings and sketches and from photographs gathered from wide sources.

G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

REVISÉD STORY OF NOAH'S ARK WITH SOME STRIKING PICTURES IN COLORS. The humorous possibilities of the story of Noah's great ship-building and navigation enterprise have long been well understood and made much of but few have done quite as much with it as E. Boyd Smith in *Noah's Ark*. Mr. Smith has revised the story so as to make it include the things "Noah must have done" in carrying out his plan, and has illustrated the story with a series of colored pictures highly artistic but decidedly funny.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. \$2 net.

AN ADDITION TO THE "LITTLE GIRL" SERIES.—Amanda M. Douglas has written an interesting addition to the "Little Girl" series in *A Little Girl in Old San Francisco*. It is the story of an interesting Maine child, whose father deserts his family, whose mother dies, and who is taken to California in the days of the gold craze by a former lover of the child's mother. The father turns up later, and with the development of the child's relations and the exciting times in San Francisco in the old days the book is full of interest.

Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$1.50.

FRANCE FROM 1848 TO 1870 AS SEEN FROM WITHIN.—The history of France from 1848 to 1870 makes extremely interesting reading, especially when it is written by one who knew that history in the process of making. The memoirs of Dr. Thomas W. Evans, published under the title *The Second French Empire*, therefore, have a special claim on him who is looking for interesting history interestingly told, for Dr. Evans was long and closely attached to Napoleon III. and his family, held confidential relations with other sovereigns and had a large and intimate acquaintance among the men and women who from 1848 to 1870 were the governing powers in Europe. The editor of his memoirs, Edward A. Crane, M.D., says further that "no man was better acquainted than he with what may be termed the moral atmosphere of the several courts, to which, for so many years, he was professionally attached." Dr. Evans' intimate acquaintance with Napoleon III. makes his character study of that unfortunate monarch one to be considered in forming a just estimate of

The Macmillan Co., New York. \$4.00.

WARPED AND TWISTED SPECIMENS OF HUMANITY.—Like over-seasoned, warped and twisted pieces of hardwood long exposed to the weather are the pieces of humanity that make up the majority of the dramatic personae of Holman F. Day's *Squire Phin*, a novel of small-town life on the Maine coast. Weather-beaten and twisted most of Mr. Day's characters surely are, with a few inherited gnarls to add to their grotesqueness, tho that is not to say they are "sticks," as the phrase goes. They are not that, for their very grotesqueness gives them interest—their chief interest, indeed. But all are not of that kind. There is for contrast the same, common sense, and self-sacrificing Squire Phin, and with him Sylvana Wildard, who has grown middle-aged waiting for the removal of obstacles to her marriage with the squire. Squire Phin and Sylvana are examples of those fine

and true characters such as have made Maine a state in which Americans all feel a genuine pride. Such characters Mr. Day has made to move and live in a story of deep human interest, a story of homely life and its trivialities, but amusing, wholesome and good to know.

A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.

TRUE AND DELIGHTFUL TALES FOR LITTLE FOLK.—Josephine Scribner Gates has told stories in *The Story of the Three Dicks* to make little folk's eyes open wide with wonder and to laugh with delight. The best of it is there is truth in these tales, and little ones like to know that the stories mama reads them are "really true" stories. There is pleasure in the illustrations, also.

The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis.

"SELECTIONS FROM SAXE."—Houghton, Mifflin & Co. have published in attractive form a little volume of poems selected from the works of John G. Saxe. The selections include "Early Rising," "The Old Chapel Bell," "The Proud Miss MacErick," "The Briefless Barrister," "My Familiar," "The Jolly Mariner" and others of like interest.

H. M. Caldwell Co., Boston.

THE MAGAZINES.—The close of the year brings to hand the initial number of a new publication, destined, judging by the merit of its opening summary, to take immediate rank with the best covering finance. Moody's Magazine suggests John Moody, the noted economic writer, whose reputation was increased so materially of late by his book dealing with the trusts and trust problems. The Moody company has produced the new periodical, and Byron W. Holt, whose name is significant of fairness and good judgment, is the editor.

A long list of men prominent in the minds of those who follow the best in literature appears. Horace White, Charles A. Conant, Frank A. Vanderlip, Ellis H. Roberts and John De Witt Warner, are among the contributors to the opening number. The editor, who knows these men and has read their comment from time to time, and is familiar with their successes in financial affairs. Other men closely informed with reference to the technical affairs of the money world are represented. Thomas Gibson has an article upon the "Bifurcation of Speculation," and the well-known name of Poggson appears as authority for a criticism that will interest the professional accountant. The feature of the first number, however, is a symposium upon the increased production of gold relative to changes in prices and wages over a period of years. All the articles are authoritative and backed by latest statistical information, yet the editor has managed to prevent heaviness. There is a running style about the magazine that makes it readable, and not tiresome, even to one not so highly informed as the specialists who write for it.

United States Senator Dubois of Idaho.

Sir Conan Doyle.

Carolyn Wells.

Frank Dempster Sherman.

R. K. Munkittrick.

Madeline Bridges.

W. D. Nesbit, the Famous Jokesmith.

J. Cornely, Paris.

Rene Bache.

Franklin Welles Calkins.

Sewell Ford.

Julian Durand.

Nixon Waterman.

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The Fascinating Story of the Love Affair of the President's Daughter, Which Will Culminate in a Brilliant White House Wedding.

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Had the Richest Heiress in England Been a Boy She Would Now Be Two Dukes, Two Earls, Three Marquises and Eight Barons.

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What "The Weather" Really Is and Where It Comes From—Written for The Sunday Journal by George S. Bliss of the U. S. Weather Bureau Office, Minneapolis.

Curious Figures in Congress

Interesting Stories Relating to Some of the Young Men Who Become Lawmakers for the Nation As If by Magic.

The Common People's "Big Stick."

"Political Strikes" and How the Working Class Uses Them to Bring Governments to Time—By Rappaport.

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Humorous Comics in Many Colors—Including W. D. Nesbit's NEW "Top o' the Mornin' Page—The Best and Newest Fun in Pictures.

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