

REVIEWS

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THE pain for the most remarkable collection of short stories that has appeared for many a day undoubtedly belongs to Jack London. These tales, under the title of "The Son of the Wolf," are from the press of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York, price \$1.50. They first appeared in the Overland Monthly and the Atlantic Monthly, but have now been gathered under one cover.

London has not written "charming" stories, nor would they be called pleasing in the modern acceptance of that term. They are more than this, for they are living breathing reproductions of the scenes in the Great Northwest, North, the Land of the Great Silence, about which, in a way, we have heard so much and really know so little. In the present volume there are given nine short stories—each complete in itself, and one or two of the strongest characters in evidence in all. These stories are not the kind that you wish to follow with a map in one hand and a guide book in the other. They are not intended to give you notes on the country, or to tell you where to go, where to seek richer fields, but they give you something far better than all this, something only one can offer who has lived among the characters portrayed and felt the awful cold and hunger and mystery of it all, and then, above all, possessed the master mind to realize its every detail and be able to make others see as he has seen and felt.

Imagine, fanciful reader, who wishes to be merely amused and pleased, who admires the beautiful and would read of the grandeur of the land of snow and ice, or perhaps expects to find matter of a lighter and more romantic vein, for this book has not been written. Every page reeks of the blood and sweat of the trail, and of the strange and different life in the shadow of the circle where men come forth for what they really are and their true natures are laid bare of the veneer of civilization.

Kipling, before he became "Kipling the Great," might have written such stories as these—for the present Kipling they would prove an impertinence. He would not stand the suffering and hardships necessary to collect the material which Mr. London has brought to his command.

The first story gives an incident of the trail. Malemute Kid, who figures throughout the book, is obliged to shoot his companion to put him out of his misery and save the life of his friend's wife. The three have on the trail together, and through an unhappy chance a tree falls on Mason, rendering him perfectly helpless and within a few hours of death. His Indian wife, while devoted to her white lord, bears it stoically and mechanically obeys the orders of Malemute Kid, a man who has been through the kamut of all trails, and is represented as the "Son of the Wolf," as Mr. London has termed the white man of the frozen north. The dog team becomes temporarily unmanageable and eats the bulk of their slender supply of provisions. To take the wounded man with them is impossible, to remain with him means certain death for all. There is only one course open, which is unhesitatingly accepted by all—the death of the suffering man, and his abandonment in "The White Silence."

"The Son of the Wolf," the second story, from which the collection receives its title, tells of the remarkable wooing of the Indian Princess Zariska by Scruff Mackenzie, and is written in the same powerful style, but with a happier ending. It gives a forceful picture of relations existing between the natives and the Sons of the Wolf, and is vigorous and thrilling throughout. Mr. London's style is terse, but tells many stories in those few. His characters impress their rugged identity upon the reader more by what is hinted at than by what is actually said.

The third story, "The Ship," recounts the novel way in which Malemute Kid and his friends prevent a duel between two good men who are about to kill each other for a trivial misunderstanding. Malemute Kid is a close student of human nature, and, in the interest of the proposed duel, suggests the prevention which shall give both contestants the chance of an honorable withdrawal.

"So you see," he concludes, "we do not actually take away their pride of fighting and yet I don't believe they'll fight when they see the beauty of the scheme. Life's a game, and men are gamblers. They'll stake their whole pile on the one chance in a thousand. Take away that one chance, and—they won't play."

The plan is carried out. The combatants are not deliberately told, but through the suspicious actions of their comrades they find that they can fight—there is no one willing to interfere with that—but if one should show signs of being a coward, he is forthwith strung up as a murderer. Americans will take any chances against death, but when they see there is no chance at all, "they won't play." It is little touches like these which add so much to the effectiveness of London's writing.

"In a Far Country" portrays more vividly than has ever been done before the frightful sufferings under certain conditions in this strange country. Two men absolutely unprepared are obliged to spend the long Arctic winter together in a cabin in the heart of the White Silence. The story is not one to be rashly read by people of weak nerves. It will haunt you like one of Poe's tales, and is made almost as hideously vivid as the gruesome reality itself.

The rest of the stories are in similar vein. If you begin one you will find you must finish it, and having read one there kept burning until you have finished the book.

The last in the book, the longest and probably most forcefully perfect of all, is called "An Odyssey of the North." It tells of a man who has been driven from his stolen away by the captain of a private fur-hunting ship, a veritable Norse savor. Naass, the Indian, with the doggedness of his race, spends his life in the pursuit, and eventually finds his prey, who is to be scooped by the sea and once loved him. It is a tale of fierce love and a terrible revenge.

In this collection Jack London has given to the world a book of short stories that will live, and it is safe to prophesy that it will become one of the most notable books of the day. Hamlin Garland and Rudyard Kipling have written no better.

A Story of Cornwall.

"Living Prophets," by Eden Phillpotts, the author of "The Mist," is a book the motif of which is a protest against the exclusive worship of nature and a protest against the ruin wrought by her devotees.

The scene is laid among the fishermen of Cornwall, one of whom, Michael Trezenza, is a strong and unpleasant character, whose daughter Joan is the object of our interest.

John Trezenza is a beautiful, primitive creature; a child of nature, who has an inherent love of the beautiful. Her father belongs to a sect of Wesleyan fanatics, who go to the length of worshipping the awfulness of the divinity whom he calls God that she hesitates to accept such faith.

Six months before the story opens Joan has become betrothed to a young sailor, Joe Noy, and on going to Gorse Point to scan the horizon for a last glimpse of his departing vessel she meets an artist, John Barron, having heard of her beauty, determined to paint her and to gain her consent to become a model for his picture.

He determines to make this painting his masterpiece, and day after day finds him at work with his beautiful model fast awakening to the love that soon dominates her whole being.

He is not satisfied with the work, however, and solves the problem in these words: The countenance, he says, is that of "a sweet virgin page of life, innocent of history or of interest as a new-born lily—there is no fire, no love, no story."

There is but one solution, and Barron determines to so change the life of Joan that he may bring to her eyes and face a depth of expression that will perfect the picture.

And thus it is that Mr. Phillpotts takes for his tale the old one of love and trust and their betrayal.

The study of John Barron is not a pleasant one. He is a cynic and the acme of selfishness, and in his attitude to Joan Trezenza he does not allow compunction to color the brightness for him. Nature is his god and art his master, and they alone receive consideration and thought. As he considers Joan but a happy chance thrown in his way—why not take it?

He wanted all that her loveliness could give him, but for him she was but a transitory longing, to become in the future her uncle and cousin as a means of peace, but now, when the fact of her desertion was apparent, she felt the awakening of a faith that had been dormant since her mother's death. She had tried man and he had failed her; she had called on her saints and they had failed; and now, through the simple words of her uncle, she is led again to Christ. She turned to religion as a drowning man would reach for a straw. Her eyes, shut so long, seemed opening at last to receive the welcome picture of a real God—a being of flesh and blood, who, too, had suffered and saved her with his own life's blood.

Longing for a sight of home she goes there, hoping for her father's forgiveness, but only to be sent forth again with a torrent of abuse hurled at her.

Poor Joan returns to her uncle's, where she quietly abides, gaining what peace she can from religion; and thus closes the second book, wherein one has looked for the development in Joan's character that was promised but not fulfilled.

The third book, "Chance," goes on with her life at the Chirwin cottage until a messenger arrives with a letter from Barron. This comes in the midst of a raging storm, the description of which is splendid.

Illustrations from "PARIS AS IT IS" by KATHARINE DE FOREST.

NAPOLEON'S TOMB, AT THE HOTEL INVALES.

THE MOULIN ROUGE.

ONE OF THE GARGOYLES ON NOTRE DAME.

JULES CLARETIE IN HIS LIBRARY.

EDMOND ROSTAND IN HIS LIBRARY.

THE MAGAZIN DU PRINTEMPS.

THE THEATRE FRANCAIS (RECENTLY BURNED).

Joan is quite alone when the summons "Come to me" arrives and his well worded letter has just the effect he intended. He tells her of his great love for her, his loneliness, his miserable health, and hints at his nobility in not calling her before, to share only suffering. He does not tell her, however, that he has always cherished a whim to have her near him when he dies; that her beauty may soften the abrupt ending his life must have. Joan does not hesitate in her decision and rushes into the black night to learn by what train she can get to him, and the flood, sweeping the country in its fury, catches her in the wild race, overpowers her and puts an end to her young life. Just as her long, dreary nightmare seems to have ended.

The various characters are then disposed of in a most gruesome manner. The richest of estates that the flood, wherupon her father, Michael Trezenza, loses his reason, and not long afterward John Barron, disappointed that Joan does not come, is possessed with a desire to see her face and goes to look at the picture "Joe's Ship," which is the gem of the exhibition, and there he receives a shock from the dampness which his weakened body cannot resist. Death lays claim to him who has wrought havoc in an entire family and he goes to his end unperturbed by his villainy.

Joe Noy, the discarded lover, returns from his sea voyage, learns of Joan's tragedy and death, and determines to avenge it. He goes to London in search of her, but only to find that she has taken the work out of his hands. ("Living Prophets," by Eden Phillpotts, Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, \$1.50.)

A Book on Taxation.

For some years before his death the late David A. Wells had in preparation a work presenting a record of his own experiences in practical contact with State and national tax systems, and of his

studies and conclusions drawn from the history of taxation in other countries. He sifted facts and theories with a view to combining the best of both into a volume which might serve as an account of existing tax methods, and as an index or guide to a better system. This work he had virtually completed at the time of his death, and it has just been published by D. Appleton & Company, under the title, "The Theory and Practice of Taxation."

From a prefatory note it is learned the author did not give any of the chapters of the book their final form, and that it was his intention to have added considerably to those relating to the history of taxation and to criticisms upon national and State tax problems. The closing chapters are hardly more than sketches of subjects with notes which the author evidently intended to use as arguments and illustrations in developing them. The editor announces that he has made few changes in the text, and the work therefore is incomplete and not up to the standard of that for which Mr. Wells is noted. Notwithstanding the deficiencies of form, the volume is a notable one and merits the study of all who are interested in subjects of taxation.

Among the more interesting and important topics with which the work deals are: Recent tax experiments in the Federal Government of the United States; the place of taxation in literature and history; the definition, object and sphere of taxation; the sphere of taxation peculiar to the Federal Government of the United States; rules or maxims essential to an administration of rightful taxation under a constitutional or free government; existing methods of taxation; double taxation; theory and practice of income tax.

"Deacon Bradbury."

"Deacon Bradbury" is a story of life in a Vermont village. The leading character, the deacon, is a type of man so common in the New England of yesterday, honorable, with strong religious convictions, and showing great independence in following to a logical conclusion theories forced upon him by conscience. Such a nature is destined to meet with trouble when there comes a readjustment of the standards of disengagement. Deacon Bradbury has held tenaciously the theory that as he has proved impervious to ordinary temptations he has a right to expect as a reward for this exemption from extraordinary duties and grief. When there comes into his life a trouble which touches him nearly, there follows for him the spiritual conflict between faith and unbelief not uncommon where a strong personality is shaken to its foundations, and all its previous habits of thought ap-

parently brought to an end. The deacon's beliefs, after this period of doubt, and the influence they have in shaping events for him, it must be left to the reader to discover for himself. ("Deacon Bradbury," by Edwin Sax Dix, The Century Company, Price \$1.50.)

"Chalmette."

Clinton Ross' "Chalmette," which came out three years ago, now appears in paper from the press of the J. B. Lippincott Company. It was enjoyed then and will be read again and appreciated for the splendid description of the battle of New Orleans, while for those who have not seen the book it will furnish an interesting account of events in the South following the war of 1812. There is a pretty love story interwoven in which is well drawn a picture of early Southern life; also a graphic description of General Jackson's magnificent work in saving Louisiana from the crafty designs of the English—this, in fact, forms the action of the book. (Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Price in paper 50 cents.)

The Nicaragua Canal.

In view of the recent Hay-Panofote negotiations, William E. Simmons' book on the Nicaragua canal should prove of more than passing interest. He gives a careful and accurate account of the country as it now is, with its customs, people and government, and also a history of the canal from its inception to the present day. In addition there is a full description of the work now completed and the work yet to be done before the system could be placed in successful operation. The book contains many clear and interesting photographs, and is written in a fluent and readable vein. (Published by Harper & Brothers, New York, Price, \$1.25.)

"The Rhymer."

Devout admirers of Robert Burns will be shocked as well as entertained by the

part he plays in "The Rhymer," by Alan McAlauy.

Burns is pictured with his most unpleasant failings, and although history bears out what Mr. McAlauy says of the poet, one cannot help wishing that the novelist had chosen to portray him at some other and better period of his life.

The story of "The Rhymer" is of the friendship of Burns and Mrs. Maclehoze, the "Clarinda" and "Nanny" of the poet's love letters and songs.

This historic friendship is made to have an important influence upon the love affair of a young companion of Mrs. Maclehoze, the development of which plays an important part in the novel, "The Rhymer," by Alan McAlauy, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, \$1.50.)

Literary Notes.

In Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for May "A Klondiker's Diary," from Seattle to Dawson City, pictures step by step the hard road traveled by the gold-seeker in Alaska. Joquin Miller writes upon the thoughtful and poetic side of life in a Klondike cabin. Ramon Reyes Lara writes about the fierce Romes, natives of our newly acquired territory of Sulu, in the Philippine Islands. Captain W. P. Moffet pays an appreciative tribute to Dr. Jose Rizal, the martyred Filipino poet, novelist and patriot. "English Royalty and the Fashions," by Mrs. E. C. Clarke, gives an intimate and authorized account of what the Queen of Wales and other royal ladies. President Kruger of the Transvaal is the subject of a highly picturesque character study entitled "Oom Paul: a Living Legend." The sketch includes a propositional account of "Auntie Kruger," the President's wife, and is illustrated with some unique portraits. Ethel West also gives some racy extracts "From the Diary of Tant Annette of Hoogte Kloof, Transvaal." Bret Hart's story, "How Reuben Allen Saw Life in Frisco," heads the short fiction. Egerton Castle's dashing "Bath Comedy" nears its climax. Other contributions in the current number of this magazine are: "Women in Club Life," by Jennie June Craly; "May Parties Hereabouts," by Roselle Mercier; "Bird Mimics, and Others," by J. Oliver Nugent; and verse by Frank L. Stanton, E. Pauline Johnson, Ruth Reid, Raicy Husted Bell, Jennie Betts Hartwick, Florence M. Metcalfe and Harold Boice.

Scribner's Magazine for May contains four illustrated articles that are unusually informing in regard to events and questions of contemporary importance. The leading article on "Some Picturesque Sides of the Exposition" is both written and il-

lustrated by the artist E. C. Peixoto. A great deal of information about "Rapid Transit in New York" has appeared in the daily press, but the first presentation of exactly what it means and how it will be carried out, and how the tunnel and its stations will actually appear, is contributed to this number by William Barclay Parsons, chief engineer of the Rapid Transit Commission. Nothing has been more remarkable in the history of the West than the entire change in Colorado in a few years from a silver-producing to a gold-producing State. Just a little while ago the gold output of Colorado was \$1,000,000 a year; it is now more than \$30,000,000, the greater part of it coming from Cripple Creek. Francis Lynde, the well-known writer, describes this tremendous industrial development in an article on "Cripple Creek." The narrative of the Bear war is continued with another article from H. J. Whigham, who reviews the alleged mistakes of the British general in strategy and tactics, and discusses many much-disputed points in the campaign. In fiction, this number contains "Egg Island," a story of a marvelous adventure on a yacht in the southern hemisphere. It is an absorbing tale of a mystery. There is also another O'Connor story called "Princess Royal," which reveals that delightful Irishman in a most ingenious situation. George McLean Harper, recently made the successor of Professor Bliss Perry at Princeton, contributes a very thoughtful and discriminating essay on "Balzac." There are poems in the number by Mary E. Wilkins, Edwin Markham, E. S. Martin and J. Russell Taylor.

The Engineering Magazine for May has three articles dealing with the important issues involved in the present and threatened labor troubles in the United States. They are "Labor Questions in England and America," by Charles Buxton Going, drawing striking parallels between American conditions in 1905 and those prevailing in Great Britain in 1887, and pointing

the certain lessons of the great English engineering strike; "Manufacturers' Associations, Labor Organizations and Arbitration," by H. W. Hoyt, an able presentation of the possibilities and duties of a federation of manufacturers, and "Works Organization for Maximum Production," by J. S. Lewis, tracing the influence of trades unions in affecting manufacturing costs and output, and summarizing the enormous advantage to employers as well as employees which has sprung from the settlement of England's labor troubles in 1888.

In the May number of Everybody's Magazine the "Sigmund Explanation" for the month describes in plain language the working of the telephone—"one of the simplest but most sensitive contrivances known to the electrical mechanician." The series of articles on the "biggest things" in American industries is continued in this number by a description of "The Greatest Shipyard in the World." A very interesting article is a collection of the experiences of eight or ten prominent stage people, telling of the moment when Oppenheim's "The Sign of the Cross" was produced. The article is entitled "The Turning Point in My Career." "Helping the Cubans to Help Themselves" is a plain statement of a great charity, whose workings are not widely known to the public at large. It treats of the influence and operation of the Cuban Orphan Society, which has undertaken the task of feeding and educating as many as it can of the little ones in Cuba, whom the merciless decrees of "Butcher" Weyler left homeless, orphaned and destitute.

Just how far the publication of a serial story can affect the circulation of a magazine is uncertain, and on this subject are apt to be varied and conflicting. In some instances the most successful stories that have sold in book form upward of one hundred thousand have produced an effect upon magazine circulation during their serial publication so slight as to be hardly traceable. It is a matter of rather special interest, therefore, when we find a story making itself felt in magazine circulation almost immediately upon the commencement of its serial publication. A further illustration of the interest aroused by Mr. Barrie's story was the immediate effect noticeable in the sales of Mr. Barrie's former story, "Sentimental Tommy," of which 100,000 copies have already been sold. To be sure, the increased demand for the serial, in paper, of 50,000 copies has just been published. The increase of interest in the Barrie story, "Tommy and Grizel," is apparent in the desire of new subscribers to obtain the numbers containing the first installment, and in the order to meet this desire the publishers have adopted the rather novel plan of printing the first three installments of "Tommy and Grizel" in pamphlet form, and presenting it to new subscribers, in order that they may have the serial from the beginning.

Among the timelier articles in the Century for May is an essay by Andrew Carnegie entitled "Popular Illusions About Trusts." The sense of humor that gave piquancy to Richard Whiting's story of social contrasts, "No. 5 John Street," is conspicuous in the treatment of "Parliament Pastimes" this month. In the second and last of his profusely illustrated papers on "The National Zoo" at Washington, Ernest Seton-Thompson, author of "The Biography of a Grizzly," dwells particularly on the opportunities and operation of reservation offers to wild animals to retain the habits of exercise, etc., on which their happiness and health depend. "A Word of Warning to Young Actresses" is addressed especially to would-be actresses or amateurs who have been dazzled by the glare of the footlights and fancy the stage a royal road to wealth and fame. It is an authoritative word, for it is uttered by one of the most successful of actresses in England, Miss C. Clarendon. "Sigmund Ignorance of the Bible" records entertainingly the results of certain attempts by the author, President Thwing of Western Reserve University, to determine to what extent the Bible has ceased to be a book familiar to average college men of either sex. The "Literary Shrine," of which Professor William Knight, the Wordsworthian, writes, with illustrations by Harry Penn, is Dove Cottage, the home of Wordsworth and Dorothy. Under the modest title, "Leaves from a Notebook," Thomas Bailey Aldrich offers a few pages that show him alternately as poet and prosa—or rather as poet and wit. Adventure is the motive in the concluding chapter of Benjamin Wood's "His Ships of a Reptile," and something more than mere travel sketches are to be found in "Our Friend the Sultan of Jolo," by Charles B. Hazard, and "The Maharaja's Water Carnival," by the artist-author, R. D. Mackenzie. The two leading articles—Mr. Morley's "Oliver Cromwell and Dr. Mitchell's" Dr. North and His Friends—maintain their interest.

Books Received.

"The Writing Table of the Twentieth Century," by F. Schuyler Mathews, Brentano's, New York.

"From Kingdom to Colony," by Mary Devereux, Little, Brown & Co., Boston, \$1.50.

"The Touchstone," by Edith Wharton, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, \$1.25.

"Cocktail Boothby's American Bartender," published by the San Francisco News Company, 50 cents.

"The Voice of the People," by Ellen Glasgow, Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, \$1.50.

"The Amateur's Practical Garden Book," by C. E. Hunn and L. H. Bailey, The Macmillan Company, New York, \$1.

"The Joy of Captain Abbot," authorized translation from the original of A. P. Valdes Valdes, by Minna Caroline Smith, Brentano's, New York.

"The Veil Withdrawn," by Berton J. Maddux, G. W. Dillingham Company, New York, \$1.25.

"The Waters of Edera," by Ouida, R. F. Fenno & Co., New York, \$1.50.

"On the Heights of Himalay," by A. Van der Naalen, R. F. Fenno & Co., New York, \$1.50.

"The Meaning of the Shrew," Shakespeare, Cassell's National Library, 10 cents.

"The Stateroom Opposite," by Arthur Henry Vessey, G. W. Dillingham Company, New York, \$1.50.

"A Woman's Paris," a handbook of every-day living in the French capital, Small, Maynard & Co., Boston, \$1.25.

"Some People We Meet," by Charles F. Rideal, The Abbey Press, New York, 25 cents.

"The Grip of Honor," by Cyrus Townsend Brady, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, \$1.50.

"Andy Dodge," by Mark Pierce Pendleton, Lee & Shepard, Boston, \$1.25.

"The Tambling of the Shrew," by William Shakespeare, Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, \$1.25.

"The Practice of Palmistry," by Comte C. de Saint-Germain, A. B. LL. M., of the University of France, Laird & Lee, Chicago, \$1.50.

"Tales for Christmas and Other Seasons," by Frances Loppe, translated by Myria L. Jones, Little, Brown & Co., Boston, \$1.

"A Lord's Courtship," by Lee Meriwether, H. L. Lee, Chicago, \$1.

"The Last Lady of Mulberry," by Henry Wilton Thomas, D. Appleton & Co., New York, \$1.50.

"Garthorn," by Allen Raine, D. Appleton & Co., New York, \$1.50.

"The Greatest Gift," by A. W. Marchmont, F. M. Buckley & Co., New York, \$1.25.

"The Campaign of the Jungle; or, Under Lawton Through Luzon," by Edward Stratemyer, Lee & Shepard, Boston, \$1.25.

"The Story of the Nineteenth Century," by Elbridge S. Brooks, Lothrop Publishing Company, Boston, \$1.50.