

Sight Novel for Summer Use BOOK PAGE of the SUNDAY CALL CONDUCTED BY UNA H. H. COOL



"The White Mice" By Richard Harding Davis. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price \$1.50. What one is able to say of this new story of Richard Harding Davis that it is quite as good as "The Exiles," "Three Gringos in Venezuela and Central America" and "Soldiers of Fortune" one has given it praise enough and at the same time suggested its style to the reader.

"Thrice Armed" By Harold Bindloss, author of "Lorimer of the Northwest," etc. Published by Frederick A. Stokes company, New York. Price \$1.50. Not our own Pacific coast but northwestern British possessions is the scene of Harold Bindloss' latest story. The tales he has to tell are of uniform excellence, which is remarkable, for he is one of the most prolific of present day writers.

"A False Position" By Mrs. Baillie Reynolds, author of "Thalassa," etc. Published by Brentano's, New York. Price \$1.50. Mrs. Baillie Reynolds is on the high road to the position in English literature which has been vacant since the death of Jane Austen. No other writer of the day is contesting the position which she holds, and it is to be even spoken of in the same breath with that great writer of classics.

"Homespun" By Lottie Blair Parker, author of the plays "East and West" and "Under Southern Skies," etc. Published by Henry Holt & Co., New York. Price \$1.50. Lottie Blair Parker, the author of the still successful play, "Way Down East," has made her first step into fiction with "Homespun," an absorbing story about New England folk. Columbus Corners is the scene of the story and the pictures of life there which the author gives us are quaint and captivating.

"Partners Three" By Victor Mapes, author of "The Undercurrent," etc. Published by Frederick A. Stokes & Co., New York. Price \$1.25. The "Partners" are Doctor Joyce, Tony and Pie. What they and the other characters are like you may partly guess from the following descriptions: Dr. Jeremiah Joyce—Whose laugh is a monster's grin, but whose nature of good nature that drives off the devil's despair. He is the inventor of the steam pipe, roller skate boat, the re-generated shoe-leather process and other bold inventions.

"Lessons in the Proper Feeding of the Family" By Winifred S. Gibbs, dietitian and teacher of cooking. Published by the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. Price 25 cents. The New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor is doing a great and practical work. Prevention of poverty is the association's chief concern, and education is the most enduring form of prevention.

"The Making of Bobby Burnit" By George Randolph Chester. Published by Appleton & Co., New York. Price \$1.50. Everybody read George Horace Lorimer's "Letters From a Selfmade Merchant to His Son," and no better book of good advice has been published. This new story by George Randolph Chester, "The Making of Bobby Burnit," is decidedly reminiscent of the Lorimer book, but it has one big improvement: It has romance, and good romance, too, all through.

BOOKS REVIEWED

- "The White Mice," by Richard Harding Davis
"Thrice Armed," by Harold Bindloss
"A False Position," by Mrs. Baillie Reynolds
"Homespun," by Lottie Blair Parker
"Beyond the Skyline," by Robert Aitken
"Partners Three," by Victor Mapes
"Lessons in the Proper Feeding of the Family," by Winifred S. Gibbs
"The Making of Bobby Burnit," by George Randolph Chester

White full of exciting situations, this tale is told in rather a quiet and contained fashion, with many letterings by the way. It is during these letterings that we appreciate Mr. Bindloss' style and find him at his best. Here we are shown some fine pictures of the country where the story is set; the rough life is vividly sketched, and the people are as real as though drawn from life.

Jimmy Wheelock is a young colonial, who has been a junior officer in the royal naval reserve. He is never quite able to forget that fact, and occasionally we think him almost a snob, but he comes out right at last. He is summoned home because of his father's illness, which seems partly caused by nervous breakdown, the result of business difficulties. The old man could not understand nor cope with the unscrupulous methods of a man named Merrill, and he soon dies brokenhearted.

She goes to some friends of her mother's in England and for a short time is governess and companion in a comfortable home. While there a young artist makes her acquaintance and falls desperately in love. She is given her confidence to May, who really is Lady May; for she has inherited a title from her father. The oldest daughter in the family, where May is teaching, Zoe Crichton, has a way May knows that Zoe loves the young artist, Guy Mallary. May, therefore, will not allow herself to fall in love with him and declines his offer of marriage.

The tale is told by Pie and is supposed to have been written in a cell at Sing Sing. It is a history of the lives of the three and, of course, tells how Pie landed in prison. Doctor Joyce is a lonely and wandering inventor, and his daughter, the little Swiss orphan Tony, and cares for her and educates her as his own. Pie is also a member of this curious family, having been taken from a reform school where he was placed when a gang of counterfeiters, with whom he lived deserted him for jail.

While she is gone Doctor Joyce and Pie fall upon very hard times and Pie proves his love and devotion to the doctor by turning counterfeiter in order to keep the wolf from the door. That seems the only inconsistency in the book for the boy had shown no criminal instincts and the counterfeiters with whom he associated as a child were not blood relations.

The directions are most carefully and accurately given and it seems to be the most practical cook book which has ever appeared for the poor man's wife. The book is equally divided on this score. Nearly all authors smoke, and tobacco is conceded to be an aid to composition, despite the fact that many "total abstainers" have done good work.

The next scheme to arrest his attention is an electric light plant, but politics enter so largely in the management of that that it doesn't last long. The story follows an attempt to manage an Italian opera company, which supplies much amusement to the reader but causes a quarrel between Bobby and Agnes.

The scene changes again and we are not surprised to see "Roddy" in charge of a department of his father's construction company in Venezuela. Soon he hears the story of General Rojas' imprisonment and he and his friend, Peter de Peyster, are very much interested. They are told that when Rojas was shut up his wife and daughter were called and sent to the Dutch island Curacao, about 60 miles away. Every evening at sunset the mother and daughter stand on a cliff looking toward San Carlos and say a prayer for the deliverance of husband and father. "Roddy" and Peter are much touched and one evening when they are out boating on the little bay Peter whispers:

"I hear something." "What?" asked Roddy. "I hear the call of the white mice," said Peter de Peyster. The first step in the little conspiracy is to obtain credentials from the family so that Rojas will not think he is being deceived. So Roddy and Peter go to Willemstad on Curacao with the intention of meeting Mme. Rojas. This must be done quietly, of course, and secretly, for spies are everywhere. Matters at once become complicated. Roddy is not in his father's confidence in all matters, and because of it much serious misunderstanding results. The Forrester construction company is backing a revolution against President Alvarez, who has put Rojas in jail. Alvarez refuses to pay a just debt to the F. C. C. hence their attitude. At the head of this revolutionary party is Colonel Pino Vega, a young Venezuelan who wishes to become president.

"I don't understand," answered the girl softly. "Have you forgotten?" cried Roddy. "You forbade me to tell you that I loved you until he was free." "Inez looked up at him, and the light of the stars fell in her eyes. "What will you tell me?" she whispered. "I will tell you," said Roddy, "the name of a girl who is going to be kissed in one second—a 'certain' that one can not but think the author intends it for the stage. The play almost writes itself, and will be interesting as the book.

"Beyond the Skyline" By Robert Aitken. Published by B. N. Huebsch, New York. Price \$1.50. The publishers tell us that the author who writes under the name of "Robert Aitken" is an Englishman who is equally at home in New York, London, Central America and South Africa. He has had an adventurous career and much of the material for his stories was acquired while he was a commissioned officer in the British army during the Boer war. He knows how to depict men and women, and how to create dramatic situations. These stories are full of love, adventure and excitement, and each contains the essence of a novel.

The demands of the magazines today have created an unprecedented supply of short stories, yet the level of quality remains deplorably low. The charm of this form of literature at its best is never falling, and it is a joy to encounter a volume of tales that have been conceived in the mind of a writer of imagination and elaborated with the loving care of a real artist. Such a book is this one, containing 16 stories, most of them laid in far off countries where the background and the atmosphere seem to invite romance. The man made laws and the moral code are different from those we know, and the writer's task would appear simple. But take the average story of the tropics and how disappointing it is. The tales in this volume will satisfy every demand the reader can make; there is enough love and virtue, vice and intrigue to satisfy those who look for plot; there is enough analysis of character and study of types for those whom psychology appeals and, for those who are weary of dull amateur efforts and conventional factory made literature, there is the crisp English of one who makes every word tell and the restraint that implies respect for his readers' intelligence.

A complete list of Marlon Crawford's novels with the year of publication of each is given herewith: 1882 Mr. Isaacs. 1882 Doctor Claudius. 1884 The Roman Soldier. To Leonard. An American Politician. Zoroaster. 1888 The Tale of a Lonely Parish. 1887 Paul Patoff. 1887 Saracinesca. 1888 The Immortals. 1889 Grelfenstein. 1891 Saint Barlaam. 1890 The Palace of the King. 1891 Khaled. The Witch of Prague. The Three Fates. 1892 The Making of the King. Don Orsino. 1892 Marlon Darche. 1892 The Novel—What It Is. Katherine Lauderdale. Love in Idleness. Casa Braeco. Adam Johnstone's Son. Taquisaru. 1895 Ave Roma Immortals. 1899 In the Palace of the King. Southern Italy and Sicily. The Rulers of the South. 1901 Marietta, a Maid of Modern Rome. 1902 The Heart of Rome. 1904 Man Overboard. 1904 Whosoever Shall Offend. 1905 The White Sister. 1906 Salve Venetia, 2 vols. A Lady of Rome. 1907 The Making of the King. 1907 The Little City of Hope. 1908 The Prima Donna. 1908 The Diva's Ruby. 1909 The White Sister.

The letters from the dead father, provided for every possible emergency, are most interesting and the great feature of the book. The character sketches are all good, especially Biff Bates, a prize fighter, who is an all around square fellow and mighty useful to Bobby on occasions. The first part of the book causes a feeling of irritation toward Bobby for being such an ass about business matters. It scarcely seems possible that any one who developed so much strength afterward could be such a weakling. That is "novelist's license," however, upon which the author wisely did not draw too much. A readable story; one to take away on a summer trip.

Roddy in Curacao has made little progress. He has never's confidence in all matters, and because of it much serious misunderstanding results. The Forrester construction company is backing a revolution against President Alvarez, who has put Rojas in jail. Alvarez refuses to pay a just debt to the F. C. C. hence their attitude. At the head of this revolutionary party is Colonel Pino Vega, a young Venezuelan who wishes to become president. Matters at once become complicated. Roddy is not in his father's confidence in all matters, and because of it much serious misunderstanding results. The Forrester construction company is backing a revolution against President Alvarez, who has put Rojas in jail. Alvarez refuses to pay a just debt to the F. C. C. hence their attitude. At the head of this revolutionary party is Colonel Pino Vega, a young Venezuelan who wishes to become president.

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