

BOOKS FOR A SUMMER DAY

"The Toll of the Sea"

By Roy Norton, author of "The Vanishing Fleets," etc. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

During the last few years there has sprung into existence a vast army of "up and down" books. As we may say, "The Toll of the Sea" is one of these. Roy Norton left his readers breathless last year with his "Vanishing Fleets," and it seemed then that the very last cry of imaginative wonders had been reached. It will be recalled that that book dealt with navigation of the air, and the wondrous radiophone did 600 miles an hour, just as easy.

In this book science has progressed farther along other lines. The time of the story is but a few years beyond the present date, for in one of the early chapters we learn of the great disaster in San Francisco, also the Messina and other tragedies, and these are spoken of as having occurred not long before.

A certain great scientist, who is also a humanitarian, Dr. Pablo Martinez, has predicted tremendous seismic disturbances, besides which all the horrors which we know will pale into insignificance. People had laughed at the scientist and called him a harmless old crank, but after the San Francisco and Naples and Messina disasters they realized his predictions and decided that he must have had some knowledge to back his assertions. When, however, they wished to consult him, he could not be found. Messages were received from him periodically from one or another of his wireless stations scattered up and down the Pacific coast of North America, but the doctor himself nothing could be discovered.

Finally he sent out imperative warnings of a great earthquake in South America and all along the Pacific coast, and so impressed were the people that they fled to the hills, and the cities and thus escaped the tremendous tidal wave which left death and destruction in its wake. Soon, however, as after other seismic disturbances, life resumed its normal activity. It was found that the entire Pacific coast line of the Americas was changed; that the bed of the ocean was changed; that many islands had disappeared and new ones were formed; in short, there was work for the men whose business it is to chart the oceans for years to come. Many attempts were made to find Dr. Martinez, but none was successful, and finally every one believed he had been killed during the dreadful weeks of the disaster. One person only refused to give up hope—a young Chilean who had been his assistant in his work in the various wireless stations.

Many ships were lost in a curious and inexplicable manner somewhere in the southern Pacific ocean, and finally the United States cruiser Seattle was dispatched to investigate. The Seattle receives some puzzling messages and one, "Come at your peril," only decides her captain more than ever to persevere. They discover an entrance to a narrow channel which takes them to an island quite unlike any geographers have known. The Seattle becomes perfectly helpless in some strange way and is made to do anything the unseen

"The Legends of the Jews"

By Dr. Louis Ginsberg. The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia. Price \$2.

"The Legends of the Jews" is the first of four volumes which will form an important contribution to the legend literature of the nations. Jewish legends are a form of scriptural exegesis; their authors were homilists who used legends for didactic purposes, their main object being to establish a close connection between the scripture and the creations of the popular fancy. Thus scripture was transformed into a thousand themes. The personages of the bible—the patriarchs and the kings, the heroes and the prophets, the wise men and the sages, the men who did and suffered, their happiness and their doom, apart from their presupposed historical reality, a symbol and an allegory. The legends supplied what the bible narratives omitted. They filled up the gaps, they explained the motives, they enlarged the story, they formed the connection between the remotest countries, ages and peoples, and they made the legends into a sublime moral from the most commonplace facts. In a large sense these reminiscences are an interpretation of the religious and national life of the Jews.

The work is by Dr. Louis Ginsberg, professor of Talmud at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York, and his high standing as student and educator insures careful handling of the subject. The first two volumes reproduce all the legends in Jewish literature connected with bible times and characters, the present volume carrying the reader from the creation to Jacob.

The work has been written in German and translated from the author's original manuscript by Henrietta Szold, the secretary of the publication committee of the society. The book will prove not only an authoritative source book for scholars, but an excellent reading book for laymen.

"The Woman, the Man and the Monster"

By Carlton Dewey. Published by the Stuyvesant Press, New York. Price \$1.50.

Briefly outlining a new book by a new author, a man in a wood comes upon a nude woman tied to a tree. He cuts her bonds and gives her garments from his suit case with which to cover her body. They then become good friends. She calls him Perseus and he calls her Andromeda, but although he tells her his real name she declines to disclose her identity.

Of course the man falls in love directly and after providing the woman with a wardrobe they take up their lives together in a cottage in the country. Though he wishes to marry her she refuses and assumes a flippant attitude on the subject.

After two weeks a motor accident throws almost at their door a former college mate of the man's, and upon seeing him the woman goes into hysterics and runs away. The motor victim is her husband.

The lover is shocked, but can't stop loving her and for a time searches everywhere for her without success. Finally he receives a letter from the woman and joins her at a suburban inn; there they plan to leave for the continent. In the meantime it is necessary for him to go to London for some business and the woman, who appears upon the scene of action, and after a long conversation with his wife kills her, maddened by jealousy.

The episodes as they are handled are demoralizing and disgusting and have not even the saving quality of being well written. The book panders to the taste of the degenerate and soils the paper on which it is printed.

"How to Become a Law Stenographer"

By N. L. Mason. Published by Isaac Pitman & Sons, New York. Price \$1.

This compendium of legal forms is a book of 165 pages, a really unique and well designed to afford a ready and practical aid to familiarity with law work and is intended for use in high schools and business colleges as well as by individual stenographers and typists who desire to prepare themselves for the competitive positions in law offices or as court reporters. This work fills a need which is not met by any other work on the subject. It does not pretend to be a treatise on commercial law, but a book containing a large number and variety of law forms simplified and accompanied with directions and explanations for arranging on the typewriter. The forms presented for study are authentic legal documents used in real legal transactions or in actual trials of cases and among them it will be seen are a set of legal documents peculiar to sections of the country outside of New York.

The index is especially valuable and complete and teachers and students of stenography and typewriting will find the book a genuine labor saver. The compiler of the book is an experienced court reporter and able to handle his subject clearly and authoritatively.

"The Dreamer"

By Mary Newton Stanard. Published by the Bell Book and Stationery Company, Richmond, Va. Price \$1.50.

In this new book, Mary Newton Stanard, author of the "Story of Bacon's Discovery," has made a valuable study of the life and character of Edgar Allan Poe. She has endeavored to present a finished picture of Poe's life, instead of the shadowy sketches furnished by the biographers and, while avoiding the usual biographical facts, has filled them out with impressions drawn from the poet's own works, using the story teller's license to give them a picturesque setting.

She has told a true story—true to the spirit, if not always to the letter—for it is believed that she has made the dreamer and the other characters of the drama do nothing they may not have done, say nothing they may not have said, and felt—nothing they may not have felt. The book is charmingly written, and should prove a valuable addition to Poe literature. It is full of quotations from authentic letters written by Poe and from his own stories and poems, and is the most interesting piece of Poe fiction which has appeared this year.

"From Cairo to the Cataract"

By Blanche Mabury Carson. Published by L. C. Page & Co., Boston. Price \$1.50.

The interesting book on Egypt, "Getting Everything Possible of the Country," which has succeeded in producing a highly entertaining narrative.

islands may wish. The ship's people find relics of other ships, which they have known and are much depressed. Finally they are anchored in the bay in sight of the island city and receive a visit from a deputation of natives, who invite the captain and his two friends to visit their city.

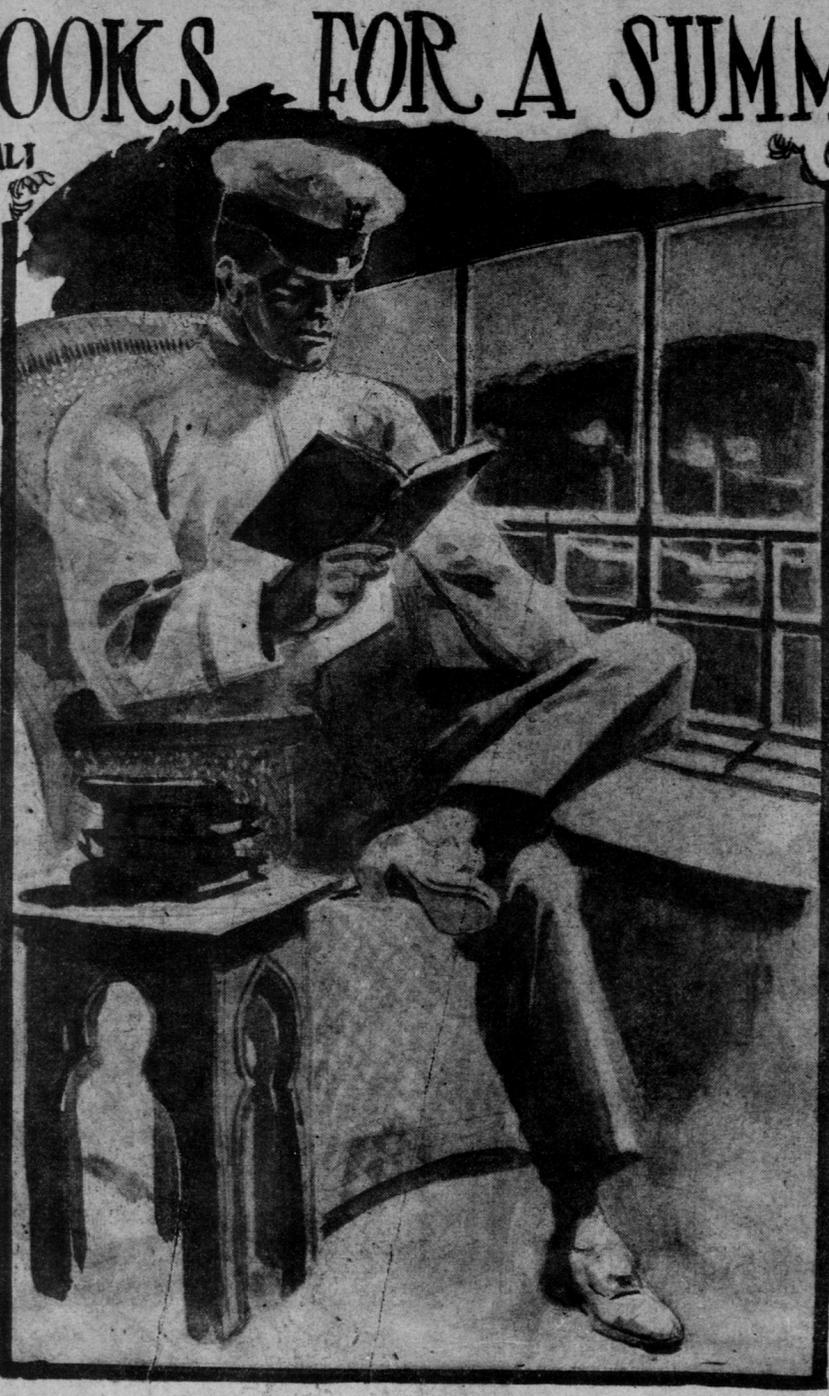
From this point the book is lively with the description of the people, the place, the government, the buildings, and everything being quite ideally perfect from Mr. Norton's imaginative point of view. Delightful in style, the book compels the interest of the reader and will not be relinquished unfinished.

The story portion of the book deals with an extraordinary friendship between two men—firstly, a brother, a rough miner, the other, the captain of the Seattle, a man possessing every educational advantage, a graduate of Annapolis and now holding a high position in the navy. He takes the miner with him, as his guest, on this strange cruise, and his feelings for his foster brother is best expressed in his own words of explanation to the commander.

"See here, Charley," he said, dropping formality and using the name he had called him by when he was in a lower class at Annapolis, "this man isn't like any one else in the world. We were boys together from the time I can remember, and for years he was an adopted brother to me. He's of the kind of west that used to be. He's a man who will meet Almighty God with out fear. Charley, that man has crawled to me with frozen hands and feet in the midst of a blizzard when I, being weaker, had lain down to sleep. He's given me the last water in the canteen, in the tops of the hills, when he and I were lost, and his own tongue hung black between his teeth. He's jerked me to the back of his own bronco when mine went down to be battered to a pulp under the hoofs of a stampeding herd, and laughed because the horses galloped in the lightning's flash. He never forgot an enemy or a friend—he's impoverished himself with a smiling face for a homeless child, and fought to the death because a friend's name was lightly taken. He's rough, he's uneducated, he's superstitious, but he's quick of hand, temper and tears, but he bears a heart of pure gold, and I don't want to be the one to give it a moment's suffering and humiliation." After that there is no more complaint that the miner upsets the discipline of the ship, and he is soon the most popular man on board.

The beautiful devotion of these two men weaves itself throughout the tale. The little love romance which is attempted between two other characters is unconvincing and superficial.

The cleverness of the author finds splendid opportunity to display in all the marvels of the new country, and there are few points for adverse criticism. It is a good yarn, and so convincing and well done that only one complaint is left, and that is, that it is a little high for the average reader. The book is well printed and bound, but is poorly illustrated by Beverly Towles.



"The Columbia River"

By William Denison Lyman. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London.

This year of the Alaska-Yukon exposition has been chosen to bring out many books which perhaps in another year would not attract the same interest and attention. This department has already handled several histories of Pacific states, and many novels dealing with the great northwest. Now comes a bulky book on "The Columbia River—Its History, Its Myths, Its Scenery and Its Commerce," by William Denison Lyman, professor of history in Whitman college, Walla Walla, Wash.

The author has sought to convey to his readers a lively sense of the romance, the heroism and the adventure which belong to this great stream and adjacent territory, at the same time breathing into his narrative something of the spirit and sentimentality and sentiment more easily recognized than analyzed—which we call "western."

With this end in view, his treatment of the subject has been general, rather than detailed, and popular rather than scientific. In short, the book is rather for the general reader than for the specialist. The author hopes so to impress his readers with the majesty of the Columbia as to fill their minds with a longing to see it face to face.

Thus the author explains the purpose of his work, which he has consistently carried out. From the standard works of history and description, dealing with Oregon and its river, which he has consulted, he has selected enough facts to make a connected and picturesque tale. He says:

"While the book has necessarily been based largely on other books, it may be said that the author has derived his chief inspiration from his own observations along the shores of the river and amid the mountains of Oregon and Washington, where his life has mainly been spent, and from familiar conversations in the cabins of pioneers, or at campsfires of hunters, or around Indian tepees, or in the pilot houses of steamboats. In such ways and places one can best catch the spirit of the river and its history."

The book contains 80 illustrations and a map, all beautifully reproduced from photographs, and is most artistically printed and bound. It is dedicated to the memory of the author's father, who was born in 1788, and from whom, doubtless, he got much accurate information of those stirring times. It is a valuable work on the west and as interesting as any novel.

"A Woman for Mayor"

By Helen M. Winslow. Published by Rell & Britton, Chicago. Price \$1.50.

The present world wide suffrage agitation, and the much discussed question of women holding political office as a natural sequence of their power to wield the ballot—makes this a most opportune story.

"A Woman for Mayor" is first of all a genuine love story. The fact that it is laid in a red-hot political atmosphere serves only to strengthen the general plot.

Miss Winslow's novel leaves no doubt as to the ease with which a woman may be elected to office when she is laid in a red-hot political atmosphere serves only to strengthen the general plot.

The story is plausible and full of excitement. The fact that the newly elected mayor, married a man who ran against her, furnishes a love thread which is worked out in a pleasing manner.

The author is a writer of many years' standing, formerly editor of the "Boston Herald," a prominent club woman and lecturer and is now writing a history of the woman's club movement.

"The Mystery of Miss Moth"

By Caroline Atwater Mason. Author of "The Son of the Sea." Published by L. C. Page & Co., Boston. Price \$1.50.

"The Mystery of Miss Moth" is a commonplace sort of romance with little to recommend it to the searcher for something new. Miss Moth steadily refuses to marry for some inexplicable reason, but at last one learns it is because her mother is subject to spells of insanity and Miss Moth fears that she may be overtaken by a similar fate.

After all sorts of experiences it is discovered that she is not the daughter of the woman she has known as mother all her life, but is the daughter of a rich Englishman and a native of India. In his will the Englishman makes a tardy acknowledgment of his daughter and leaves her a very rich young heiress. She is free to marry the devoted young minister who has loved her so long, and they plan to devote their lives to good works among the poor and needy in India. For a book of this kind there is perhaps too much religious discussion, much of it in the form of date cast, but the characters are in earnest and all fit into their parts.

The book is beautifully printed and bound, but the frontispiece in color by Albert R. Thayer is far from successful. It is unfortunate, for it prejudices before one reads a word.

BOOKS REVIEWED

- "The Toll of the Sea," by Roy Norton
- "The Columbia River," by William Denison Lyman
- "The Legends of the Jews," by Dr. Louis Ginsberg
- "The Woman, the Man and the Monster," by Carlton Dewey
- "How to Become a Law Stenographer," by W. L. Mason
- "The Dreamer," by Mary Newton Stanard
- "A Woman for Mayor," by Helen M. Winslow
- "The Mystery of Miss Moth," by Caroline Atwater Mason
- "From Cairo to the Cataract," by Blanche Mabury Carson

NEW BOOKS BRIEFLY NOTED

"How the Japanese Welcomed the American Fleet" is the title of a tiny pamphlet by Miss Hana Tokyo. Seijiro Koshikawa. It is supposedly a sample of Japanese humor and tells in the first person how Admiral Sperry singled the writer out of some 50,000 others who were screaming "Banzai" and other words of welcome, and took her about with him for the few days for the pleasure of her company and also to act as interpreter. She tells of visiting the empress, who gave her a diamond ring and asked her to call when she had time. It is written in dull fashion and American taste will prefer "Shabun" (Received from the author).

Almost every mail brings something on socialism and all can not be noticed. The latest is a brochure by Lincoln Braden, entitled "An Economic Study for Socialists and Their Critics." The author has divided his address into seven topics which he treats separately: "Value and Surplus Value," "Wage Slavery," "Capitalism's Breakdown," "Ownership," "Immigration" and "The Materialistic Conception of History." The last subject always puzzles the layman and every socialist drags it in and discourses learnedly and obscenely on it—to little avail. Parts of this are clearly written, but no new solution to the vexed problems are offered. (Lincoln Braden, Carbon, Cal. Price 10 cents.)

"A Little Bird Told Me" is a collection of diverting little drawings showing birds indulging in all sorts of human vices and amusements. The pictures and explanatory text are by Walt Kuhn, who needs no introduction to readers of Life, and this collection of his work is warranted to cure the worst case of blues in 15 minutes. The book has been published three years, but the humor is always new and the pictures will always amuse. (Life publishing company, New York.)

"Easy Money" almost tells us what it is in the title, and if we need a further hint the subtitle will do it. "The Genuine Book of Henry Mitch, His Diligent Search for Other Folks' Wealth, and His Urgent Fear of the Feminine." In chronicling the adventures of Henry

been too involved, too unintelligible to any but his most devoted disciples. But then neither Hardy nor Meredith is writing novels any more. Philippotts is, thank goodness. His latest story, "The Three Brothers," begins, as is his usual way, with descriptions of scenery, such descriptions as no one but Mr. Philippotts can write, and then he plunges at once into the story. We can always count upon this writer for tremendous passion and for humor.

One may feel pretty sure in taking up a novel by Philippotts that he is going to get the real thing.

This paragraph is for the enjoyment of those persons who find the rules of the public library which he frequents painfully severe. It is taken from "The Charter Laws and Catalogue of Books of the Library Company of Philadelphia." It was printed in Philadelphia by the firm of Benjamin Franklin and D. Hall in 1768. These are some of the rules relating to the lending of books:

1. The librarian is to give attendance on Saturdays, from 4 o'clock till 4 in the afternoon, at the library, in order to lend out and receive in the books; and shall keep a book columnwise, in which shall be noted the title of the book, the name of the borrower, the time for which the book is lent, the sum for which the note was given, the day when the book should be returned and the forfeitures weekly arising for all defaults.
2. Each borrower, being a member of the company, shall give a promissory note to the librarian, for the sum set in the written catalogue against the book he borrows, conditioned for returning the same book within the time mentioned in the said catalogue; at the expiration of which time, if the borrower inclines to keep the book longer, he must renew his note.
3. Books returned are to be delivered into the hands of the librarian, to be examined whether damaged or not.
4. No borrower may lend a book to any person out of his house.
5. The librarian may lend to one person, at one time, two volumes in octavo, three in duodecimo, and four pamphlets, provided they have been in the library at least 12 months.
6. Every Saturday evening, before the library is shut up, the librarian shall examine his book of forfeitures, and make out a list of the forfeitures which have arisen that week, in a book to be kept for that purpose; and on the second Monday in every month, he shall, from the list, deliver to the secretary a copy of all the forfeitures incurred the preceding month, to be laid before the directors at their usual meetings.
7. The Power of Self-Suggestion," by Samuel McComb, D. D., is an elaboration of a lecture which he has often given in connection with his work in the library is shut up, the librarian shall examine his book of forfeitures, and make out a list of the forfeitures which have arisen that week, in a book to be kept for that purpose; and on the second Monday in every month, he shall, from the list, deliver to the secretary a copy of all the forfeitures incurred the preceding month, to be laid before the directors at their usual meetings.
8. The Power of Self-Suggestion," by Samuel McComb, D. D., is an elaboration of a lecture which he has often given in connection with his work in the library is shut up, the librarian shall examine his book of forfeitures, and make out a list of the forfeitures which have arisen that week, in a book to be kept for that purpose; and on the second Monday in every month, he shall, from the list, deliver to the secretary a copy of all the forfeitures incurred the preceding month, to be laid before the directors at their usual meetings.

GOSSIP OF BOOKS AND THEIR WRITERS

Rex Beach, no longer to be described as a rising young author, but as one already risen, grows more and more dramatic. "Going Some," the farcical comedy he wrote in collaboration with Paul Armstrong, has settled in New York, and his career is said to be doing perfect justice to its name. Now "The Barrier," which has not ceased to be a best seller since the Harpers published it last fall, is to be staged under the direction of Elmer Clifton, the playwright who will dramatize it. Eugene Presbury, is the same who dramatized Sir Gilbert Parker's "The Right of Way," and the actors who will take the leading parts, Guy Stanton King and Theodore Roberts, played the principal roles also in that production.

On the south side of Fleet street in London there is an unobtrusive gateway with the efigy of a lamb above it, which the unwary traveler might pass a dozen times and not notice. But if he does notice it, and if he enters, he will pass at once into another age. For this is the entrance into the temple, and in all London there is nothing richer in memories and pictures of the past than these courts and gardens and ancient buildings in the heart of the city.

Their names and neighbors of Lincoln's Inn, Gray's Inn and the Inns of Chancery look today, with something of their history and associations, is told in "Inns of Court," by Cecil Headlam, with illustrations by Gordon Home. The origin of the Inns is discussed, there is a chapter on the Knights Templar and still on the famous Round church, another in use within the temple. The rest of the book is devoted to the middle and inner temple and to other Inns.

California has given to contemporary literature some of its most brilliant names. Will Irwin, whose faithful and touching story of old San Francisco, "The City That Was," brought him national fame, is one of these younger writers whose audience is growing because of the steadily improving quality of his work.

His latest volume is entitled "The Confession of a Con Man," and will be published shortly by E. W. Hussey, New York. It is fact, not fiction. The con man lives; he spent his life dab-

bling in every crooked game known to the underworld and he has told his story to Mr. Irwin with the aid of a connoisseur in petty crime. Whoever has played cards with a seemingly innocent countryman on a railroad train; whoever has tried to discover under which shell the pea lies; whoever has purchased diamonds at half the market value, and whoever has bought a gold brick by any other name will find a sad pleasure in reading these pages. The book is as amusing as it is fascinating and by no means the least attractive part of it will be the characteristic illustrations by W. Glackens.

The man who judges of the value of a cigar by holding it under his nose and sniffing is "bluffing." So says Carl Werner, writing in the current Harper's Weekly. For even an expert, it appears, could not decide by that method whether the cigar were made of tobacco or cabbage leaves. An expert, in fact, would look at the cigar and tell you what kind of a wrapper it had, postposing further judgment till he had smoked the cigar. Another superstition that this writer explodes is the notion that a dark cigar is a strong cigar, and conversely. Also, the yellow stain on cigarette smokers' fingers is not nicotine, but tar; oil; and the nicotine is not absorbed into the system, but goes off in the smoke. Nor is there anything diabolic about cigarette papers. Best of all, there are—Mr. Werner swears—many cigars as good or better than Key West cigars.

WE have moved to our new quarters, 222 Stockton St. facing Union Square

ROBERTSON'S

Book Store Formerly at Van Ness and Pine