

BOOK PAGE OF THE SUNDAY CALL

CONDUCTED BY UNA H. H. COOL

"Tales of Men and Ghosts"

By Edith Wharton. (Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price \$1.50.)

It is difficult to write of Edith Wharton and not drop into superlatives. She is our best short story writer today and these particular short stories are the best collection she has offered us.

"The Bolted Door," the first in the collection, is a strong tale and one to be discussed again and again. "The Legend" is a splendid hit at fanatics who become obsessed with an idea and fail to recognize the originator of it when he appears.

It is a wonderful collection of stories, and when we consider that they all deal with intellectual situations and are in no sense tales of romance, the success of the book will be more surprising.

It is almost treason to murmur anything but pleasant and polite comments about any novel by Myrtle Reed. She has been so successful so long that a large majority of the public think she must be able to write novels, but with the appearance of this last book, "Master of the Vineyard," the polite patience of the reviewer is exhausted.

he has fashioned for his characters: "Demas Dayre," the hero, "Boyd Lenroot" and "Nace Forbush, friend of the hero; "Vashti Ganwood," the lady villain and several others. The story has a certain interest, but the weak and foolishly melodramatic climax injures it greatly.

"Grover Cleveland: A Record of Friendship" By Richard Watson Gilder. (Published by the Century company, New York. Price \$1.50.)

Among all the writings of the late Richard Watson Gilder the last work from his pen is likely to give him a more enduring fame than any other. He entitled his book, "Grover Cleveland: A Record of Friendship," and it is the finest tribute to that greatly misunderstood leader that has been written.

At the Cleveland memorial meeting in Carnegie hall, March 18, 1909, Mr. Gilder read a poem which is very appropriately used as a preface to this volume. The last stanza is quoted: O strong oak risen! O tower of defense, Fallen! O, captain of the boats struck down! Lilies of mourning and great griefs!

It is best not to read any more; it is so sickening. The young man and Edith write long letters to each other, and finally she asks him to be kind to Rosemary, the country girl; so he marries her. It is hard to forgive Rosemary, for she knows all about Edith and knows that her husband is not at all ways love Edith, for he has been careful to tell her that for her comfort.

"The Master Road" By Carlin Eastwood. (Published by the Alice Herriman company, 542 Fifth avenue, New York. Price \$1.25.)

"The Master Road" is a melodrama pure and simple and would scarcely require more than a few days' time to put it into shape for the stage. It is just the sort of thing to interest the people of today, too, for it has a lot in it about equity, that great question which under so many names is agitating the world.

Gratia Drexler is of the socially elect, but is dissatisfied with her way of living. She is an orphan, is very rich and love her dearly, but the purposeless existence bores Gratia, and, braving their displeasure, she goes into settlement work. When the time opens she has been actively working for a year and is desperately in earnest.

"The End of Dreams" By Wood Leette Kennerley. (Published by Mitchell Kennerley, New York.)

"The End of Dreams" is an example of an author, who, to put it vulgarly, has "bitten off more than he can swallow." The inspiration for the tale comes, of course, from "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," the prototype of all dual personality tales. In this story we find, however, that the hero is really two men, two souls, and nearly two bodies.

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"Those Smith Boys" is the title of a tale for boys by Edward R. Garis, in which the author displays a remarkable imagination. The tale is interesting, notwithstanding its several improbabilities. In the very first chapter a giant kite is manufactured. A little girl has been tied to the kite, and when the string breaks the child is carried away! A thimble man has a lot to do with things in the story; he is suspected of stealing \$2,000 from the father of the Smith boys. The boys are full of mischief, but have to pay in the end for all their tricks. (R. F. Fennell & Co., New York; \$1.25.)

BOOKS REVIEWED

"Tales of Men and Ghosts," by Edith Wharton
"Master of the Vineyard," by Myrtle Reed.
"Grover Cleveland: A Record of Friendship," by Richard Watson Gilder
"The Master Road," by Carlin Eastwood
"The End of Dreams," by Wood Leette Wilson

"Lord Alistair's Rebellion," by Allen Upward
"Jim Hands," by Richard Washburn Child
"Simply Women," by Marcel Prevost
"A Daughter of Today," by Mildred Corning Crean
"The Reminiscences of Rosa Bonheur," by Theodore Stanton

"LORD ALISTAIR'S REBELLION"

By Allen Upward, author of "The New Ward." (Published by Mitchell Kennerley, New York. Price \$1.50.)



ALLEN UPWARD

Allen Upward's novel is a satire on respectability in the English upper classes. His hero, Lord Alistair, rebels at the existing order of things, respectability, as well as social and religious conditions. The author wields the same brilliant pen in this work which he used with such effect in his earlier book, "The New Ward," and proves himself a master of wit and epigram.

Lord Alistair is the dissipated younger brother of the duke of Trent, a respectable prig, a cabinet minister, and a man with no sense of humor. Lord Alistair is made the mouthpiece of revolt throughout the book. Conventionality especially arouses his scorn, and most of his best speeches are directed against it.

"In this world cant became a religion and hypocrisy was enforced by law. It was a world whose literature and art were adjusted to the mental and moral level of the Sunday school. It was a world in which a terrible disease, bred of moral corruption, scourged the race, and every effort to stay it ravages was fought against tooth and nail by the menads of social purity.

"Jim Hands" By Richard Washburn Child. (Published by the Macmillan company, New York. Price \$1.50.)

It is almost unkind of the publishers to send "Jim Hands" to the reviewers, weary already with the stacks of Christmas books, for it is one that can not be disposed of with a word, nor unnoticed, or neglected in any way whatever; it has to be read through from title page to the advertisements at the back. It leaves me harboring the wish that it had a second volume.

"Jim Hands" is a real love story, clean and simple and sweet, but filled with humor and pathos, philosophy, and a keen insight into life. Jim Hands is the foreman in a shoe factory in a small country town, having risen to that position by honesty and ability.

He has a wife and three children, and all are comfortable and well cared for, and have received good educations. They represent the ideal of a prosperous workingman's family. In the opening chapter, scarcely an introduction, he offers to tell us all about Katherine, his daughter, and we know he has a real story to tell. It is a new idea, this telling of the love story by the father, but how well he does it and how his heart is in it!

The story is of Katherine, but never for a moment do we lose sight of Jim Hands, who tells us of her. He has an old-fashioned way of relating his story, and though he may frequently digress from his theme to tell some anecdote of his family life or factory experience, these digressions have some bearing on the tale and are delightful bits. Curing his wife of being an invalid is a splendid story, and the Jennie Lyons episode, the useless factory girl whom no one could fire is a tale in itself as fine as one of O. Henry's sidelights on life.

"Simply Women" By Marcel Prevost. (Published by the Macaulay company, New York. Price \$1.)

"Simply Women" is the title of a collection of short stories by Marcel Prevost. They have been translated by R. L. Brandon-Vanvliet, and whether to blame him for the bad stories or Mr. Prevost one does not know. For bad they are in every sense. They may be typically French; they are not American nor English. Perhaps when Mr. Prevost was learning to write these were his first attempts. They are rough and unpolished and not even interesting.

"Notes and Gossip of Writers" Troy and Margaret West Kinney, the well known New York artists, will spend the winter in Spain, partly for pleasure and recreation, partly to study, and partly to execute an important commission placed in their hands by A. C. McClurg & Co. They are to make a series of paintings for Messrs. McClurg to illustrate the translation of Senor Ibanez Blasco, Ibanez's great story of bull fighting, "Sangre y Arena," which will be brought out next fall.

Mark Twain was once a publisher, and the sum he paid in royalties on a single day was a record in its day. William Dean Howells tells something of the matter in his recently published book of reminiscences called "My Mark Twain." The book was General Grant's "Memoir." Mr. Howells writes: "It was his proud joy to tell how he found Grant about to sign a contract for his book on certain very good terms, and said to him that he would himself publish the book and give him a percentage three times as large. He said Grant seemed to doubt whether he could honorably withdraw from the negotiation at that point, but Clemens overbore his scruples, and it was his unparalleled privilege, his princely pleasure, to pay the author a far larger check for his work that had ever been paid to an author before."

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett has completed a novel entitled "The Secret Garden," which, after serial publication, will appear in book form in the fall of 1911. Mrs. Burnett recently returned to this country from abroad where she spent part of the summer traveling and attended the passion play.

E. Phillips Oppenheim is another novelist who has taken up play writing. One of his sketches was recently produced on the London stage.

"The Reminiscences of Rosa Bonheur"

Edited by Theodore Stanton. (Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. Price \$3.)

"The Reminiscences of Rosa Bonheur," which is really a half narrative made up of letters of the great artist and of her friends, is by far the most important and interesting addition to biography which has appeared this year. There is something which Theodore Stanton, who modestly calls himself the editor, has done in the composition of these memoirs which has made the remarkable woman a very human and lovable figure, two qualities not often associated with her name.

Rosa Bonheur had a most uneventful life. She was born in 1822 and all her teaching in art was obtained from her father. A number of ancestors were artists and her father and brothers and sister also, so the atmosphere of art was always about her. She spent more than 40 years of her life in her Chateau de By on the northern edge of the forest of Fontainebleau with two dear friends, Mme. Micas and Mlle. Micas, who kept house for her and took away from her all domestic worries. She had here a really wonderful menagerie of lions, sheep, deer, chamois, horses and dogs and they were not mere models—they were dearly loved friends.

The book tells of everything of interest which befell the artist, but it is a record of work and success. Love, which is the large part of other reminiscences, had no place in this life. She told herself that she was once as a young girl sought in marriage by the village apothecary and that the courtship lasted a week. The book is fully illustrated by pen and ink sketches, photographs of her most famous paintings and pictures of herself and members of the family.



THEODORE STANTON

BOOKS RECEIVED

- "The Land of Living Men," by Ralph Waldo Prime. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York.
"The Spandharit," by Porter Emerson Browne. G. W. Dillingham company, New York.
"Twenty Years at Hall House," by Jane Addams. Macmillan company, New York.
"Fair Tales of All Nations," by Logan Marshall. John C. Winston company, Philadelphia.
"Indian Wars of New England" (three volumes), by Herbert Milton Spivaker. W. B. Clark & Co., Boston.
"Eight Million Women Want," by Rheta Childs Durr. Small, Maynard & Co., Boston.
"The Conservation of Water," by John L. Matthews. Small, Maynard & Co., Boston.
"Plaid of the New England," by H. L. Sayler. Reilly & Britton company, Chicago.
"Theroid Archer Knowlton, Poet," by Frederic Zeigler. W. B. Conkey company, Chicago.
"Brown County Folk," by Kin Hubbard. Abe Martin publishing company, Indianapolis.
"The Soul's Rubalbat," by Amelia Woodward Truesdell. A. M. Robertson, San Francisco.
"The Master Singer," by Frank R. Bir. American book company, New York.
"Common Sense in Politics," by Joe E. Hodges. Moffatt, Yard & Co., New York.
"Mazzini and Other Essays," by Henry Demarest Lloyd. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.
"The Doctor's Christmas Eve," by James Lane Allen. Macmillan company, New York.
"The Aeroplane Express," by Ashton Lamar. Reilly & Britton company, Chicago.
"The Alship Boys in the Baren Land," by H. L. Sayler. Reilly & Britton company, Chicago.
"The Dawn Builder," by John G. Nehardt. Mitchell Kennerley, New York.
"El Estanciero," by Russell Judson Waters. Rand-McNally company, Chicago.

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