

"His Rise to Power"

By Henry Russell Miller, author of "The Man Higher Up." Published by Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis. Price \$1.25.

If the citizens—that, of course, now includes all the women of this state—could be forced to read "His Rise to Power," by Henry Russell Miller, it would be an eye opener to many a young politician and incidentally work a great advance on the road of reform.

John Dunmeade is a young lawyer of 30 when this tale opens, and he has never taken an active part in politics. His father is a judge with the aspiration to end his days on the supreme bench.

He has formed a strong friendship with a man who is a sort of socialist, a reformer, but well balanced and an entirely sane man. This thing can not be changed at once. He gives John much help and sane practical advice, all of which will be read with the keenest interest.

"The Man Higher Up." Published by Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis. Price \$1.25.

"But the people don't understand—that's all." "Not understand! You can say that! Do you suppose there's an intelligent man in the state who doesn't know that you have as much brains and capacity for government, and far more character, than either Murchell or Sherrod, or any of their tribe?"

Things are rotten. There's a stink in the South seas the author takes us to. You can better them in two ways. You can choose the brotherhood—and we may put that aside as possible only after a procedure of the most polished egotist, the American citizen.

"Well, then, play the game as you find it; and yourself a despot. And when you have your power use it to win compromises from the other strong ones and to give the people just what they want."

"The Women of the Caesars"

By Guglielmo Ferrero. Published by the Century company, New York. Price \$2.

The most notable addition to the literature of history made in a long time is "The Women of the Caesars," by Guglielmo Ferrero.

The book is made up of a series of chapters which appeared in the Century magazine as separate articles, but in book form they make a continuous story, a conclusion which appears to be inevitable if one has read the "Greatness and Decline of Rome," the previous work of this author.

The various chapter headings are as follows: "Women and Marriage in Ancient Rome," "Livia and Julia," "The Daughters of Agrippina," "Tiberius and Agrippina," "The Sisters of Calligula and the Marriage of Messalina," and "Agrippina and the Mother of Nero."

Each story is an impression of a different portion of the South seas, showing the natives of the various islands. The first one is a remarkably vivid description of a fearful hurricane in the Paumotu and the saving of a family of four by what was little short of a miracle.

"The House on the Mall"

By Edgar Jepson. Published by G. W. Dillingham & Co., New York. Price \$1.25.

"The House on the Mall" is an enjoyable book. The author is Edgar Jepson, whose "Admirable Tinker" is remembered with such joy.

There is a really sweet and pretty love story running through the book and the characters in this are not in the least smudged by their association with the criminals. You can't be blue and read this story. In fact, it's a good cure for the blues. It is real humor.

With the finest sort of things and is sure to be largely used by practical political reformers.

The most critical moment in John's political career is when he must start the banking investigation which involves the father of the woman he loves. That he feels the love affair hopeless changes the fact not at all, but many anxious hours are endured at this crisis.

BRIEF REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS

H. A. Guerber, who has put into modern prose so many of the classics of the world, adds to his list "Stories of Shakespeare's Tragedies." They are told in the clear and definite style without comment by the author, making them really prose versions of the great plays.

Never again let it be said that a woman does not appreciate burlesque humor when it is a perfect piece of art and written by a man. It is a short story, entitled "When Woman Proposes," by Mrs. Anne Warner French.

The works of Lyof N. Tolstoy are now published in a pretty edition of fourteen volumes. They are handy sized volumes for the pocket, printed on thin paper and bound in flexible cloth or limp leather.

say most of his confederates are true to his interests. He is the head of a gigantic criminal ring, the members of which steal and murder without a moment's qualm.

Their beautiful series of ideal gift books—"The Value Books—the A. M. Caldwell company, Boston and New York, have just added "The Value of Contentment," edited by Mary Minerva Barrows.

"The Knight Errant, a Novel of Today," by Robert Alexander Mason, is full of meat, but the author is too generous and too just to justice to it. He has a fine sense of humor, he is the author of "Happy Hawkins," a success of last year, and there are many very clever and original ideas in the story; but in his haste to tell us all about it the author loses his way and becomes hopelessly involved in the middle and interest is suspended.

full—just 158 pages of fun—and it's really worth while. (G. W. Dillingham & Co., New York; 75 cents.) "Across the Latitudes" is the title chosen by John Fleming Wilson for a collection of sea stories that are the real thing. And he has not overburdened his narratives with seafaring talk, either.

"The Steel Crown," by Fergus Hume, is as exciting a tale as has ever been devised by this prolific writer. An old woman is discovered by her landlady to have been strangled. She has no friends and has never had but one visitor.

The fifth edition is just issued of "The New Building Estimator," by William Arthur (22.50), which tells every detail of the cost of buildings. The book is especially for architects, builders, contractors, etc., and all types of structures are covered in the work.

BOOKS REVIEWED

"His Rise to Power," by Henry Russell Miller. "The House on the Mall," by Edgar Jepson. "The Centaurians," by Biagi. "The Women of the Caesars," by Guglielmo Ferrero. "South Sea Tales," by Jack London.

Notes and Gossip of Books and Their Writers

Who is the greatest living woman? The editor of the St. Louis Mirror devoted some remarks to this question and his readers, who have minds of their own, have tried to help him out.

Philip Verrill Mighels, whose tragic death while hunting in Nevada has cut short a most promising career, was probably best known for his book, "Brucver Jim's Baby." He was a frequent contributor of verse to the magazines.

"The Centaurians"

A very remarkable book has made its appearance this week, with no blare of trumpets and no special announcement that it needed attention. It is quite unlike any other book of the season, and though not marked for a "best seller" or even a popular success, is sure to claim the interest of many readers.

BOOKS REVIEWED

"The Centaurians," by Biagi. The Broadway Publishing company, New York.

The natural beauties of the Golden state are to be presented in a handsome illustrated volume soon to be published by Paul Elder & Co., San Francisco. It is to consist of camera pictures by eminent California artists of the views of greatest interest from Shasta in the north to San Diego mission in the south.

When the heroine of "Secretary of Frivolous Affairs" lost her fortune she wrote on a piece of paper a list of eligible occupations by which she might earn her living, shut her eyes and stuck pins in to see what she should do. How many other girls could do better if they should suddenly be forced to support themselves?

BOOKS REVIEWED

"Third Year Latin," by John E. Brass, American Book company, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago. "Der Leine Wildenbrunn," by J. H. Beckman, American Book company, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago.

Thoughts for Christmas Mrs. Jessie Wood Young and Miss Edith N. Wood are responsible for numerous attractive booklets and cards issuing from the Christmas Thought Shop. Much ingenuity and much skill with the color brush are displayed in the preparation of these messengers designed to carry the holiday cheer. For several seasons San Francisco artists and versifiers have shown their talent in fetching novelties produced for the Christmas season. The standard does not suffer through the work of Mrs. Young and Miss Wood. Their reproductions are made upon sensitized paper and the colors are then put on by hand.