

LITERATURE

POEMS EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW.

THE VALIANT.

Not for the star-crowned heroes, the men that conquer and stay,
But a song for those that bore them, the mothers, braver than they!
With never a blare of trumpets, with never a surge of cheers,
They march to the unseen hazard—pale, patient volunteers;
No hate in their hearts to steel them—with love for a circling shield
To the mercy of merciless nature their fragile selves they yield.
Now, God look down in pity, and temper thy sternest law!
From the field of dread and peril bid Pain his troops withdraw!
Then unto her peace triumphant let the spent victor win,
Though her life be blemished and trembling—yet lit from a flame within
In the warm, sweet smile of conquest gained without War's alarms,
The woman's smile of victory for the new life safe in her arms.
So not for the star-crowned heroes, the men that conquer and stay,
But a song for those that bore them—the mothers braver than they!

—M. A. Dewolfe Howe, in Woman's Home Companion for May.

NOTES.

Hamlin Garland, author of The Captain of the Gray-Horse Troop and other stories, went to the Klondike, over the frozen trap-line during the gold excitement of the late '90s, and he has written a stirring story, picturing the dangers and adventures met with by a boy who ventures over that famous route.

The Long Trail, he calls it; and it is the kind of story which, although a boy is the central character, holds the attention of the old as well as the young.

It is a vivid and direct story, told with constant effectiveness, and with all of the author's literary skill and charm.

The Harpers will publish the book this week.

The errors of this poor overworked reviewer who has to run while he reads are occasionally very amusing. Recently appeared in a New York daily, famous throughout the country for its delicious flippancy, a column-long notice of The Turn of the Balance, Brand Whitlock's new novel. The column was headed "In Dark Colors" and the terrible conditions portrayed were located in Chicago with the Sun's accustomed relish. Yet from every page of the book comes plain and unmistakable evidence that the scene is not Chicago at all, but Toledo, which Whitlock governs now as mayor.

Even more startling is the semi-blunder of one of our most coldly critical weeklies, noticing "The Private War," by Louis Joseph Vance, author of The Brass Bowl. Said the Outlook: "The awful tragedy of a young mulatto girl awakens the schoolmaster to action, and moved by powerful moral convictions, he abandons his principles as a political leader to his convictions. In this way he incurs the hatred of his political opponents, and suffers for his courage. The author is in dead earnest."

The unconscious humor of this lies in the fact that there is no young mulatto girl, no schoolmaster, no politics and nothing deadly serious in The Private War.

It has been printed in many papers that "The Silent Door," by Florence Wilkinson, published by McClure, Phillips & Co., this spring, is this author's first novel. This is a mistake, she has had two novels published previously, namely, "The Strength of the Hills," published by Harper Brothers, and "The Lady of the Flag-Flowers," published by Herbert S. Stone.

Louis Joseph Vance has a right to write romances. He eloped when he was 16. And he turned out to be one of those young romancers who are happy. But being the head of a family, he had to develop his literary talent with unremitting labor for all it was worth in dollars and cents, at an age when most boys are thinking of college entrance examinations. From nine to five he would work at his clerical job in a day office, New York office. In the evening he would go to a dinner, take a 20-minute nap, and then plunge in his story writing, keeping it up until 1 or 2 in the morning. In this manner he wrote *Milady of the Mercenaries*, which subsequently attracted a great deal of attention when it was published in a small magazine. Since then he has written, to an extent that his handwriting is legible again in the eyes of the people. Having done so much, he wakes up his wife, and reads it to her. Then the next day he writes it over again, as a rule. He has written a story over six times before getting the effect he wanted, and has written as many as 48 different openings for one story, turning, twisting, revising, changing in every way the same words and incidents. Having once struck his gall he writes rapidly.

The Brass Bowl, his latest and most attractive romance, was written, finally, in less than four weeks, though the first chapters took tentative shape about two years ago. The novelist was sure that he had something interesting, but for the life of him, he didn't seem to be able to get Milford and the young girl out Long Island City, after the burglary at Milford Minors. So he sent it away and forgot it—almost. When Mr. Vance returned from Europe last May he dug up the dusty manuscript and read and reread the plot of the story, trying to make it plain as night, to the point where Antsy gets the set into the cab, leaving Milford's apartments. Then suddenly it stuck. It turned to his wife for suggestions. They bickered about it for a week in the bleakest sort of weather, the flat-chairs mopped, the floor polished, the windows cleaned, the sun shone out. The room where he writes up his wife and reads it to her. Then the next day he writes it over again, as a rule. He has written a story over six times before getting the effect he wanted, and has written as many as 48 different openings for one story, turning, twisting, revising, changing in every way the same words and incidents. Having once struck his gall he writes rapidly.

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The appearance of a new novel by

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A HEARTY MEAL?

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LEAVES FROM OLD ALBUMS.



PHIL MARGETTS, THE PIONEER ACTOR, IN 1870.

This picture shows Mr. Margeretts as he looked at the time when the famous Eye of the Needle, is a charming reminder that the books of this author, including fiction, travel, poetry, biography, and criticism, now number more than 60. And each new book, as it appears, shows a richer flavor, a finer quality, as of a mellowing of thought with age.

Mr. Howells loves to do his work in the morning hours. Almost every day he works till noon, and he does not work in the afternoon or evening. He never dictates his work; often he dictates it, finding that it is easier to do this than to use the pen, and that there is consequently an easier flow of thought.

He likes to use the pen in his correspondence, however, for that feels that of old friends, or people of the old school, are apt to feel slighted if the typewriter is used.

There is one man who believes that Brand Whitlock, the author of The Turn of the Balance, knows all about burgars. That one man is Meredith Nicholson, author of The House of a Thousand Candles and The Port of Missing Men. Mr. Nicholson knows by experience.

Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Whitlock spent the summer of 1894 together at We-Que-Ton-Sing, Michigan. They told each other about the books they were writing. About that time The Turn of the Balance was only about half done. Mr. Whitlock would talk to them, and, above all, his guns and pointed men and provinces and when the two authors separated at the end of the summer Mr. Nicholson said:

"Brand, why don't you send some of those friends of yours over to see me? I'm tired of conventional people. The next time any of those fellows are coming to my house, tell them to call on me. Tell me to talk to them. Don't send me any literary men. Send me some outlaw against society, as they're called. Send me a burglar!"

About six months later Mr. Whitlock got this letter:

"Dear Brand:
That burglar you sent me did not understand, I fancy, that his visit was to be purely social. He climbed the porch while we fed our faces, and carried off the family jewels and most of Mrs. Nicholson's diamonds. Next time you see him, tell him we'll forgive everything if he'll give us back Mrs. Nicholson's watch and our faith in humanity. Happy New Year! Yours always, M. N."

BOOKS.

The Dead Hand Lifted" is a rather sensational story for the opening of a New England girl. It deals merely with the coming of age of the heroine by which the iron bound provisions of a family may be set aside through the absolute freedom of the helress to the ancestral domain. That she chooses to consider herself still bound by them which leads one through a pleasant romance in which several natural characters play their part to a wholesome denouement, which satisfies the human and common sense instincts of the reader or the high strung and strenuous demands of realistic art which too often sacrifice its fictional people to the artistic ideals of the dramatic. However the book is far from being of the improbable order, for it ends after all as life stories sometimes do. Houghton Mifflin company of Boston are the publishers. On sale Deseret News book store.

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