## Christmas

ner a double gratitude. This season's books are above the are satisfactorily straightened out. ordinary, alike in number, theme, letterpress and literary merit. To the LETTERS FROM MY HOME IN to the natural history of Canada, this vast number of books of fiction and ing with the great war. Those especially whose homes have ties that bind them closely to the red fields of battle will be keenly interested in the

man and Other Poems," by L. M. and labor. Montgomery: "Platform Sketches," Cross Man," by Robert Service; "Lun-Scott: "Wild Animal Ways," by Ernest Thompson Seton; "The Great Adventure," by Rev. Prof. Law; "With a Field Ambulance at Ypres,"

may well be proud of the imposing of bluff old Capt. Josh, Rodney be- man psychology of those caught in paragraph: contribution to literature made by Ca- comes patrol leader of the Hillcrest the maelstrom. These dead must not "We were worshipping an idol we via of the Hillcrest is an admirable nadian-born writers this season. To Scouts, and from then on there is die in vain, he declares. He believes called Progress, with no very clear girls' book, and no doubt it will find give Canadian books this Christmas something doing all the time. The that the Allies are fighting against idea of what we meant by progress- many a place among holiday gifts this brought enjoyment and encourageis a patriotic resolve one would be boy scouts accomplish many worthy material destiny, against "the will of progress in which or toward what end season. quite justified in making in view of tasks, including the sending of an in- earth," and that man has not con- -with just a vaguely optimistic notion the fact that to give such books means valid girl to a great specialist, who quered destiny before. There is noth that to-morrow would be as to-day, to give, at the same time, in many cures her. They also assist in capturing easy-going in his war-time philbut more abundant; that there would cases, the outstanding successes of ing two robbers on an island, and of osophy. Not only victory over Gerbe more people, more trade, more the season.

With Pipe and Book. O! what is sweeter, mortal, say?

Old Izaak or the Odyssey-It matters not meerschaum or clay.

And lips forget to sue or sway, It is "enough to merely Be" With Pipe and Book.

As bards aver, I will not pray For "soothing Death" to succor me, But ask this much, O Fate, of thee, A little longer here to stay

What though our modern skies be

With Pipe and Book. -Richard Le Gallienne.

But serious difficulties were Canada and to Great Britain.

Books as Christmas gifts are al- in the way. Young Pendren's father ways pleasing and appropriate. They had cheated Glory's father out of all carry also a two-fold significance, in his property, and the families had be- By that they testify to the giver's friend- come butter enemies. To a real Saship and thoughtful remembrance and maritan tangles like this provide only also to his acknowledgment of your opportunity, and Mary was equal to intelligent appreciation of literary the occasion. Her plots and schemes things. In return, you owe the do- make wholesome, humorous reading.

INDIA.

College Book Store, city.

this season, are also very numerous service as a Canadian missionary to ries of pictures in photograph and let- a Russian hospital corps on the Car- and other comrades in the 19th and book. Canada may well be proud of the her Nova Scotia home at Truro as a as they appear to you and me when some fine descriptions of war's effects achievements of her poets and au- bride, Mrs. Churchill and her pastor we take a walk in the country on a upon individual temperaments, and to thors. They occupy no insignificant husband went forth to labor in the spare Saturday or Sunday afternoon, an analysis of the peculiar Russian place in the great army of writers Lord's vineyard, where the tasks were They speak of Canadian scenes and character, apparently so simple and By Margaret R. Piper. 311 pages. who are enriching the literature of the many and heavy and the results often Canadian weather with a directness childlike, yet in fact so deep and mysday. One might mention such pro- discouraging. Yet the seed was which is seldom approached. The tical. The story is long-drawn out— minent names of books and their au- sown, and slowly but surely Christian- book is attractively printed and words chasing countless words along ity gained ground. The letters, be- bound, and will make a most dainty -and the reader will wish that the "Further Foolishness," by Prof. ginning in 1871 and continuing until gift book. Stephen Leacock; "The Red Watch," 1916, relate the experiences of these by Col. J. A. Currie, M.P.; "In the devoted missionaries and their fellow- THE WRACK OF THE STORM. Ypres Salient," by Beckles Wilson; workers, and testify to the zeal with "Sons of Canada," by Augustus Bri- which they carried out the command By Maurice Maeterlinck. 330 pages. dle; "The White Comrade, 'by Kath- of Christ to "preach the gospel to erine Hale; "The Witch of Endor," every creature." Those interested in by Robert Norwood; "Songs of foreign missions will find in this Ukrain," by Florence Randall Live- book much information as to the exsay; "Songs of Gladness and Growth," | tent and progress, the sucesses and by James L. Hughes: "The Watch- discouragements, of this work of love figure in Belgium, a mystic and an op-

And though one's eyes will dream thoughts and inspiring in its high mos nificant words: and the wild, free life it knew.

FORM SKETCHES.

By Jessie Alexander. 227 pages. By Summer Locke. 340 pages. Mc- known and much esteemed through-Clelland, Goodchild & Stewart, out the Dominion. In practically generous; and to me she was ever ity, from the edifice of society. Oh! Toronto, publishers. R. Uglow every city and town she has delighted kindly and hospitable. But there are & Co., and College Book Store, thousands and proved herself a popu- crimes that obliterate the past and Mary Settler, "Samaritan Mary," embodies a careful selection of the I should have shown myself a traitor the principal character in this book, readings, recitations and reminiscences to love. I tried to lift myself above had a great fund of sympathy for man with which she has charmed many au- the fray; but, the higher I arose, the and beast, bird and flower. As Ben- diences. In themselves the stories jamin of the yard summed it up: and poems make delightful reading, horror of it, of the justice of one "Mary Settler would not leave a while at the same time they will cause and the infamy of the other." wheel barrer out of a cold night, and prove a veritable gold mine for budas to them chickens and poultry, you'd ding elocutionists. Throughout the think they was real human the way volume are scattered many original they take advantage of her." When selections from the author's own pen, Mary had in one room an elegant and one must acknowledge her abilyoung gentleman who had been ity as an author no less than an enterthrown into her lilac bushes from his tainer. The Preface is rather lengthy, car, and in another Miss Spring Glory but very readable, inasmuch as it is Roper, after her narrow escape from not only a brief autobiography but death in a runaway, she naturally also contains many pleasing reminis-looked forward to interesting develop- cences of her visits to all parts of

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Music.

THE BEECH WOODS.

Duncan Armbrest. 120 pages. Illustrated. Price, \$1.25. Wil- Oh surely the blossoms of all the springs liam Briggs, Toronto, publisher. Must be the souls of beautiful things. R. Uglow & Co., and College Book Store, city.

For beauty of description, for the doors and for all the kindred of the wild, and for its valuable contribution

child & Stewart, Toronto, publishers. R. Uglow & Co., and College Book Store, city.

Maeterlinck, the greatest literary shooting a bear just as it was about to many must come, but also the victory money, more science, more comfort, attack their injured captain. The of man over destiny. Maeterlinck's more respectability, even more reliideal home life of Rodney is beauti- faith that "the dead do not die," is gion; that things would move on, With Pipe and Book at close of day, fully pictured. Then there is the emphasized in this book with a new very slowly and gradually, yet on the coming of a great singer, who cap- poignancy. He pleads for the rescue whole in the right direction. And, as It matters not what book on knee, Itures Rodney's heart, and in the end of Belgian cities and for justice to was natural in such an atmosphere, turns out to be his mother. The Poland. The exquisite beauty of his Religion was falling asleep. In how Have you ever seen a new sect found- viduals, have endeared him to countstory is replete with sympathy and paragraphs haunts the memory. In terrible and dramatic fashion, God has understanding, full of kindly, helpful his preface Maeterlinck uses these sig- disturbed our drowsiness and shat-

more I saw of the madness and the

THE WATCHMAN AND OTHER POEMS.

By L. M. Montgomery. 159 pages.
Price, \$1.25. McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, publishers. R. Uglow & Co., and College Book Store, city.

Canadian readers are familiar with 'Anne of Green Gables", "Anne of the Island," and other prose works of this Prince Edward Island author, L. M. Montgomery (Mrs. Ewen Macdonald). They will, therefore, not be surprised to learn that she has also written a volume of poetry. One with her joyous outlook on life, vivid imagination, instinct for words and facility in expression, could not help being a poet. More than that, she has lived nearly all her life in Prince Edward Island, where the fairies are said to have their home. Miss Montgomery's verse is quite as perfect as her prose; and her lyrics, especially those dealing with the smiling aspects of her native province, its fragrant fields of red earth and the "blue sea coming up on every side, 'are of rare quality, delicate, lilting and full of music. The title poem, "TheWatch-man," is an excellent and dignified poem in blank verse concerning the keepers who watched over the grave of Christ. But it is as the poet of the sea and the fisher folk that she be best appreciated. Few, if any, Canadian writers have sung of the sea, and therefore we welcome contribution to our literature. Many of the miscellaneous poems are charming and dainty. Space will per-mit of one quotation-"Fancies."

Surely the flowers of a hundred springs Are simply the souls of beautiful things.

The poppies aflame with gold and red Were the kisses of lovers in days that are fled. The purple pansies with dew-drops pearled

The lily, white as a star apart, Was the first pure prayer of a virgin heart,"

Were the rainbow dreams of a youngling

The daisies that dance and twinkle so Were the laughter of children in long ago: The sweetness of all true friendship yet

Lives in the breath of the mignonette. To the white narcissus there must belong

The very delight of a maiden's song.

And the rose, all flowers of the earth above, Was a perfect, rapturous thought of love.

THE DARK FOREST. and, as should happen, all the tangles love it reveals for the great out-of- By Hugh Walpole. 320 pages. Price, know not what a day may bring forth, duct, but was led to assist because he but if they are as good as Mr. Bell's book must be highly commended. The fame of the Canadian maple is wide- charm of "The Dark Forest," is the A new and better chapter up the was cheating at cards; and yet he algrowing collection of volumes deal- By Mrs. George Churchill. 305 pages. spread. Stories about our birches triumph of the soul over disaster. Mr. world's history is to be written. What ways kept clear of anything more ed, illustrated and bound. Surely no Price, \$1.25. McClelland, Good- and pine have gone round the world. Walpole has made a worthy effort to its contents will be none can tell, than being under suspicion, had land under the sun is more apt to cast child & Stewart, Toronto, pub- but it has remained for some one to re-think the Russian novel in terms though there be many prophets. But plenty of excitement and invariably a spell over the traveller than the land

These letters, edited and arranged which has been prepared by a young replete with vivid realism. The ed in it." of Canadian valor and Canadian by Grace McLeod Rogers, cover a pe- man now serving his King and coun- characters in the book, two English The book is dedicated to "My sol- lovable one, and at the same time has life of the strange races that inhabit achievement. The juvenile books, riod of forty-three years of faithful try. "The Beech Woods" is a se- and the rest Russian, are members of dier sons, Robert, Ralph and Ronald, given his admirers another pleasing it, and in bringing before our mind the various tribes in India. Leaving terpress of the Canadian seasons just pathian front. We are treated to 187th Battalions, C.E.F."

THE GRAND ADVENTURE.

of condensation.

timist, is better qualified than any oth- given a number of sermons by Prof. proved herself a messenger of joy and scribed by Mr. Norris with considerer to speak for his beloved and suf- Law, of Knox College, Toronto. They cheerfulness to thousands of readers, able power. He pictures conditions by Jessie Alexander; "Songs of a Red ROD OF THE LONE PATROL. fering country. His voice is the contain some of the best pulpit ex- In this new story she plays the same and sketches his characters so that voice of Belgium, and to-day he raises pression of Canada. His is a quiet, role on Arden Hill during her sum- the reader can feel them as actually By Augustus Bridle. 280 pages. Ildy's Lane," by Duncan Campbell By H. A. Cody. 348 pages. McClel- it to curse Germany, to testify to the courageous philosophy, a deep piety, mer vacation, and is the same whole- existing. He has undoubted skill as land, Goodchild & Stewart, To- heroism of his people, and to sound a scholarly analysis, and a well-nigh some, generous, cheerful young lady a story-teller, and shows an intimate ronto, publishers. R. Uglow & the note of ultimate victory. The in- perfect diction. Many of the ser- who made such a success of the knowledge of the ways and experi-Co., and College Book Store, city. vasion of his country has moved and mons were preached during the war, Christmas Party. She befriends sick ences of artists. His future books Every boy-and especially every affected him tremendously, and in and these treat of some of its aspects neighbors, helps run a tea-room, will be looked forward to with anticiby Prof. Wm. Boyd; "Canadian boy scout-will enjoy this book we see the man, the pa- and lessons. "The Great Adventure," brings together two lovers who have pated pleasure. Poets, by John W. Garvin; "The mensely. It is the story of a real triot, and the poet as never before— the sermon which lends its title to had differences, serves as the conve-Beech Woods," by Duncan Ambrest, boy, who had been left at night at the we see his soul bared by the harrow- the book, is a masterly effort. It de- nient bridesmaid here and the good home of Parson Dan. He fights his ing suffering of his countrymen, and picts life as a great adventure—the Samaritan there, and generally acquits Most of the new books by the own way up in the world, and de we see his optimistic philosophy with greatest of all-and emphasizes many herself in a manner which made her Barse & Hopkins, New York, publishabove-mentioned writers have already velops into such a manly lad that he its message of hope; we see the hu- lessons it should teach. We cannot such a popular heroine in the former been feviewed on this page. Canada wins many friends. With the aid man aspect of the war, and the hu- refrain from quoting one splendid story. There is, of course, a Prince

tered our dreams! We have lived people went wild with religious fer- all book-lovers as well. ral tone. It is a good book for a "The reader taking up this volume to witness what spems an eclipse of vor? Ever noted what a hold that For a long time now his "poems in boy, and will prove full of keen inter-est to a boy scout. To the older one who hitherto had cursed no man, ed with the spectacle of dying men— his bidding they surrendered their Whig, and never have we had a more Sifton, Falconer, Borden, Laurier, his bidding they surrendered their will, for the first time in the work of civilization. We have been confront- his bidding they surrendered their will, for the first time in the work of civilization. We have been confront- his bidding they surrendered their will, for the first time in the work of civilization. We have been confront- his bidding they surrendered their will, for the first time in the work of civilization. We have been a daily feature of the Sifton, Falconer, Borden, Laurier, his bidding they surrendered their who hitherto had cursed no man, ed with the spectacle of dying men reader, it will bring back most vividly find words of hatred and malediction. flowing blood and burning cities, and money, their jewellery, their all, and popular one. Many a reader-many Steele, Sir William Macdonald, Beck, those long gone days of his boyhood I would gladly have avoided them, have learned what it means to stand left father and mother, wife or hus- a scrapbook-bear testimony to this. for I hold that he who takes upon in jeopardy every hours. We have band, to follow him? We have seen Canadians will be all the more inter- engrossing series of biographies of himself to write pledges himself to seen how powerless our idols, Pro- such occurrences in Ontario and in ested in the present attractive volume men in various walks of life, hand-JESSIE ALEXANDER'S PLAT- say nothing that can derogate from gress, Culture, Comfort, are to tame the nineteenth century, too. On a of selected poems when it is rememthe respect and love which we owe to the worst passions of humanity, and vaster scale, and because their leader bered that Walt is a fellow Canadian traits drawn by F. S. Challoner. all men. I have had to utter these how a civilization which is of things called himself God, is the story un- by birth. One of the illustrations words; and I am as much surprised rather than of spirit becomes the in-Price, \$1.00. McClelland, Good- as saddened at what I have been con- strument of death, not of life. We W. D. Howells, America's foremost hood home at Columbus, Ont. Anchild & Stewart, Toronto, pub- strained to say by the force of events are living through one of those days lishers. R. Uglow & Co., city. and of truth. I loved Germany and of the Lord when He comes as a fire Leatherwood, in the backwoods of residence in Emporia, Kansas. The name of Jessie Alexander, elo- numbered friends there, who now, to burn out the wood, hay, stubble, Ohio, in the days when the settlers many years he has resided in this

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it was needed. We thought we knew in going about under an assumed ten about every square foot of Egypwhither we were going; and a spirit of name, making use of disguises, con- tian soil, every monument that raises complacency and self-indulgence had sorting with criminals, and getting its head above the ground, every cave come upon us. The mist was in our himself watched by Scotland, Yard, in its honeycombed mountains, and eyes, and the torpor was falling upon He was assisted in his exploits by his every ripple upon the broad bosom of our limbs. Thank God, the awaken- daughter and a young Englishman of the river that gives the country life ing has not come altogether too late. excellent family, who did not at all The writer must acknowledge that he And now when we know that we approve of Mr. Bundercombe's con- has not read many books on Egypt \$1.35. The Musson Book Co., To- we are all the more confident of the had fallen in love with Eve. Wher- he would gladly read them all. ronto, publishers. R. Uglow & future, more dependent on God. He jever Mr. Bundercombe went some- The present volume is another of Co., and College Book Store, city. has taken away our shoddy optimism thing was sure to happen; jewels dis- the famous "Spell" series published lishers. R. Uglow & Co., and glorify the Canadian beech. This of his own knowledge of life and this we know, that Christ will write turned to some worthy purpose the of the Pharaohs. Mr. Bell has suchas been done in a new gift book, character. There are some passages it and that His glory will be manifest- fruits of his shady efforts. Oppen- ceeded in interpreting its everlasting

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ton, publishers. R. Uglow & Co.,

these stories of Sylvia. Both girls tist attempting to break into New down the Nile-the reader enjoys it as Maurice Maeterlinck. 330 pages.

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ed and a new leader proclaimed, and less readers, not only of the enterpris- as yet only scratched on the surface, noted how the simple, incredulous ing section of the daily press, but to It is a story of workers, of men who folded in this interesting study by in the book shows his modest boyliterary figure. The scene is laid in other picture is of his present palatial By Edith Lelean. Price, 25c each. nist of the story. Nancy, his desert- holds the position of editor of the form of small, paper-covered broed wife, is the heroine, and she and Emporia Gazette. Squire Braile, a mocker as courageous as he is wise and humorous, are two memorable figures. Among the other characters are a perfectly real and By Archie Bell. 366 pages. Illus- House," "The Making of Canada's delightful boy, Joey; David Gillespie, hard and just and splendid; and Jane, his red-headed, blue-eyed daughter, a girl of few words, almost ferocious

in her loves and hates. gious claim, and its subsequent fail-Amid it all the character of Squire Braile, a suspected infidel, stands out in bold relief. It is a character splendidly drawn, and could only be conceived by the brain of such a writer as the dean of American literature. The squire, perhaps, sums up the whole problem

in a paragraph "You see, life is hard in a new country, and anybody that promises salvation on easy terms has got a strong hold at the very start. People will accept anything from him. Somewhere, tucked away in us, is the longing to know whether we'll live again, and the hope that we'll be happy. I've got fun out of that fact in a community where I've had the reputation of an infidel for fifty years; but all along I've felt it myself. We want to be good, and we want to be safe, even if we are not good; and the first fellow that comes along and tells us to have faith in him, and he'll make it all right, why we have faith in him, that's all."

From first to last the narrative is direct and moving, quick with senti-ment and mellow with gracious, kindly humor.

AN AMIABLE CHARLATAN.

By E. Phillips Oppenheim. 302 pages. Price, \$1.30. McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, publishers. R. Uglow & Co., and College Book Store, city.

Readers of modern fiction are well acquainted with Oppenheim's many books. This one is in his best stylelively, humorous, interesting from cover to cover. It admirably serves its purpose of whiling away an idle hour or so and of provoking many a happy laugh. And, after all, that's something. When Joseph H. Bun-dercombe, a wealthy American, came to England with his daughter Eve, he was not content to be an ordinary tourist. An inveterate reader of detective stories, he found amusement

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lege Book Store, city. A book of genuine pleasure! Good, old Walt Mason, how he has ment to untold thousands! He is par excellence, the poet of American democracy-the interpreter of the thought and feelings and aspirations ling one learns easily much that has By William Dean Howells. 236 pages. of the common people throughout the Toronto, publishers. R. Uglow homely proverbs, his simple, under-& Co., and College Book Store, standable style, his genial optimism, his breadth of outlook, his unfailing act) in various walks of life whose Have you ever seen a religious ability to grasp the feelings and longwave pass over a country settlement? lings of the multitude of ordinary indi-

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The story is an accurate and in- books have been written about Egypt scribe the costumes required, the mutensely interesting reproduction of to dam the Nile. Yet there is no ap- sic to be supplied and other informapioneer western life, a dramatization parent diminution in the output, Per- tion. The idea is a splendid one, and for to-day of the men and women of haps this is because, as the author it has been worked out with much yesterday who were making America— points out, Egypt, which sometimes skill and literary ability. These plays a moving narrative of characters mo- seems to have been the beginning of ought to be very popular with those tivated by powerful, elemental emo- almost everything that plays a part seeking material for public, patriotic tions. We see the effect upon the be- in the contemporary life of man, is concerts. lievers and the scoffers of the setting always new. A book might be writup of a new and preposterous reli-

heim has made this character a very charm, in picturing to us the strange were Egypt's, now, alas, only faintly suggested by the monuments of a long-dead past. The author is a true By Charles G. Norris. . 379 pages. lover of Egypt, and as he muses in Price, \$1.35. The Musson Book the shade of pyramids, or temples, or tombs, he calls back to the imagina-Mr. Norris, who is a brother of tion the gorgeous scenes of a past that and College Book Store, city. Frank Norris, author of "The Pit." antedates all history and goes back

SONS OF CANADA

Dent & Sons, Ltd., Toronto, publishers.

The editor of the Canadian Courier has produced a volume that should be given a hearty welcome by Canadians. It is entitled 'Sons of Canada," and the author in his sketches of these men sets out to tell "not who their fathers were, nor what their sons may be, but what they themselves did with all their might." He who opens this book from patriotic duty will remain to read from mingled motives of interest and amusement. It is pleasant to have all the weaknesses and follies of our Canadian great wittily exposed along with their greatnesses. And in the readformed the lifework of these men. Nothing is set down in malice. These sketches are impressionistic studies of a few of the men (thirty-four to be exlives have made Canada a land of big works, remantic history, rather- too much politics and human possibilities do big things. There are excellent pen pictures of men like Van Horne, somely illustrated with sixteen por-

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William Briggs, Toronto, publish-

The house of Briggs has produced a number of patriotic plays written by Edith Lelean. They appear in the chures, selling at the popular price of twenty-five cents each, and include The War on the Western Front, The Key of Jack Canuck's Treasure trated. Price, \$2.50. The Page Flag." and "A Canadian Fairy Tale." Co., Boston, publishers. R. Ug. Patriotic in theme, they are each ad low & Co., and College Book mirably suited for production at Red Cross and kindred concerts, school ex-Someone has said that enough ercises, etc. The introductions de-

(Continued On Page 17)

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