

Books And Their Authors

BILLY SUNDAY

THE MAN AND HIS MESSAGE.

By William T. Ellis, L.L.D. 404 Pages. Price, \$1.00. McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, Publishers.

In all the history of evangelism no figure stands out so pre-eminently as "Billy Sunday." His remarkable powers of speech and his unconventional methods have brought him very much into the limelight in recent years. His life and work have been so unique and have brought such unusual results that it is of great interest to have a record of these things such as is presented in William T. Ellis's book, "Billy Sunday, The Man and His Messages." As befitting the man about whom it is written, the book is unconventional in style and is a distinct departure from the hackneyed type of biography. Little time and space is devoted to the story of the evangelist's life. The biographer prefers to show his readers the man through his message. The book deals candidly and sympathetically with its subject.

Billy Sunday, the man, had little of the advantages of education. Born in 1852 at Ames, Iowa, he was reared fatherless four months later, by the death of his father on active service during the Civil War. The family was in rather poor circumstances, so he was brought up in a Soldier's Orphan's Home, and there he received all the education he had. After leaving the school he went to work in various capacities. It was while a youth in Marshalltown, Iowa, playing baseball on the sand lots, that he caught the eye of the leader of the Chicago "White Sox," and was immediately signed up. For a number of years he played ball, and during that time won great fame as a daring base runner. The story of his conversion in 1887 is vividly told in the book, and four years later he left the baseball field for the Y.M.C.A. platform. Turning down a contract for \$3,500 he accepted a position on the Y.M.C.A. staff at a salary of \$83 dollars a month, which was often six months overdue. From the Y.M.C.A. staff the evangelist's platform was a short step, and Sunday soon found himself the leading American evangelist.

The final appraisal of the man, however, cannot be made while he is alive. It is a basic policy to judge un-til he is dead, and on that alone he can base his successes. He is intensely American, and knows how to handle Americans. His early life brought him into touch with all kinds

and classes of men; and, as a keen student of human nature, he found out their errors and weaknesses, and knew how to help them to correct these. Billy Sunday's message is the old message that has come down through the ages. His life motto is "Faith." "I am resolved to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified." The chief characteristic of his message is devotion to the cross of Christ. But although the message is old, the methods of the messenger are new. He delivers it in the language of the man in the street, with all the old force and energy which characterized his work on the ball diamond. And he gets results. All through the book are given examples of the lasting benefits of his campaigns. Many of his sermons are given in full, notably his famous "Booze" sermon which has helped to make thousands of American townships dry. The book is full of the pungent sort of speech with which Sunday's discourses are flavored, of which here are a few:

"I challenge you to show me where the saloon has ever helped business, education, church, morals, or anything else hold dear... Listen. Seventy-five per cent. of our idiots come from intemperate parents; eighty per cent. of the paupers; eighty-two per cent. of the crime is committed by men under the influence of liquor; ninety per cent. of the adult criminals are whisky-made. The Chicago Tribune kept track for ten years and found that 53,556 murders were committed under the influence of liquor. . . I go to a family and it is broken up, and I say, 'What caused this?' 'Drink!' I step up to a man on the scaffold and I say 'What brought you here?' 'Drink! Whence all the misery and sorrow and corruption? Invariably it is drink.'

"We've got a bunch of preachers breaking their necks to please a handful of old society dames. If God could convert the preachers the world would be saved. Most of them are a lot of evolutionary hot air merchants. . . . Much as Sunday's language has been criticised, the good he has done is proof of it. Billy Sunday is a prophet to his own generation. In the speech of to-day he arranges the sins of to-day and seeks to satisfy the needs of to-day. A man singularly free and fearless, he applies the Gospel to the conditions of the present moment. By the very character of his mentality it is made difficult for him to be abstract. He has to deal with concrete sins. This is what his biographer has to say about him:

"An unexpected, unpredicted and unprecendented social force has been unleashed in our midst. Not to reckon with this is to be blind to the phase of Sunday's work which bulks larger than his picturesque vocabulary or his acrobatic earnestness. . . . Billy Sunday, the Man and His Messages" is a book which is destined to have as great an influence upon all its readers, as his messages have upon their hearers. The low price brings it within the reach of all. No father with growing children and no man or woman on the downward path could possibly spend a dollar to greater advantage than in securing a copy. Everyone will find the story interesting, helpful, and Christian workers will get many suggestions from the story of Billy Sunday's methods.

ENCHANTED HEARTS.

By Darragh Aldrich. 406 Pages. Price, \$1.25. The Musson Book Co., Limited, Toronto, Publishers.

In this book, the first from the pen of Darragh Aldrich, the writer tells how the faith of a little child brings happiness out of sorrow, to a struggling story-writer and a rich, but dissatisfied young American. At a crisis in her life the young novelist is brought into touch with the millionaire through the magical influence of little Comfort Browne, the maid of all work at Mrs. Prouty's boarding house. Under his inspiration and influence, she becomes successful as a writer, and falls in love with him. He is staying at the same boarding house under an assumed name, and he returns her love. All goes well until she discovers by an accident that he is the man who caused her sister to disappear from her life. She runs away from him, but through the magic of little Comfort they are brought together, after the missing sister is found and happily united to her lover. Comfort is a delightful little character, with a strong belief in the goodness of fairies and guardian angels. The story shows how her faith in the goodness of everything and everyone around her transformed the lives of others, and touched their lives with magic. It is a story of a child, but it is not a child's story, in it there is tragedy and pathos, love and hatred, humour and sorrow, before it culminates in the glorious happiness of the reunited lovers, and their little fairy-godmother. The writer has made a most promising debut into the world of fiction.

GREEN FANCY.

By George Barr McCutcheon. 355 Pages. Price, \$1.35. William Briggs, Toronto, Publisher.

The author of "Graustark" has added to his long list of successful novels. He has woven many romances around European personages, but none quite so striking as that which forms the plot of his latest success, "Green Fancy." The hero is a wealthy New Yorker, with a love for tramping all over the country. While on a trip through New England he becomes one of the chief actors in an international conspiracy. "Green Fancy" is a mysterious old house, and around it centres the plot of the story. The New Yorker, while trying to unravel the mystery attached to a double murder which takes place in the district, comes in contact with a gang of European

schemers, who are trying to obtain possession of the crown jewels of their country. He is able to rescue a Countess who is held prisoner at the old house, and also to secure the jewels and return them to their rightful owners. In this he is helped by a party of stranded theatrical actors, which he has rescued.

The narrative is written in George Barr McCutcheon's best style, and at a rapid pace. The characters are cleverly embellished with a dash of humor and native wit, especially an Irishman with a love for adventure and a self-centred theatrical manager. The story is a combination of delightful romance, thrilling adventure and mystery which hold the attention of the reader from start to finish.

THE AMATEUR DIPLOMAT.

By Hugh S. Eayrs and T. B. Costain. 313 Pages. Price, \$1.25. Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto, Publishers.

Donald Fenton, a wealthy young Canadian finds himself in the early days of the war in one of the Balkan countries visiting an old comrade before returning to Canada. His comrade holds a high position in the country's affairs, having married a wealthy Baroness. So the adventurous Fenton is persuaded to take part in a scheme which is being hatched to bring the country into the war on the side of the Allies. Then follows a story of plot and counter-plot. The king has decided to ally himself with the Germans, and is trying to find a way in which he can enter the war on their side. The King's brother is the leader of the party favorable to the Allies. His lovely daughter Princess Olga, is under commands from the King to marry an unscrupulous Grand Duke, who is a strong pro-German intriguer. But the marriage is thwarted, the King abdicates, and the Princess falls in love with each other, and after some thrilling experiences with brigands, the Canadian gets rid of the Grand Duke, and takes his place at the altar. The schemes of the Grand Duke, the schemes of the German party are thwarted, the King abdicates, his brother succeeds him and declares war on the Central Powers. But he is assassinated, and the crown falls to the Princess. Faced with the task of choosing between her husband, Donald Fenton, and the throne she refuses the latter, and clings to her lover. Then together they go to the front, he as a soldier, and his wife as a Red Cross nurse.

DORMIE ONE AND OTHER GOLF STORIES.

By Holworthy Hall. 340 Pages. Price \$1.35. The Century Co., New York, Publishers.

The golfer, like the fisherman, has long been notorious for greatly exaggerated stories of his prowess, and for wonderful excuses in time of failure. Holworthy Hall seizes upon this little weakness and turns it to good account in this volume. The author has been playing golf for twenty years, and during that time he has been collecting golf stories. In "Dormie One and Other Golf Stories," he gives the reader the cream of his collection. He has succeeded in depicting the romance of the golf-course, and in adding the proper touch of human interest necessary to make these stories enjoyable. The writer is a golfing enthusiast, and shows this by his familiarity with the royal and ancient game, and his understanding of golf-terms and their underlying meanings. In this volume are told with great crispness and cleverness, and form a very welcome, if unique addition to the fiction of sport. All devotees of golf should read them, and should find much pleasure and profit in their reading. And even those who never handled a golf stick will find "Dormie One" most enjoyable, and will laugh at the peculiarities of the golfer as a type, will sympathise with his sufferings and be tarried with his triumphs.

POLYANNA ANNUAL.

By Florence Orville. 246 pages. Illustrated. Price, \$1.50. The Page Company, Boston, publishers.

A new annual and one that will appeal to all children has made its appearance. It is called "The Yearly Glad Book," and it lives up to its name. It is the "really truly" glad book for children of every age. Here are the stories Polyanна loved to read, the puzzles, the pictures and the poems that made her glad. New stories have been brought together more carefully selected copyrighted material than this big Glad Book contains. It is sure to bring joy and gladness to all of Polyanна's friends and admirers.

Polyanna was a little girl who was always able to find something to be glad about, no matter how bad things seemed to be. Now we think of Polyanна we think right away of gladness. In this book we have just those very things. There are stories in this book that tell us about animals, and the way they live and work and play. There are stories of children of other countries and their interesting life. Some of the stories are old favorites that we never grow tired of hearing. There are some of the best things to do in this book. Perhaps those are the

pages that will bring the most fun and gladness. Pictures to draw, puzzles to work out, games to play, and no end of jolly things to do. One can think of no Christmas present more acceptable or suitable for a boy or girl than a copy of this fine and cheerful annual.

CHATTERBOX.

1917 Edition. 412 pages. Illustrated. Price, \$1.25. The Page Company, Boston, publishers.

The 50th anniversary number of this "king of juveniles" is now on sale. The popular annual, so dear to all boys and girls, contains this year over 400 pages and 250 full-page illustrations, eight of which are in color. Between its covers lie unconquered fields of romance, countless days and weeks of joy, fun and adventure for both sexes. The supremacy of this book in its particular field is beyond question. Its appeal to childhood is this year stronger than ever before. The publishers emphasize the fact that "Chatterbox" is not made up of "rehashed" or old material, but that the stories and illustrations are especially written and drawn for the volume, and that the aim is to get the best regardless of cost. This annual grows in popular favor yearly, and maintains its enviable position as the best juvenile published. If you are in doubt as to what to send to a Christmas-some boy or girl, rest assured that they will accept "Chatterbox" as one of the most pleasing and acceptable gifts.

HEART OF THE HILLS, (POEMS).

By Albert Durant Watson. 117 Pages. Price, \$1.25. McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, Publishers.

Inspired by lofty ideals, the author of this little volume has produced some masterly poems, and a careful selection of these has now been put before the public. In this collection there is a judicious mixture of charming love lyrics, beautiful songs of nature and its glory, and interesting war poems, as well as a few lengthy poems of exceptional power and merit. Most of these are written in excellent vers libre, showing great skill on the part of the poet. The depth of feeling and the loftiness of ideal in them make this collection of poems a most welcome addition to Canadian literature.

In "The Heart of the Hills" the poet gives us a splendid description of tobogganing by moonlight on the Canadian hills.

"The moon's green of the hills! All Canada thrills! At the thought of a speed Offspring of ideal in them we come addition to Canadian literature. . . . In "The Heart of the Hills" the poet gives us a splendid description of tobogganing by moonlight on the Canadian hills. . . . All Canada thrills! At the thought of a speed Offspring of ideal in them we come addition to Canadian literature. . . . In the pale moonlight, As she surges away like a shooting star, Down, down the snowy fields afar Through the heart of the mighty hills. Shouts on the merry hillside! Ah, how the Canadian thrill! Of the viciest glee That ever was heard! Or the song of a bird Is tame on the wake of those wilder hills. That spring from the throats of girls and boys On the toboggan slide. Sudden, the air that was still Is a gale of wind, the wide sky And the fields beside, Are as moving tides. Ever so swift to keep the pace And lag in the swift, toboggan race! Through the heart of the great life call! To World's More Wide" is a long poem showing the poet's conception of the storms of life and the tragedies of the world and their relationship to divine love, and the divine aid throughout the poem, rising to sublime heights of poetic expression as shown here:

"O, Love is a city whose gates of pearl Swing wide to the vales of peace, Whence the soul of the weary wall In whispers of care-release, A land where the powerless light reveals Their mad sweep by life's mias, But hearts are free as the heart's can be And true as the faithful stars. . . . O, city of Love with the golden towers, Though land of the viewless light, The up and down, none is love denied. Though the dwell in the tents of night, We open our soul to the great life call! That whispers of care-release, And leads unfurl the gates of pearl! And we enter love's land of peace. . . . The war poems of this collection are of a higher standard than usual, and are of a thoughtful and selective nature. . . . Ah, there is one light Brighter than daylight, Fairer and clearer In its beautiful ray; Right as the sun, Far, twinkling night-light Lovelier, nearer And dearer than day. . . . Headlight and homelight, After the fog of storm-ward way 'Here is the one light Brighter than sunlight And dearer than day. . . . "Heart of the Hills" is worthy of the highest praise. All lovers of poetry will welcome it as a valuable addition to Canadian literature. Dr. Albert D. Watson, who has already delighted the public with other books, has added greatly to his reputation in his last collection of poems. The concluding selection, "The Homelight," is typical of his beauty of expression.

AN ANOTHER GIRL'S SHOES.

By Berta Ruck. 320 pages. Price, \$1.25. Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto, publishers.

As the title suggests, this delightful war romance, by Berta Ruck, is a story of mistaken identity. Rose Whitehead, travelling by train to take up a position of nursery governess, meets a gay young war widow who is going to visit her late husband's relatives for the first time. She finds herself forced to change places with the widow, and when she reaches her destination circumstances prevent her from disclosing her real identity. She tries to do so, but is unable to gain a hearing. Things come to a climax when Capt. George Meredith, the supposedly dead husband, turns up alive. Out of consideration for his mother's health, the farce is kept up, and the result is a most amusing comedy of errors. But a sensational turn of events comes, and shows that Capt. Meredith's real wife had been previously married and that her former

husband was still alive. This clears the way to happy union of Rose and Capt. Meredith. The story is of light texture, but is admirably told. The action, which for the most part takes place in Paris, is always lively and bright. This war romance had great success as a serial in the "Woman at Home" magazine, and will be equally successful in book form.

Extracts From New Books.

"With Homer he has looked at the pain of Troy, and there lingers in his brain something of the light of the sky of Greece. He has taken something of the pensive beauty of Virgil as he wanders on the Aventine slopes; he sees the world like Milton, through the grey mists of England; like Dante, through the limpid, burning skies of Italy. Out of all these colors he makes for himself a new color that is unique; from all these glasses through which his life passes to reach the real world there is formed a particular tint, which is the imagination of the man of letters." —Chapter I. of "Recollections," by Viscount Morley.

Art and Christmas. There is a fine Christmas flavor to the December number of the Canadian Magazine. The artistic features are excellent, beginning with a frontispiece, "Bob-Cratchit's Christmas Dinner," by the well-known Canadian artist, F. M. Bell-Smith. This picture accompanies an article entitled, "Dickens and a Merry Christmas," by J. Cuming Walters, an acknowledged Dickens authority. There are other paintings by Mr. Bell-Smith of famous scenes from Dickens. The illustrations are unusually good, especially the ones by two clever young Canadian artists, John Russell and Dorothy Stevens. The number is adorned also by several full-page reproductions of paintings by A. Suzer-Cote, J. James Tissot and Louis Raemaekers. There are a number of unusually good short stories.

By "M. W." The death of friends fallen in the strife has called forth many tributes of memory. A fine example is found in the Westminster Gazette from the pen of "M. W." Under the quiet stars how still your sleep— How still!— And is that all for ever— But the great thought of you as ours to keep?

Or have you wakened in a place of Knowing— Are there young things there, and laughter falling? Down Eternal streets, and Heaven's flowers growing.

Sweet beyond thought—a great sky still above? Or have the things of old grown strange to you— The meaning of our sorrows—and our love? . . . The words we used—are they so little worth That you forget how near to you, how near, Were night and day, and the green floor of earth?

Or was Death as one hastening to a feast On some glad holy day of Life and Joy, Was it a prison spurned—a soul released? Or is it just a Peace and a great Sleep Under the quiet stars for ever— But the dear thought of you as ours to keep?

An old bachelor, says the worship of human sacrifices, A woman hates to acquire her first gray hair as badly as a man hates to part with his last one.

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What's the matter with presenting Aid. Kent with a long-service medal for fighting the people's battles in City Council for the past twenty-one years?

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