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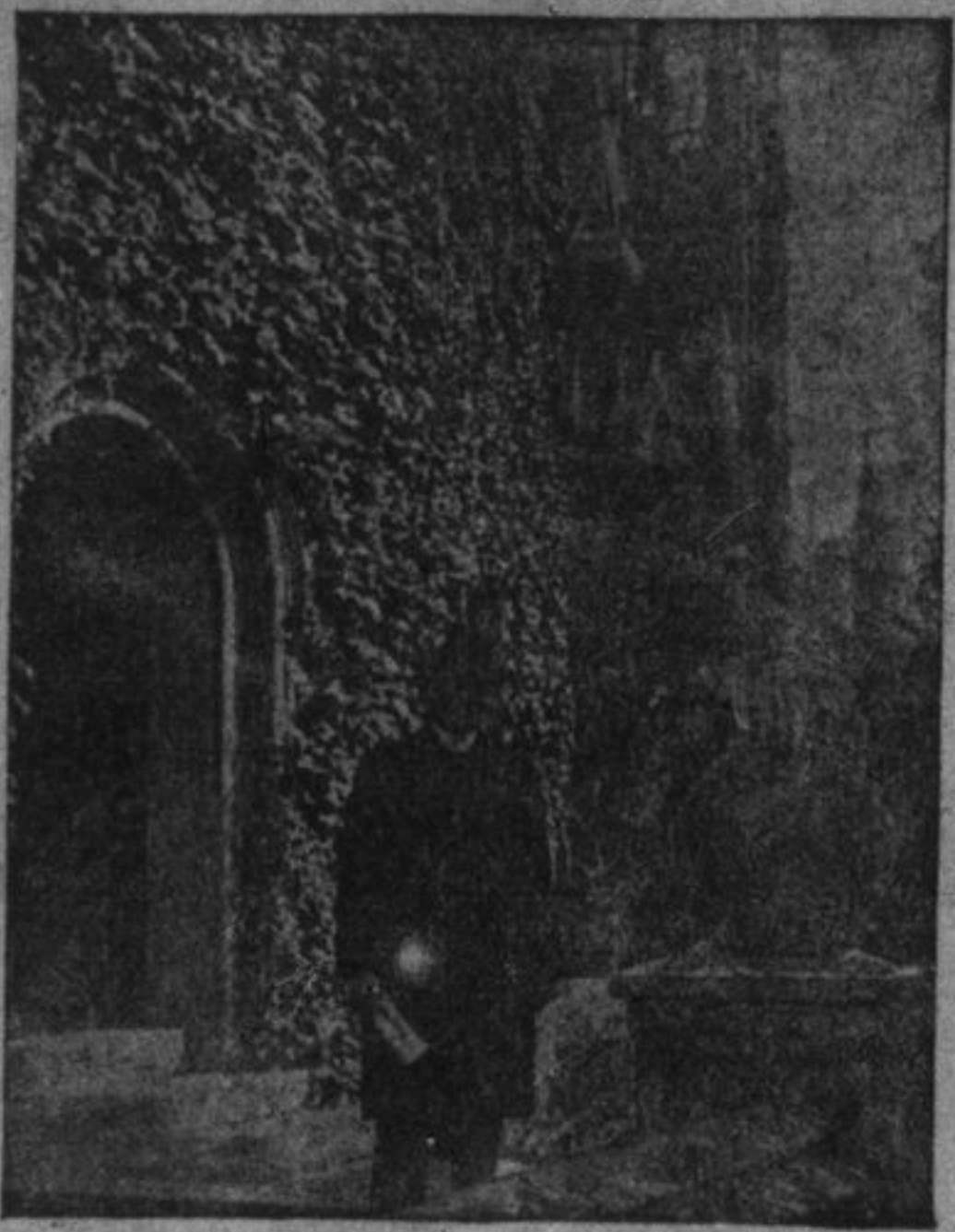
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# BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

### STORM IN A TEACUP.

By Eden Philpotts. 303 pages. Price, \$1.90. The Macmillan Company, Limited, publishers.

Eden Philpotts has the knack of laying the scenes of his novels in the busy industrial district of England, and weaving around its activities a novel of great strength. This is what he has done in "Storm in a Teacup," the background for which is a paper-making factory. The story of the reader is drawn to the attitude of young wife to her husband. She had married him after making a choice between two rivals, one a brilliant worker of special intellectual ability and the other a commonplace, hard-working man whose one great desire is to have a happy home life. The latter is the husband of the woman in the story, and at the time of its opening there seems to be a rift in the blue of the sky in the home. The girl has grown tired of the commonplace existence which she leads. She has adopted a fault-finding attitude towards her husband, and makes comparisons which are rather unfavourable, between her lot and that of some others. With such an attitude there can only be one result. The life of the married couple becomes one long round of bickering and quarrelling. The woman takes advantage of this and makes it appear as if her husband is brutal and cruel to her, and thus she gains the sympathy of all around with the exception of a few who really know her nature.

Things gradually work to a climax. The woman makes an appeal to her former rejected lover, and he still loving, decides that he will take her away from the misery that has been her lot, according to her statement. They go off together, but the man's high ideas of honour prevent any slight being placed on the lady's reputation or character. But soon the poor woman finds that her new lover is no improvement on the old one. Her mind undergoes another subtle change, and she finds that Ned, her husband, is a far better husband than the other man possibly could be. She finds that the man with whom she has eloped is too much wrapped up in his dreams to give her an equal place in his life, and that she would gradually become a mere shadow of his greatness. This does not appeal to her, and she once more turns her eyes towards her husband, who has refused to take divorce proceedings against her and to release her from the marriage tie which still binds him to her. Indeed, owing to the high moral basis on which the elopement was conducted there was no ground for a divorce. So the remorseful girl creeps back into her husband's arms, to realize that her own dissatisfied mind was the cause of the estrangement, and that her husband was indeed the better man.

This is a delightfully humorous novel with a vein of serious thought running through it. The character delineation of the women in the story is very powerful, and Mr. Philpotts has used all his well-known skill in portraying her emotions as she realizes how she has nearly wrecked the lives of three people. The humorous element is provided by the friends and relatives of the three principal characters. The background of the paper works furnishes an admirable setting for the romance, and the details of the art of paper-making are indeed interesting. The story abounds in unusual and frequently amusing situations and ends in a way that will be wholly satisfactory to even the most exacting of readers.

### THE BUBBLE BOOKS.

Stories by Ralph Mayhew and Burgess Johnson, Pictures by Rhoda Chase. The Musson Company, Toronto, publishers.

The series of Bubble Books for Children has already made a great reputation wherever it is known. The books comprising the series are nine in number, and are arranged so as to be suitable for little ones of all ages, and in addition, they are sure to provide entertainment for grown up people as well. They are known as the Bubble Books, because the description of them is quite appropriate. For they not only include stories, poems and songs for the children, but each book contains small gramophone records of the songs in the book. These records, in spite of their small dimensions, are just as clear and well-rendered as the usual gramophone record, and they are of great value in teaching the children to sing the nursery rhymes and songs included in the Bubble Books. This series is sure to be one of the popular features of the gift season, for, with a gramophone in nearly every home, the records will be played over and over again to the great delight of the kiddies. These books can be seen at booksellers and at the various music stores.

### BRITISH SUPREMACY AND CANADIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT, 1839-1854.

By Professor J. L. Morison. 369 pages. Price, \$2.50. S. E. Gundy, Toronto, Publishers.

This splendid volume dealing with the history of one of the most important periods in the life of Canada should have a special interest to Canadians and particularly to Queen's University. Its author is Professor J. L. Morison, professor in Colonial History at Queen's, who only recently returned from service at the front to once again take up his duties at the University. In his preface he explains that this book was written and was on the point of being published when the war broke out, and he went overseas. On the ending of the war, he came to the conclusion that the events of the past four years had not invalidated the conclusions he arrived at when he wrote the book, and decided to go on with its publication. And it is well for the Canadian public that he did.

The period from 1839 to 1854 is one of the most important in the history of Canada. It was during this period that Canada emerged into her form as a self-governing colony, and the process was both long and painful. Previous to this time Canada was two parts, each separate from the other in government, language and sympathies, but both under the British flag. The rebellions of 1837 and 1838 showed the imperial government that something was necessary to bring about a better condition of affairs in this western

colony, and the regime of Lord Durham in a way laid the foundation for the Union that followed in 1841. The Canada of those days, as described in the opening chapters of the book, was not the Canada of to-day. The two provinces of Upper and Lower Canada had very little in common. The French Canadian hatred still burnt fiercely, and the narrow idea of the members of the Family Compact still swayed Upper Canada. The question of the Clergy Reserves was



ETHEL PENMAN HOPE  
Author of "Dr. Paul," "The Hill-side Christmas"

a very contentious one, and there was continual strife between the various parties. At the beginning of the reign of Queen Victoria it became evident that some scheme of government was necessary in Canada whereby the two parts of the colony might be united. Thus in 1839 the Right Honourable Charles Poulett Thompson, afterwards Lord Sydenham was sent to Canada with authority from the Imperial Colonial Office to bring about a union of the two parts of Canada. On his arrival in Canada he found a very difficult situation. He found the two parties suspicious of each other, hating each other to a certain degree,

and began to fear that the only possible course would be to let Canada become an entirely independent nation. But before that was done Lord Metcalfe succeeded Sir Charles Bagot, and a new regime began. He was of a different type from Bagot, and he had strict instructions from London not to give way before the demands of the reformers in Canada. The result of his governorship was the widening of the breach between the two factions in Canada, and when he was succeeded by Lord Elgin it was seen that there must either be a radical change in the system in force, or a second rebellion.

The ministry of Lord Elgin marks the most important period of the time under discussion. To him belongs the credit of bringing together the elements of Canada into a solid united body before 1854. His work paved the way to that greater union in 1867, and Professor Morison gives him all the praise that is his due. Seen in the light of history, the regime of Lord Elgin did more for the bringing together of the races in Canada than any other. Before his governorship Grote said:

"Not only do I consider the possession as worth no breach of the constitution . . . but in a national view I really hold these colonies to be worth nothing. I am well assured that we shall find very little worth the cost they have entailed on us in men, money, and in injuries to our trade; nay, that their separation will be even now a positive gain, so it be effected on friendly terms, and succeeded by an amicable intercourse."

Thus it is seen that in these days the relationship of Canada to the British Empire was in a perilous condition, when statesmen of great Britain were eager and anxious to cut the ties binding the Empire together. The fallacy of that view has been proved in the last five years, and to Lord Elgin should go the thanks of the Empire for the preservation of Canada as a British nation.

The history of these trying days is told in an interesting and very readable manner. By delving deeply into the correspondence of the governors-general and the famous men of the

kind of thing any westerner of the past quarter of a century takes as a matter of course. I had an Irish father who loved roaming, and together we took a yoke of oxen and a prairie schooner and picked our way along a fresh trail across the Duck Mountains in North-Western Manitoba. The distance from Dauphin to Swan Valley was approximately 125 miles, and we covered it in about four days. We filed a homestead claim and then, leaving the oxen behind us, walked out again over the same trail and got the rest of the family. The next year the railway came into the valley—the Canadian Northern—and my father and I went into the construction work and the camps and managed to keep the family alive until we began to realize on our first crop. It was during these months that I lived through much of what has gone into the making of "The Heart of Cherry McBain."

I ardently worshipped the big fellows who taught me to swing an axe and fell a tree so that it wouldn't "lodge". At seventeen I fought a moral battle with the spook, twice my age. Later I had it out with him physically—and I still believe I had the better of it. I have never since bleat



MARSHALL SAUNDERS  
Author of "Golden Dicky," "Beautiful Joe"

so abundantly with that rarest of human emotions, homesickness. And never has homecoming been crowned with such happiness as it was one Christmas Eve when I came home alone to my brothers and sisters—tramping weary miles through deep snow freshly fallen and sparkling under a clear sky.

When I came to Winnipeg I registered as a student at Wesley College, the protégé of a little Englishman who had been a Methodist Missionary in Swan Valley. Years ago, when I first thought of writing a novel, I made up my mind that I'd buy



GRACE McLEOD ROGERS  
Author of "Joan at Halfway," "Stories of the Land of Evangeline," "Letters from My Home in India," etc.

that little sky-pilot a brand new set of preacher clothes out of my first royalty cheque. I graduated from Wesley College in 1908 and since then I have been a preacher in British Columbia, a Y.M.C.A. secretary in Spokane, a lot of things I don't care to mention in Winnipeg, a member of the teaching staff in Brandon College, and am now on the English

(Continued on Page 17)

### THE READER'S VERSION.

By A. Harold Brown.

All the world's a page,  
And all the men and women merely readers;  
They have their monthlies and their weeklies too;  
And one man in his time scans many sheets.  
He reads through seven ages. At first the infant,  
Typing the title in the nurse's arms,  
And then the grinning school-boy, with his thriller,  
Of heroes of the west; tacking like yawl  
Toward a better class. And then the look,  
Glowing like gas-grate o'er a rufel romance,  
Of another's fair one. Then the soldier,  
With gun upraised and heart-throbs all around,  
He stalks throughout the class of magazines  
Which seek a higher circulation  
Even by the gory plot; and then the justice,  
His eyes severe; and criticisms free,  
Comparing old-time authors with the new,  
Not to the latter's credit. The sixth age shifts  
Into the gay and longbow'd raconteur,  
With anecdotes on tap, remembered from  
His youthful days, well meant, a world to cheer  
Via the local paper; or else if grant's rampant  
He writes fierce, trenchant letters to the press  
Signed "Old Subscriber." Last scene of all,  
That puts a "Finis" at the story's end,  
In memories the old-tales still remain,  
Sans wish to read, sans taste, sans everything.

and even the English section of the population was divided within itself. He also found a very strong demand for self-government on the part of a large radical section of the people, but his authority from London did not cover that point sufficiently clearly. He did succeed however, in bringing about a union of the two factions, and the first parliament met in June, 1841, at Kingston. But before it met great difficulties had to be overcome by Lord Sydenham, Baldwin and La Fontaine, with their ideas of representation for the people and responsibility to the people only caused a split in the ranks of those to whom he looked for support and it was only by the partial surrender to these elements at the last moment that a sit-

time, the author has secured the proper material from which to build up his story. This has been done with great thoroughness, and the result is a comprehensive and complete story of Canada's most critical period.

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We in this Northern Clime are able to enjoy the traditional Christmas more perhaps than the dwellers of any other country. A Canadian frost is the centre of a thousand charms, a spot where good cheer and fellowship abound—and doubly so if there are a few good books around. So in what better way can we remember our friends this year than by giving books for Christmas. Any one of the books in this list will give more genuine pleasure than any other article at three or four times its cost—and the whole family can read it. Each one is a suitable gift for someone, and some of them are suitable for everyone.

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