

SOME PERTINENT WORDS OF REMINISCENCE

BY ROBERT ALLISON HOOD

Author of "The Chivalry of Keith Leicester," "The Quest of Alistair," Etc.

I was born in the county town of Cupar, the capital of the kingdom of Fife, as the shire is still playfully called...



ROBERT ALLISON HOOD

performed. A green, level space in front of the castle did duty for a theatre. A proclamation of one of the plays is still preserved and shows that the occasions were merry ones...

that were near to us. As for tragedy, a bloody nose was enough. My father was a baillie of the burgh and a member of the Kirk Session...

The Session were indignant at the minister's high-handed proceeding and to show their disapproval, for a considerable time, they and their families continued the old custom...

This little story may seem out of place here but you will forgive me when I explain. You see it may do me good with my publishers, if it should chance to meet their eye...

My early childhood was, on the whole, uneventful. However, at the age of three, when the family was spending the summer holiday at the neighboring seaside resort of St. Andrew's...

covered crying by a woman of the slums, who had taken me with her to her home in the hope of securing a reward after my parents' anxiety...

Came to America.

My father died when I was eight years old and when I was thirteen my mother and the rest of us, emigrated to Sonoma County, California, where I had two uncles who were pioneers of the gold rush days...

When I arrived at Los Gullucos, to my boyish eyes it appeared a veritable paradise. In front of the house there was an orange grove and grape vines and the long avenue was lined with fig and walnut trees...

First Work.

We settled on a small fruit farm near Santa Rosa, the neighboring county town and I went through High School there. The school had a monthly magazine called "The Porcupine," so named, I suppose, for the many points in its jokes and articles...

One poem I remember, was a satire upon a boy, who had written some lines commenting in what I considered an impertinent manner, on my custom of walking out with a certain person...

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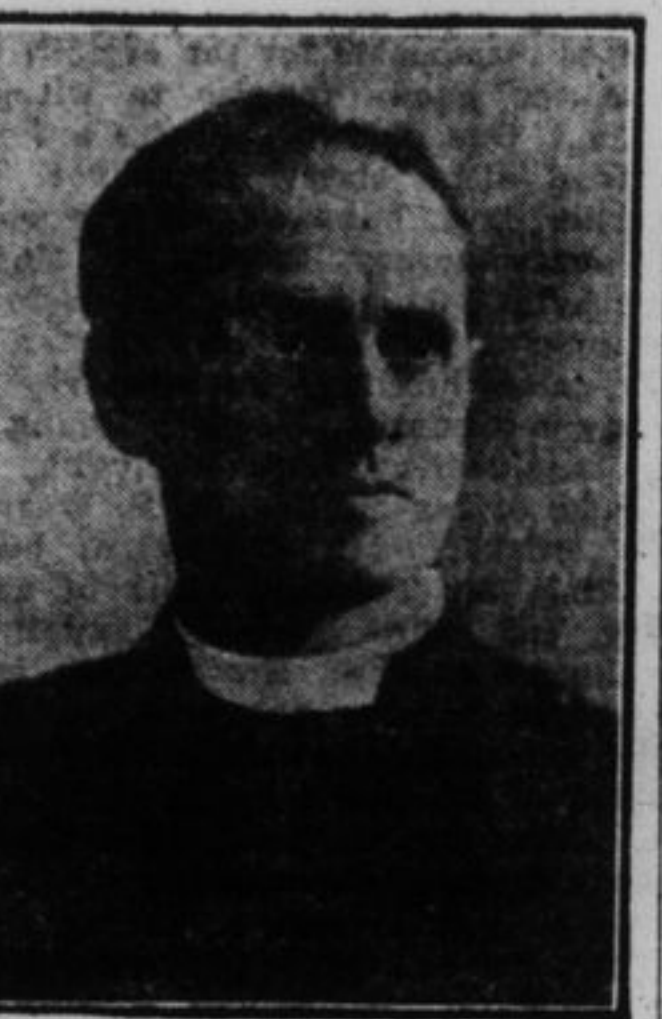


ROBERT J. C. STEAD Author of "Denison Grant," "The Homesteaders," "The Cowpuncher."

enough, Mark Twain or Bret Harte, I forget which, had professed truthfully of this event, a long time before, in a jocular remark to the effect that San Francisco would be one day swallowed by an earthquake but that Oakland would be spared as there were some things that even an earthquake couldn't stomach...

To Canada.

After the earthquake, I came to Canada to make my home in Vancouver and there I have been ever since, at which point I shall conclude my story. This might be considered a happy ending as, apart from a certain humidity in winter time, Vancouver may be considered as near to being a Paradise as anywhere on earth. However, I do not want the reader to remark of this confession as one Chicago reviewer did rather wittily of my first book, "The Chivalry of Keith Leicester," "It ends happily; happily it ends."



TREVOR H. DAVIES

Four year ago when the Metropolitan Methodist Church, Toronto, wanted a new minister, they brought over from England a young man who had made a very considerable reputation as a successful preacher in several of the main churches of the old land. Mr. Davies very shortly made his influence felt in the Metropolitan Church where he has attracted enormous Sunday evening congregations of young people. This appears all the more remarkable when it is known that he is not the so-called popular type of preacher but rather leans to the ascetic.

His one Canadian book is decidedly unique, being, as its title "Spiritual Voices in Modern Literature," indicates, the deducing of the Spiritual message from such masterpieces as Francis Thomson's "The Hound of Heaven," Ruskin's "Seven Lamps of Architecture," Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter," and others of the type. Mr. Davies has become a proud Canadian, and while he bears the earmarks of the Britisher, he is making a steady influence felt both from a Spiritual and literary standpoint in Canada.

The chief difference between the human hand and that of the higher apes lies in the thumb, which is always shorter in the ape. Archbishops and dukes are addressed as "Your Grace," because in the past they had the power of granting favors or graces. Many a man who will always stand up for his principles never will do it for a lady in the street car.



ARTHUR BEVERLEY BAXTER Author of "The Pea-Tree Plan"

FICTION BY AMERICAN AUTHORS

THE FOG. By William D. Pelley, F. D. Goodchild Co., Toronto. Piers, Vermont, is the background for this story of Nathan Forge, who was handicapped by a hypocritical father and a selfish, neurotic mother. It relates with firm realism a boy's ambitious struggle upward in defiance of the iron clutch of circumstances.

THIS MAN'S WORLD. By Will Levington Comfort. S. B. Gundy, Toronto. South Sea yarns are very popular nowadays. This is a typical story in this field relating the struggle of a clean-souled white man to protect the natives against the cruelty and guile of traders. Tom Steepe, the hero, is able to manage the islanders because he was brought up by a renegade American soldier in the Philippine jungles.

ALIAS THE LONE WOLF. By Louis Joseph Vance. S. B. Gundy, Toronto. One of the best detective stories of the season. Michael Lanyard, whom Mr. Vance has made famous as the "Lone Wolf," leaves the British secret service but soon becomes involved in the greatest mystery he has ever undertaken to solve. In attempting to recover the Montalala jewels for Eve de Montalala he has some tall adventures.

THE LARK. By Dame Burnett, F. D. Goodchild Co., Toronto. The story of the romantic career of a fair-haired founding named Teresa. She has a fine voice, and the cost of her musical education is living in Cuba. She has a hectic love affair with the black sheep brother of her benefactor.

TRADITION. By Maria Von Vorst, F. D. Goodchild Co., Toronto. Jessica, the heroine of this story of American life, finds tradition a stumbling block, as we follow her from the woods and fields through the world of fashion to Europe where convention holds full sway. This is one of Marie Von Vorst's typical emotional romances.

THE GREAT WAY. By Horace Fish, Mitchell Kennerly, New York. This American writer has imitated Washington Irving by going to Spain for literary material. He lived in Barcelona and Cadiz for some years and in "The Great Way," which took him eight years to write, he has registered his impressions of the latter city. The leading character in this sex novel is Dulce, a street woman of Cadiz. For those who like sensuous stories, "moon-madness, moon-badness and moon-glance," as Mr. Fish puts it, this novel will have a great attraction. Practiced short-story writer that he is, Mr. Fish is never dull, and has a finished style.

HELEN OF THE OLD HOUSE. By Harold Bell Wright. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. This is a romance laid in an American factory town. Its leading characters are the old employer, the old workman, the new employer, the radical workman, the radical employer, and the new woman.

THREE SOLDIERS. By John Dos Passos, McClelland & Stewart, Toronto. A slashing attack on the methods of the American military machine by one who writes under the fancy name of Dos Passos. There are some fierce criticisms in this story of the brutality of American officers to their men during the late war. No doubt many of these raw incidents are true, but the author spoils the effect of his story by omitting all idealism. This book has been justly criticized as being abominably unfair.

THE JUBILEE GIRL. By Arthur Preston Hawkins. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. A young man sick of the monotony of official life, slips into vagabondia via the open box car route. He rides freight with tramps, drifts down the Mississippi in a skiff, hits the trail through the southwestern states, and finally discovers the Jubilee girl. This story is full of the mysticism of trampdom and embodies actual experiences of the author.

THE CASTAWAY OF BANDA SEA. By Warren H. Miller. The Macmillan Co., Toronto. A stirring story of adventure in distant seas, down in Dutch Borneo and later in the shell fisheries of Dutch New Guinea.

THE CHARMED CIRCLE. By Edward Allen Jewell. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. A first story by a former associate editor of "Everybody's Magazine." The scene of this novel is laid in Paris, and tells of the amusing experiences of a lively American boy and his absurd elderly guardian, who are stranded in a French boarding house.

MY SON. By Corra Harris. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart. This is a sequel to "A Circuit Rider's Wife." The preacher in narrative is the son of the old circuit-rider, but he belongs to the new generation, being saturated in higher criticism and new methods of church management. His mother lives with and thinks that he is not nearly the man his father was, although he is

TWO GIANTS

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VERA Alias The Lone Wolf. Vera reveals the most characteristic which have made the author famous. Among the new novels this season, I fancy that this latest work of the brilliant Elizabeth will easily be one of the first half dozen. Price \$1.90 net.

called to a big city church and seems very successful. The climax of the story tells how the fashionable young preacher gets the old-time religion and falls in love at the same time.

THE DAUGHTER OF HELEN KENT. By Sarah Comstock, S. B. Gundy, Toronto. The story of Bee, baby daughter of Helen Kent, who is deserted by her husband. This is really a study of the comradeship between a mother and her daughter.

THE WORKS OF SATAN. By Richard Aumerle Maher. The Macmillan Co., Toronto. A comedy of life in a village in northern New York. Saton is the nickname carried by the editor of the village newspaper. Saton spread a little piece of gossip and this story records the amusing results. Despite the sinister title this book bubbles over with laughter.

THE GIRLS. By Edna Ferber, S. B. Gundy, Toronto. The best thing that Miss Ferber has written. The story is about Great-aunt Charlotte Thrift, spinster, aged 74; her niece and namesake, Lottie Payson, spinster, aged 22; and Lottie's niece and namesake, Charley Kemp, spinster, aged eighteen and a half.

THE WEDNESDAY WIFE. By Juliette Gordon Smith. The Macmillan Co., Toronto. A curious oriental again, Aletra, the heroine, is the Wednesday wife of Attar Abu Hamed of Tunis, the spouse whom he really loves. A Sultan falls in love with her, and the plot of the story turns on her romantic flight into the desert.

CATHOLIC PROBLEMS IN WESTERN CANADA. By G. T. Daly. 352 Pages, 8vo. The Macmillan Co. of Canada. \$12.50. The West is The Problem of Canada. For, beyond the Great Lakes the Church and Canada are still in the making.

The extreme importance of this fact and its necessarily serious consequences have prompted Father Daly's valuable work. His book is a clear, frank, thought-compelling statement of weighty problems that now confront the Church in Western Canada. Their immediate solution involves the Church's future destinies in those newer Provinces of our Dominion. The reading of Father Daly's clear and fearless message, should prove



AGNES LAUT

Probably no woman has made a cleaner study of Canadian Western History, and certainly no other woman has had her research more pleasingly recognized than Miss Laut. Perhaps this was natural since as a child she moved through in the atmosphere of Queen's University, to Winnipeg and in early years became an editorial writer of the Manitoba Free Press. Her articles in Outlook, Saturday Evening Post, Reviews of Reviews and other journals of the very best class, as well as her several books, have won her a reputation of being one of the most able women writers in America. Rather notably Lord Strathcona, speaking of her said: "She is a woman not only with ideas but also with the power of giving expression to them. While Miss Laut visits Canada and frequently writes considerably about us and prizes also her membership in the Canadian Women's Press Club, she makes her home now at Wausau, New York.

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