

BOOKS

"It is no use to grumble and complain;
It's just as cheap and easy to rejoice,
When God sorts out the weather—and sends rain,
Why, rain's my choice!"

—James Whitcomb Riley



BOOK COVER OF "ELUSIVE ISABEL"
BY JACQUES FUTRELLE

Elusive Isabel, by Jacques Futrelle. Illustrated. \$1.50. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mr. Futrelle is never happier than when he is engaged in placing mind against mind, in solving the fine art of diplomatic intrigue, with a pretty woman in the background making the puppets on the stage dance at her will. We have lively recollections of Mr. Futrelle's skill as a novelist in "The Stumble of a Man," "The Chase of the Golden Plate" and "The Thinking Machine."

In "Elusive Isabel," Mr. Futrelle chooses the White House as his theatre, and one high personage wears a thin disguise as President Roosevelt. Of course this is never spoken of as "the President," but here is one suggestive sentence picturing a meeting of the Presidents' Cabinet: "The cabinet of the President of the United States was surprised to see the thoughtful countenance of the Secretary of State at his right, thence along the table around which the official family was gathered." Ahem.

The plot is a movement, leading to a sensational finale, and for its characters has high-class diplomatic and hostess at nothing to accomplish their ends. The book suggests a summer afternoon, a box of chocolates, and a hammock.

This is the scene pictured by the illustration featuring this book page.

The Italian Ambassador, Count di Bonito, was trying to interpret a French bon-mot made for the benefit of the dandy, dolt-like wife of the Chamberlain—who was educated at Radcliffe—was so deeply interested over him and laid a sealed envelope beside his glass. The Count glanced around at the servant, excused himself to Mr. Queen, Lt. W., and opened the envelope. Inside were a number of embassy news papers, and a note from the Minister: "Sir, you must be waiting for you here. She says she must see you immediately, as a matter of the

The woman referred to in the note is Miss Isabel Thorne, "Elusive Isabel," spy in the pay of the Italian government. Coincident with Miss Thorne's arrival in Washington, D. C., Chief Campbell, of the United States Secret Service, and his assistant, Mr. Gandy, were reading a translation of a cipher code sent down from one of our agents attached to a Government embassy in Europe:

Secret offensive and defensive alliance of the two great warring nations of the world is planned. From Spain, and two South American republics, the code is composed in Washington, and may be accepted. Special envoys now work in Mexico, Central America, and South America. Germany invited to John Brown, who gave us the plan. That secret is unimportant to me. Prince Benedicto of Austria, believed to be in Washington at present, has been sent to Madrid, and France and Spain. Professor secret envoys and presents. I learned of it by underground.

But I inform our Minister: Cable instructions.

Bang! Plot and counter-plot begin, in which the two great antagonists are Miss Isabel and the German. One diplomat is shot, and there is a theft of \$60,000 in gold. Chief Campbell is a clever talker, and here is one of his paragraphs: "Give a yard of canvas, a Spanish boy will paint a picture on it; an English boy will build a ship; and a French boy will build a tent. That's what illustrates the difference in the race." Of course, the god of love battles with the mighty diplomats, and what follows is so mixed with intrigues that a genuine bronze results. The identity of Isabel is held cleverly to the close.

Special Messenger, by Robert W. Chambers. Illustrated. Appleton & Co., New York City, N. Y.

All who imagine that war is a mere waving of battle flags, a period of peace in which it is sweet to talk of doing for one's country, when the bands play "The Star-Spangled Banner" and everything is outdoor, on the scale of one big picnic, should read Mr. Chambers' latest collection of short stories, "Special Messenger"—in which is portrayed the adventures of a woman special messenger during our Civil War.

It is a war that is painted grim, terrible, exhaustive, the kind of conflict that old soldiers talk about, and in which the men when they themselves are present. In which the book is fashioned after Stephen Crane's "Red Badge of Courage," which by the way is hailed by recognized critics as being the greatest story of a battle told in English, although written at a time

promotion and capitalization; methods of appeal for financial support; state aid to private companies; reaction against state and local subsidies; financial institutions and syndicates as agencies to capitalization.

The Emmanuel Movement in a New England Town, by Rev. Lyman P. Powell. \$1.25. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.

The author of this interesting book is the rector of St. John's Church, Northampton, Mass., and what he calls in his own clearly-cut plain English, systematic analysis of experiments and deductions designed to determine the proper relationship between the minister and the doctor (physician) in the light of modern needs. The town written about is Northampton, Mass., a spot of pastoral beauty of which the writer has most pleasant recollection. Mr. Powell pleads for a wider sympathy for the Emmanuel movement, which is destined, he believes, to "re-energize the entire Christian Church and make it more useful to society." He tells the results of the Emmanuel method applied to cases with his own church membership, and what he says is worth more than gold as to the treatment and cure of what is vaguely called "mental disease." This wise book is like a cool hand laid on a fevered brow.

An Englishman's Home, by Major Guy de Monthoux. \$1.25. Harper & Brothers, New York City.

The Oregonian has already given extracts to show what this three-act play stands for, a play that has made England hysterical because it shows how Germans successfully invaded England and lands, an army which was the conquer of English volunteers. The leader of the invaders is called "Captain Prussian Voland" or the "Neurland" army, but the other word is "German." Quite a demand has sprung up for the play in this country, and Harry A. Houghton have shown the necessary enterprise in publishing it. The play is a treat to read, being crisp, sensational, with a stirring climax. It is the name of masterpiece.

The Case of the Baby, by J. P. Crandall. \$1.25. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.

This is a fourth edition of a very useful work that has already found its way into many American households.

It is a manual for mothers and nurses,

with practical directions for the management of infants and children, and extends its observations to 455 pages.

Holiday Mail Service, by Clark E. Carr. \$1.25. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.

Mr. Carr enters into the postal service of the United States, 1863-1908, and remained in that capacity for nearly 25 years. His little book explains in detail the workings of the service, and not only will interest the general public, but the special class from whom its text is taken.

Human Nature in Selling Goods, by James M. C. Drury. \$1.25. Story Company, Philadelphia.

This is a work of art, representing the "American Brotherhood" number, and is embellished with rare pictures and original essay-papers on patriotic subjects. The author of these papers, historical documents that are now lost, family understood yet illumination, and the work generally makes a special appeal to all interested in America. Papers are written from different viewpoints in the Civil War, and the headings of others are "Historic Moral Lessons," "The American Mothers of Strong Men," "First Letter Written in America," "First Overland Route to the Pacific," "The Rise of the Great West," "Ancestral Homesteads in America," etc.

Good Health and How We Won It, by Upton Sinclair and Michael Williams. Illustrated. \$1.25. Frank P. Putnam's Sons, New York City, and the J. H. Gill Company.

This book ought to sell well, from the fact that it bears the name of one of its authors, Upton Sinclair, and the general public of America does not need to be told at this late day what Upton Sinclair is. He and Mr. Williams give an excellently written account of what they call the new hygiene, which is largely a protest against the overeating, the overdrinking, the lead in cities and the conditions resultant from food we eat, but should not, in what Sinclair calls "America—the land of the frying-pan." You are told what you can do to sleep, and advice is also given as to diet, reform, breathing and exercise, the case against meat, etc.

A Manual of American Literature, by Theodore Parker. \$1.25. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.

This learned and critical work is written by Mr. Stanton of Cornell, in collaboration with members of the faculty of Cornell University, and is especially valuable alike to students and to thoughtful reading public. Topics discussed: Colonial literature, the Revolutionary period, the 18th century, essayists, historians, orators and divines, scientists, periodicals and lists of American authors in the "Tauchnitz" edition. The estimate given, however, of American newspapers, does not show a wide acquaintance with the subject, the majority of the Pacific Coast being slight. The book has too much "East" about it to be American.

Cheer Up, by Charles E. Raymond. Clark, New York City.

A collection of wise sayings told in crisp, Emerson-like style, written by some master hand of expression, just the sort of language that makes the world after all, a nice place in which to live. Three extracts are given.

Yet the world is a poem, and the poet has written, using the elements as we use ink.

We do not want to get conceited—there are many stars in the sky, and one does not know the difference if one went out tonight.

In the older days they used to burn to hear the organ, and the disengaging voice, but today they can't stand it, and a crack and a foot, and carburetor him.

Myself, by L. Pitkin, who owned probably the first sewing machine shop in Portland, stitched the red and white stars on the flag, and the girls in the class sewed the white stars on by hand. Later a regulation flag-raising was had, and Old Glory was hoisted from the cupola all during the war, at half-mast or proudly aloft, according to our defeats or victories.

Memories, by Stanton Davis Kirkham. \$1.25. An admirably written record of three years' residence in India, 1904-07, including a glimpse of the life of Saint-Hilaire, Prof. George McLean Harper, \$1.25. Clippington's.

Elusive Isabel, by Jacques Futrelle. Illustrated. \$1.25. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.

A Western military tale, told with vigor and snap.

Mr. Galeworthy is now one of the most eminent English novelists and many records to his genius the new Thomas Hardy. In his new book he has again undertaken experiments and deductions designed to determine the proper relationship between the minister and the doctor (physician) in the light of modern needs. She is convinced that, under certain circumstances, spirits can communicate with us and we with them.

Fraternity, by John Galeworthy. \$1.25. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City, N. Y.

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