

NEW BOOKS

and their Publishers



"JOHN C. CALHOUN," by Gallard Hunt (American Crisis series).—This is volume 10 of an excellent series of well written and very readable biographies. The author in his preface says: "In this book I endeavor to show not only the chief events in the political career of John C. Calhoun, but his complete identification with two opposing popular movements; how he helped to form a broad national sentiment, the part he played in the struggle in his state against that sentiment, and his leadership of the triumphant sectional sentiment. I have shown that as he was a popular leader, he was dominated by popular forces and that his power lay in his correct interpretation of the will of the people. To study his public life, therefore, is to study the course of public opinion in the United States during a momentous period, when it formed into a great movement to resist a great and characteristic and his private life, which was beautiful in its simplicity and purity, and have seen that his great ambition was always subordinated to the cause with which he was identified. It is fortunate that the credit of our history that the leadership fell to such as he. If he had been a man of less lofty character and of less unselfish ambition, if he had tried to turn the great power which the people gave him to his own advantage, he would have made a record of honor. He dignified every question that he embraced, and it is largely due to him that the struggle which reached its final crisis soon after his death has at length come to be treated by dispassionate historians as the effort of honest men impelled by honest motives."

The author quite truthfully says in the above that to study the life of Calhoun is to study the course of public opinion in the south during a momentous period, and he might have added public opinion in the United States during that period, for while Calhoun belonged to the south his interest was national and his attitude toward the Oregon and Texas situations was that of the wisest and most far-sighted statesman. He was one of a coterie of great statesmen who were in the United States never since seen. Our civil war developed the immediately following generation after Calhoun, Clay and Webster, and we had great men, but with their greatness came more sordid interests, so with the passing of this great triumvirate, the United States was purely patriotic statesman was a thing of the past, and it is doubtful if any man who have gone into public life since their time have left the personal impress upon the country that they did. In the case of Calhoun, the measure value of just such biographies as the present. They bring us in close personal touch with the man, and give us a view of public events from the inside. Mr. Hunt's treatment of his subject is fair and impartial, more so than his preface would lead one to expect. The frontispiece of the book is a portrait of John C. Calhoun, the original of which was given by him to John S. Barbour of Virginia. It became the property of Mr. Barbour's son, the late Senator Barbour, and was upon the walls of his residence, Belmont, Va., until the late Senator's death. Senator Barbour's residence was occupied by federal troops during one of Sheridan's wars, and a bold soldier shot a hole through the portrait, which can be plainly seen in the frontispiece portrait. The picture now belongs to Miss Ellen C. Dunnington of Washington, D. C. George W. Jacobs Co. Price \$1.25.

"The My on the Wheel," by Katherine Cecil Thurston.—This is a most brilliant and exciting story, and located in a small town in Ireland. Like all of Mrs. Thurston's stories, it takes a firm grip upon the reader's attention, and holds it securely to the end. One might call it the old, old story of love and suffering, with the woman in the center, but it is not so simple. A man past his first youth, who has been only the hard, cold side of life, who has labored through the years for fortune, but to educate six brothers, and who after prosperity came, married a frivolous, shallow woman, not because he loved her in the least, but because he entertained the belief that a man of means should marry and have a nursery full of solid gold. He had iron and steel, he had no pleasures, nor even a quickening of the heart, until one night, all unthinkingly, he looked into the eyes of a beautiful girl whom he had never seen before, and he suddenly awakened to things he had never dreamed of. She, just come from a convent, with the heart and temperament of the Irish and Spanish blood, which coursed through her veins, knew that she, too, loved the man and that was enough; what cared she whether he loved her or not? An old priest watching the crisis approach, told the girl the fable of the fig that alights on the axle of a chariot, and threatened to sting the man if he did not go faster, but the man knew too much for him and replied: "I only care about him that sits above you, and that hurries me on with the whip, or keeps me back with the reins."

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Not a Safe Place. Old Aunt Hepey Garbide never had seen a moving picture show before. She gazed in speechless wonder at the magic contrivance by which messenger boys were made to move with breakneck speed, barbers to shave their customers in less than a minute and heavy policemen to dash along the street at a rate never attained by a living specimen, either on or off duty. It was all real to her. She could not doubt the evidence of her senses. All those things were taking place exactly as depicted. Presently an automobile came in sight in the far background, moving directly toward the audience at the rate of at least a mile a minute. Just as a catastrophe seemed inevitable, it swerved aside, passed on and disappeared. Aunt Hepey could stand it no longer. Hastily grasping the hand of her little niece she rose and started swiftly for the door. "Come along, Minervy!" she said. "It ain't safe to stay here any longer! That thing didn't miss me more than two feet!"

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