

# NEW BOOKS

## and their Publishers



**"THE GOD OF CLAY,"** by H. C. Bailey.—With such fiction as this appearing, one is reluctant to see the day of the historical novel disappearing, but then there are historical novels, and historical novels, the same in name but widely different in merit and value. To those of intense interest and dramatic power, belongs this present work of Mr. Bailey's.

Napoleon Bonaparte, as the hero, shows the almost hypnotic influence he exercised over his fellow men. His rise from an unknown lieutenant to the first consul of France, the conquest of the east by the French army, Napoleon's marriage to Josephine and his other love affairs.

The author follows an almost obsolete custom in works of fiction, by writing an introduction. As a rule they are just as well omitted, for they are seldom read, but the reader who goes to peruse this will lose a very good key to the author's treatment of this great historic character of whom he says, in this introduction: "He (Napoleon) is the most awful vision in all history of the ruin wrought for a man's self and all his world by the wedding of a great brain to an ignoble heart." And beside losing this advantage, the reader who omits the introduction will have missed the most important and readable and excellent bit of literature. In it the author says some incontrovertible things regarding the historic man when he figures in fiction, and the manner in which he should be treated. He believes, and says: "Imaginative literature has a higher truth and a deeper seriousness than history. Truth does not consist in a record of what has happened. One short story may tell more of a man's soul than a library full of the chronicles of his deeds."

The story itself is brilliantly written, interesting in plot and brilliant from start to finish. It is handsomely bound and well illustrated by Alec C. Ball. Brentanos, Price \$1.50.

**"Lentala of the South Seas,"** by W. C. Morrow.—The author certainly has an imagination which knows no bounds, and which soars into the unreal and improbable with the utmost confidence in the credibility of his readers. It is a story of a body of colonists, bent upon founding a new home, and who have been shipwrecked upon the shores of a South Sea island that is unnamed and unmarked upon any map. The hardships of the voyage, which are passed by the barbarian king and his half crazy subjects are staggering and their adventures and escapades are as thrilling as they are improbable—when one gets their breath sufficient to realize all they have been reading. A voyage on a subterranean river, going through volcanic mountains and barely escaping the impending eruptions is perhaps the most wild and unreal narrative in the book, which is full of weird and unearthly experiences. The earthquake which follows is so remarkable yet so concrete in its detail and description, for the moment one almost believes the whole thing might be true. The leader of the shipwrecked colony becomes enamored of Lentala, whose identity becomes known only towards the close of the story, though she is the white man's friend and guide. He rescues them from all sorts of dangers, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and cannibal inclined natives, as well as from trouble and strife among themselves, and in the means of

Maurice Maeterlinck, Author of "The Treasure of the Humble," "Wisdom and Destiny," "The Double Garden."

finally deciding the colonists to make this island their permanent home. The romance of course centers about Lentala, who proves to be the daughter of the savage king. The book is very handsomely gotten up, with its fine cover design, heavy paper and clear bold type. It has several new and unique features, notably the style and manner of chapter headings. The book is illustrated in colors from oil paintings by Maynard Dixon. Frederick A. Stokes Co. Price \$1.50.

**"Monna Vanna,"** Maurice Maeterlinck's drama, now converted into opera, has had a somewhat stormy history. The new opera, which has just been produced on the other side and which Mr. Hammerstein announces will be given at the Manhattan opera house, was produced despite the legal efforts of the dramatist to prevent it. One remembers when the stage presentation of the play was the subject of misunderstanding between Mr. Conried of the Irving Place theatre and Mr. Fisk, the London censor having several times opposed it, many thought, absurdly.

Maeterlinck, like all master minds, has received criticism, but he is nevertheless one of the towering figures in the literary world today. He is somewhat prolific writer, but has not

confined himself to one class of literature; essays, verse and science have engaged his attention, but of recent years the drama has received the most of it. For some time Maeterlinck has not given the world a new production, but it is probably only a temporary halt, as he is a man only in the prime of years as yet.

**"The Straw,"** by Rina Ramsay. Thanks to the fundamental law of both England and America, which forbids any man to be put in jeopardy of life or liberty twice on the same charge, the central figure in a sensational English murder in the Leicestershire hunting set, can face the revelation of his identity, fearlessly. The revelation has come through the medium of this recent novel, "The Straw," by Rina Ramsay. "Rina Ramsay," however, it is asserted, is not an English woman at all, but an American man. For obvious reasons he has chosen to protect himself by a pseudonym; the identity of his character is not so well concealed—in fact is hardly concealed at all—by the fictitious names bestowed upon them. The consequence is that in "The Straw" it is to be found the inside history of a series of events which culminated in a mysterious murder and started the sporting set of England's hunting shire as it has rarely been started before.

The searchlight, so unexpectedly thrown by "Rina Ramsay's" novel upon this riddle can hardly be said, however to reveal a scandal. No remorse has

yet come to torment the murderer, nor is it probable that his acquaintances will condemn him for his act. Legally, socially—and one may add morally—his position is high in the estimation of the community as he did when, as yet, no blood had been found upon his hands.

When "The Straw" was regarded as a work of imagination only, it claimed attention as a brisk vivid late outdoor sport, and real love. Now that we must regard it more as a true narrative than as a novel, the fascination of its characters and their action is increased.

"Rina Ramsay" has taken real people as models; she has succeeded in making her people as thoroughly alive as the originals. "The Straw" herself clutched at by a despairing man, the woman who gives back to the avenger, suffering he causes his wife, the hard-riding man, and last, but not least, Lord Tabernash, who is the hero, and who others to believe that his nerve is gone—all these would be real and vivid even to the reader who was not aware of the true names must now be known all over England. The Macmillan Co. Price \$1.50.

**"The Angel,"** by Guy Thorne.—This is a psychological story of hypnotic power, dual personality and thought forcing so merged into one another that the reader pauses to determine whether its teaching is Christian Science, New Thought, the Emmanuel movement or plain witchcraft. But there is no uncertainty that whichever it may be it is interesting, not improving, and has the reader to a higher plain and inspire within him more exalted, religious thoughts. "Joseph," an atheist, meets with an accident, and during his unconsciousness a mysterious change occurs, making him prophetic, clairvoyant, psychic. He goes into the Welsh mountains to visit, and with a certain hermit, and while there the hermit and spirit with his visitor. After a second illness Joseph awakes to find his face and figure a counterpart of the universal idea of the Christ. The story is his crusade against crime and vice in London, and the great religious revival of the century.

It is a story of powerful and compelling interest, and save for a rather long and indistinct intermingling of philosophies is a book of splendid parts. Mr. Thorne is not a new author, and on several occasions has published oratory from many distinguished English clergymen. This was notably the case in his book "When It Was Dark," which had a sale of 200,000 copies in Great Britain alone.

"The Angel" Mr. Thorne handles still more daring theme. Geo. W. Dillingham Co. Price \$1.50.

**"Historic Indiana,"** by Julia Henderson Levering.—To describe this book in a word, it is a brief account of the most memorable, striking and picturesque in the past and present day history of Indiana. The author, by her vigorous selective penmanship, in a graphic and rapid style, tells that part of the story of her state, with which she and good Hoosiers should be familiar, and which should have a place in the memory of all those who pretend to a knowledge of American history. It traces the experiences down unexplored streams and through the uncharted, and of the redskins he encountered.

Then comes the tale of French and English colonial times and of the changing fortunes of war, then we read of the days and hardy life of the pioneers who, in increasing numbers, trailed their heavy wagons inland from the eastern states.

There is a stirring account, too, of an Indiana's part in the Civil war with a spirited picture, which cannot omit to mention of Morgan's raid.

Abundant attention is given to the very rapid social, political, educational and literary development of the state following the Civil war. G. P. Putnam's Sons, publishers.

The widespread activities of international peace advocates have brought before the public eye a few individuals of the greatest interest. Among the foremost is the Baroness von Suttner, who, at the age of 68, has just written a history of her life, which has been published by the well known "Deutsche Verlagsanstalt" of Stuttgart and Leipzig.

The "Memorien von Bertha von Suttner" is full of the warm sympathy and keen intelligence which has characterized the life of its author. Many unusual experiences and incidents in the lives of no few characters whose names are prominent in nineteenth century history are to be found among its pages.

It was in 1887 when the Baroness von Suttner first heard of the existence of the International Peace and Arbitration association that she discovered the real mission of her life. In 1890 was published her "Lay Down Your Arms," which has since been translated into all European languages, and sold in hundreds of thousands of copies.

The firm of Ginn & Co. has secured the rights to publish the "Memorien" in all English speaking countries, and will shortly bring out an English edition.

**"Poet Lore,"** A Magazine of Letters, edited by Charlotte Porter and Helen A. Clarke. It is doubtful if there is another magazine, even in this age of magazines, that holds a higher, more unusual place in literature than does "Poet Lore." It has an individuality that is so marked it has no imitators and it is of such character that it would not admit of spurious reproduction—for it only holds its well earned place by the high standard of its work. Its sole attraction is its literary merit, and so sure of its position in the literary world is it that it needs none of the tractive embellishment of gaudy cover, or elaborate illustration, to carry it into favor or hold the ground it has won. Each issue, as it is quarterly, contains, as its leader, a play from some of the leading dramatists of the times, usually it is a translation, and when it is in prose for the first time in English in this magazine.

In the issue just received the drama is "Agnese Bernauer" by Frederick Hebel, translated by Louise Pattee, and is a tragedy in five acts. It is of greater length than most of those that have preceded it, and has such a large cast of characters that, at times, it is almost confusing to follow them. This, however, does not detract materially from the interest or depreciate its literary value. Milton Bronner writes a very interesting article on "Sardoni Naidu, the New Hindu Poetess," quoting freely from various poems and drawing an interesting comparison between this new star and her predecessor of a few years ago, Toru Dutt.

"A Reincarnation Ring," is presented by Edith M. Thomas with an introduction to two poems, one by an unknown "New England singer, who wishes to remain anonymous, and the other by Christian Wagner, which Miss Thomas wishes the reader to compare. The first Miss Thomas thinks might easily be called "The New Elegy in a Country Churchyard," as it so delicately embodies the awakening and reincarnating principle. Several other articles of equal interest and merit complete the contents of this valuable number. Poet Lore company, Boston. Single copy, 11.

**"Myrtle Baldwin,"** by Henry Roth.—This is a revelation of life in the under world of a great city and is the most powerful and dramatic of all this celebrated author's works. Its scenes are largely laid where, as Mr. Munn says: "A few drones spend money in idle luxury while the many starve and where virtue, honor, honesty and life, almost, are crushed beneath the iron wheel of want." It shows how hard it is for any self respecting girl of average good looks and without friends or money to obtain an honest livelihood amid such surroundings.

The story of Myrtle Baldwin is told with forceful vigor and pathos and will hold the reader's attention from cover to cover. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co. Price \$1.50.

**"The Castle of Dawn,"** by Harold Morton Krass.—Come in a while there comes along a story that it just says a story. Suffice that it gets hold of you, and you don't care who wrote it, or what subject it has, you have been from beginning to end.—"The Castle of Dawn" comes under this category and it is a story that you will know about it, get a copy and give out of 10 of you will get your money's worth. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co. Price \$1.50.

**"The Biography of a Silver Fox,"** by Ernest Thompson Seton.—This is the

most notable and certain to be the most popular of all Mr. Seton's books to date. All the magic of the wild free life of the hills is caught and held in its pages; the tragedy of every wild animal's struggle for existence—in the desert as one meets a friend—the romance of an ideal life among the noble animals. The story of this life friendship, set down by Mr. Seton's sympathetic pen, makes an altogether delightful and fascinating narrative; the book is made still more delightful and fascinating by many of the author's characteristic illustrations.—The Century company. Price \$1.50.

Frank W. Skinner, who writes of "Foundations of Lofly Buildings" for the March Century, for many years after his graduation from Cornell made a specialty of bridge engineering in mill, shop, field, and office. Since 1883 he has been non-resident lecturer in field engineering at Cornell university, McGill university, Yale, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and other institutes, besides lecturing extensively to magazines and technical publications.

## GOOD BUSINESS YEAR IS AHEAD OF US

J. L. Bowman Gives Figures and Facts for His Trade Predictions.

"The American Clothing company during the first six weeks that they showed this fall's samples took orders for \$27,000,000 worth of goods as against \$9,000,000 during the same time last year," said J. L. Bowman, proprietor of the Brownsville Woolen Mills store, who returned last week from a trip to New York city. "There is no denying the fact," continued Mr. Bowman, "that since the national election all the American woolen mills are turning out a much larger quantity of material. Everything in the manufacturing line presages good times because the manufacturer is not going to branch out without due investigation of trade conditions. He has too much at stake; hence may be depended upon to exercise more caution than most any other branch of business."

"Without any such statistical facts to suggest prosperous times one could not even the retail trade of New York could appreciate the almost marvelous change for the better during the past year. The tide in business affairs has turned for the better, and the change is so decided, and so noticeable from year to year, that there can be no mistaking its meaning."

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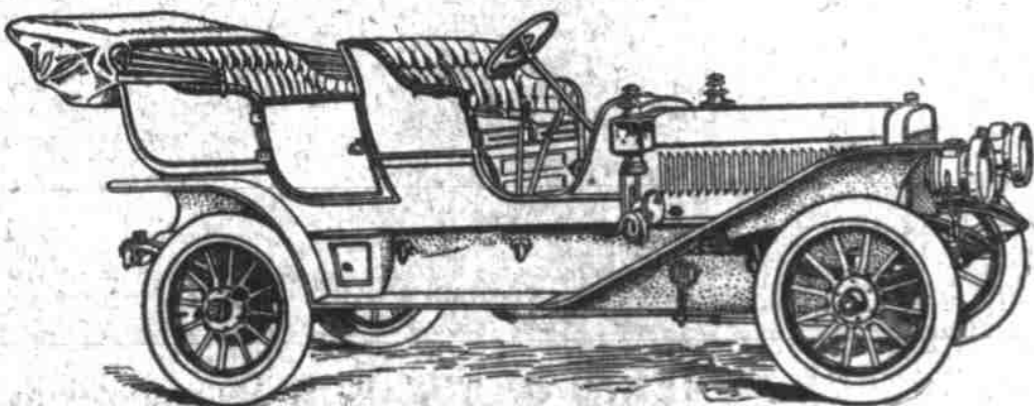
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