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Mysterious Marie's

Mawkish Melodrama It was customary for critics, for a good many years—let's see, it was about 30 that her first book, "A Romance of Two Worlds," appeared—to "elate," as she is so fond of describing it, Marie Corelli. In the days of our childhood, despite the flippant contempt of reviewers, we remember being thrilled by "Ardath" and "The Sorrows of Satan," although in maturer years, attempts to although, in maturer years, attempts to read these popular works proved pain-fully tedious. But then, in days, when Anatole France and Thomas Hardy were Anatole France and Thomas Hardy were merely names, we were thrilled also by Laura Jenn Libber and Bertha M. Clay. Now Miss Corolli has never, even by her most unkind assailants, been classed with Charles Garvice, the Laura Jean Libbey of England, or with Miss Libbey, the Mr. Garvice of America.

In taking up Miss Corolli's latest novel, "Innocent" (Doran, New York), there was an expectant anticipation of Jeiune Joya.

"Innocent" (Doran, New York), there was an expectant anticipation of Jejune Joya. Despite the length of the book—US pages—we began hopefully. "The old by-road went rambling down into a deli of deep green shadow." Ah, more bygone memories—of the vernal opening of Miss Clay's romance, "A Modest Passion." But to go on—"It was a reprobate of a road—a vagrant of the land—having long ago wandered out of straight and even courses," Whereupon we know—having

ago wandered out of straight and even courses." Whereupon we know-having learned symbolism of scenic openings from d'Annunzio-that "crooked things" are going to happen in this book.

Innocent, the heroine, has grown up believing herself old Farmer Jocelyn's daugater. Before he dies he tells Innocent the truth: That, 18 years before—"when there came on a sudden storm—just a flash of lightning—" a mysterious man appeared, leaving a baby at the farm, Whereupon: Oh, help me, dad," Innocent said piteously; "it's not my fault that I am what I am."

Despite what she is, Innocent goes to London and writes a novel. "Not an ephemeral piece of fiction," says Miss Corelli; "not a "Wells' effort of imagination under hydraulic pressure; not an

tion under hydraulic pressure; not an hysterical outburst of sensual desire and disappointment such as moves the souls Blook, a real Book, likely to live as long

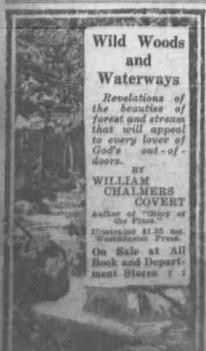
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as literature itself." Thereupon we find a ciue to the mysterieus prototype of the fair heroine, who clothes herself in mystery, and is never interviewed.

Innocent discovers her mother—no other than Lady Blythe, handsome, unscrupulous, a dushing villainess in silvery gray and a coronet of emeralds. "Lady Blythe's face grew ghastly pale in the uncertain light of the half-veiled moon.

"What do you mean to do?" she asked.

'What do you mean to do?' she asked



DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER Author of "Mothers and Children"-Holt.

in an angry whisper. 'I must know, What are your plans of vengeance?--your campaign of notoriety?--your your campaign of notoriety?—your scheme of self-advertisement? — what claim will you make?" A sweet mother, as we see, who must

have been familiar with Innocent's living prototype. Lady Blythe one night
takes out of a drawer a case marked
'veronal.' Next morning doctors.
"Suicide?" whispered one,
"Oh, no! Mere accident—an overdess of

reronal-some carelessness-quite a comon occurrence. Amadis de Jocelyn, "a refined libertine, and lived a life of selfish aims to selfish ends. He had been looking about for a fresh victim when he met Innocent." Innocent amused him for a time, and he paints her picture. Then he casts her

For your amusement you have ruined

"'Ruined you" He turned upon her in indignant protest. 'You must be mad. You have been as safe with me as in the "She gave a tragic gesture of eloquent

'You have rulned me just the same-

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Private Watters writes that one of his connades has a ripping cure for neural-gia, but he isn't soing to take a patent out on it. "While bing in the tranches, mad with pain in the face, a shell burst beside him. He wasn't hit, but the explosion rendered him unconscious for a time, and when he recovered his neural-gia had gone. Ills name is Palmer, so now we call the German shells 'Palmer's

"War is rotten when you see your best oal curl up at your feet," comments an-

other letter.
And, on the other elde, this letter from a Frenchman: "In the Department of the Nord, I heard a British officer of high rank declare with delicious calm between "Certain to create a sensation."

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two ferocious attacks on the town, 'Gen- Mr. Stephens, but worth a thousand tlemen, it was nothing. Let's go and have tellings more.

ten.' "
The book is full of odd bits of cor ment, hone more illuminating, by the served that the city soldier stood the noise of cannonading better than the caunityman, "because he was used to trams and motors"."

Pulitzer's Life

Any of the six secretaries of the late Joseph Pullitzer could sympathize with Tantalus from personal experience. It seems that Pulitzer's favorite diversion was to have a secretary sit next to him at table and by adroit-often maladroitnaneuvering of the conversation manage that the poor fellow should not be permitted to swallow a bite.

These six men must have been marvels

-one wonders that they are not all now holding cabinet positions or managing great enterprises. Each was picked from hundreds of applicants from all over the numereds of applicants from all over the world. Their qualifications were amazing. First of all, one must have a memory nearly infallible—not quite so, for that would not permit the distinguished employer to show, as he loved to do constantly, that his own memory was still better. The secretary must know several languages, be versed in literature, art, music and the sciences, must have been widely traveled, and, among vari-ous other requisites, must be a thorough-ly good sailor and a fine horseman. Think of those two accomplishments going together!
Among the immorial six-they ought to

Allong the immortal six-they ought to be in the Hall of Fame-was Alleyne Ire-land, who has just given his very read-able reminiscences in "Joseph Pulitzer," published by Mitchell Kennerley, New York, It's well worth buying and read-ing.

Angels and Irishmen

Jumes Stephens is the most likable, the most cheerful and probably the sanest of the younger writers out of Ireland. "Here Are Ladies" was, at moments, an unkind book, but it was never distorted in vision, and it was always a delight to read. Mr. Stephens' new book, "The Demi-Gods" (Macmillian, New York), is of that same quality. For a sample there is the story of Brien O'Brien and the three-penny bit, told once before by

When Brien O'Brien died some one slipped a three-panny bit into his hand. The hand which had never refused money when he was alive closed on it. The money remained there when Rhadamanthus condemned Brien to eternal punishment. But the scraph Cucuhlain—all the scraphs have Irish names—took it from him and created on avent first thereby. him and created an awful fuss thereby.
Tortured in hell, firen cried out for his
three-penny bit. The cry disturbed the
master of hell, He sent to Rhadamanthus.

master of hell. He sent to Rhadamanthus, but the great Judge refused to act, until he discovered the thief. Then he hursed the scraph into space, and, for the first time in recorded history, sent a mortal after him. "On after him, Kerrymant" he cried, and after him Brien spun. They hit the earth just outside the village of Dennyhrook—where else would you expect an Irishman to fall?—and scarcely had they, bumped twice when Brien of the O'Brien nation had the scraph by the throat.

"My three-penny bit!" he roared. But the scraph burst out laughing. He had dropped it somewhere near Saturn's rings. They were both stark naked. They decided to take the clothes from the first two men that came by, and they did. This explains why MacCann had no

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About Authors

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