

# SOME RECENT FICTION DEALING WITH PHASES OF LIFE ON THE TWO AMERICAN CONTINENTS

## HOW BRAZIL ENTERED THE WAR

Told in the Story of the American Who Built the House of the Little Shoes

With the sureness of touch that marks the literary artist, Eleanor M. Ingham has developed from the canvas of a magazine story which had a popular vogue not very long ago a gripping novel, emphatically up to date in that it brings its personages and incidents to the threshold of the entrance into the world conflict of the republic of Brazil as the staunch ally of the United States of America and the old world nations engaged in the splendid task of making the world safe for democracy.

Readers of the story of "The Great House of the Little Shoes" will recognize at once that unique and sumptuous palace shown in the color plate of the novel, built on the edge of the Brazilian capital by a man who had carved his way from the lowliest stratum of New York to the political summit of our rich republican neighbor south of the equator; for they have seen it before in the picture offered by Miss Ingham in her magazine tale. It is the dwelling place of a native New Yorker who enjoys the distinction of double citizenship—that of the land of his birth as well as of the country to which he emigrated in boyhood.

This migration followed the gift of a pair of shoes at the hands of a little girl who, seeing the forlorn state of the foot-covering of a New York street waif, in childish benevolence forces him to take her own. Truly they are "magic shoes," for they lead their recipient to and through paths of glory in his adopted land, which makes him his first citizen, entitled to designate himself as a "Twice American," which is the title of Miss Ingham's patriotic romance in its new guise. When he attains the pinnacle of greatness in the South American republic, Senator David Noel, who is none other than the former street waif transformed into soldier, statesman, railroad potentate and man of limitless influence, builds himself a magnificent home, to which he gives the odd name of the "House of the Little Shoes," in remembrance of the kindly act of the good fairy who gave him his start in life by her gift.

From this groundwork the author of "The Twice American" weaves a romance that is sparkling, amusing, patriotic and altogether pleasing to American sensibilities. The scene alternates between New York and the Brazilian capital and its environs, with a glimpse of a prison in the interior of that vast domain, where a luckless outlander, whose home happens to be Philadelphia and who has killed an Indian in resisting seizure of a valuable property by certain villainous pro-German or half-German natives, is dragging out a remorseless existence until released by the indomitable Senator Noel. The latter is heart and soul in sympathy with the United States and other civilized nations in their purpose to end the frightful strife that has become the keystone of Kultur as interpreted by the Kaiser; and, consequently, the "twice American" is heartily hated by the politicians who get their inspiration from Potsdam. But Senator David overcomes all their machinations, as appears near the close of the book, when Brazil breaks off diplomatic relations with Berlin.

A capital story, capably told and altogether timely and vibrant with patriotic spirit.

THE TWICE AMERICAN. By Eleanor M. Ingham. With colored frontispiece. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. \$1.35.

## ROMANCE OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL

Margaret Hill McCarter Has Written a Fine Novel of Pioneering

Stalwart Americans, the brave spirits who defied the desert, walked the untracked paths with bold and intrepid tread, and died heroically, many of them, in blazing the way over the Santa Fe trail are outstanding figures in a virile story from the pen of Margaret Hill McCarter, who knows the tale of the great Southwest, its romances, its early triumphs, its monumental deeds as few of her contemporary novelists know it. In her latest production, "Vanguards of the Plains," Miss McCarter fairly outdoes herself, which is saying a good deal for the author of "The Price of the Prairie."

"Beginning on the eve of the war with Mexico, this gifted author leads her readers through a period of American history big with import in the development of the republic, and she does it, too, with the certainty of one wholly familiar with events that form a vital part of the Great American epic. Her men are robust, splendid exponents of a conquering race, who have not let the finer instincts of true manhood, which is always gentle as well as courageous. And if the men, vanguards in the building of a firm highway for the commerce and civilization of a western empire of marvelous resources, thrill the senses by the high character of achievement and loyal, honest aspiration, the women who grace the pages of Mrs. McCarter's novel are in no respect less charming, wholesome, winsome and fit partners in the development of romance that has the virtue of a faithful historical record.

There are graphic word pictures of the majesty of the southwestern country and the "Santa Fe trail," which the adventures boldly challenged, notably of the Grand Canyon and of scenes at the Mexican border that rivaled the gaze of pilgrims of today even as they caught the senses of the pioneers of an earlier period. "The glamour of the plains is before my eyes; the tinge of courage, danger-born, is in my pulsebeat, the soft hand of love is touching my hand," writes the author in her foreword, and she proves what she says in the vivid tale she tells in "The Vanguards of the Plains," which is a distinct and valuable addition to the literature of pioneer days that can never fail to awaken heroic response in the mind and heart of the American who glories in the winning of the West and what it has meant to the nation.

VANGUARDS OF THE PLAINS. By Margaret Hill McCarter. With colored frontispiece. New York: Harner & Bros. \$1.45.

## A Salutation to Adventurers

When the reader picks up a novel by a Briton and discovers that it is about America, his first impulse is to wonder what business a foreigner has to attempt to write of life here. But wait a bit. If the novel is about colonial Virginia, who should write it, an American or a Briton? Colonial Virginia owed allegiance to a British king, it was settled by the British. Its life is part of the life and part of the history of the Greater Britain that even now covers a large portion of the earth. So, after all, when John Buchan, a Scotchman, wrote "Salute to Adventurers" and placed the scene of it in Virginia in the early days of the Jamestown settlement, he was not trespassing on forbidden ground, but was

dealing with a time when the life of the old and the new countries was closely related. The Virginians were British and Virginia was a British settlement. It is as legitimate a field for a British novelist as either Scotland or Ireland.

The "Salute to Adventurers" first appeared in England two years ago. An American edition of it has just come from the press. It is a story of love and adventure, written with admirable restraint and consummate literary skill. Things are happening in it from beginning to end, thrilling things that might easily have been made to appear melodramatic, but Mr. Buchan's here, who tells them, uses a narrative style that is in perfect keeping with his character. The story begins in Scotland, where a youth finds that he must make his own fortune. He attaches himself to a Glasgow merchant who has dealings with the colonies, and finally goes to Jamestown to look after the business there. He has quarrels with the aristocrats, he fights a duel, he organizes a campaign to protect the town from an Indian uprising, he is caught by the Indians and has a narrow escape from death, and finally wins the love of a girl whom he first met in Scotland and saved from death within a day of the meeting. The book will enlarge the circle of Mr. Buchan's admirers.

GOOD OLD JOE LINCOLN. By Joseph C. Lincoln. Keeps close to the soil of Cape Cod in his new novel, "Extricating Obadiah." A Cape Cod story by Joe Lincoln is sure to be a good one. He knows his locale and he knows his folks. He knows how to put them both in a story that is more than merely readable and craftsmanlike. His novels, light as they are in tone, have definite value in portrayal of character, preservation of a passing provincialism, and in rich good humor. He writes real comedy.

IN THE TRENCHES AND BEHIND THE LINES, rations and equipment, the new religion of the war, Belgian refugees, impressions of English, French and German soldiers, German atrocities, "who started the war," under fire, "over the parapet," gassed at Ypres, wounded, lying two nights and a day in the open—they are all in the story. A common soldier with eyes in his head and a smile on his lips tells how things looked to him "over there" and what he did and how he felt in all the thrilling vicissitudes of war.

THE GIRL BEAUTIFUL. By Jean K. Baird. Philadelphia: Penn Publishing Company. \$1.

THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE. The Grolier Society, whose local headquarters are in the Denckla Building, is issuing a handsome book describing the children's encyclopedia, known as the "Book of Knowledge." The book is valuable in itself, for, although it is largely made up of sample pages of the encyclopedia,

the information it contains is complete so far as it goes. It can be obtained without charge by all those who ask for it. The "Book of Knowledge" has already commended itself to thousands of parents, who are using it for the education of their children.

EASY FRENCH FOR SOLDIERS. Colonel Cornelis De Witt Wilcox, professor of modern languages in the United States Military Academy at West Point, has prepared an admirable little textbook on war French for the benefit of the American soldiers. Those who are able to speak and understand a few of the common French phrases used in ordinary daily intercourse will be much more useful soldiers on the continent than those who think English is good enough for any one. It is, therefore, important that the soldiers should study some French textbook, and the more elementary it is the better. Colonel Wilcox's book will serve the purpose very well. Besides being a brief French grammar, it

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the unexpected legatee of a fortune, becomes the shining mark for persons who wish to relieve him of his estate. He is in constant trouble, but the captain's resourcefulness saves him from his many pitfalls.

ENTRICATING OBADIAH. By Joseph C. Lincoln. New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.

## How to Be Beautiful Though a Woman

One of the most eloquent preachers of his time once said in the course of a sermon that it was the duty of every woman to make herself as beautiful as possible. As he spoke he looked directly at his wife in the congregation before him. She wore a little dinner-plate hat of black straw, a gown which served not as an adornment but as a decent covering, and her hair was cut short. She looked back at him without batting an eyelash. Jean K. Baird agrees with this clergyman, for she has one of the character in her book, "The Girl Beautiful," remark that beauty is woman's obligation to the world. The preacher could not persuade those of his own household. Miss Baird hopes to bring happiness and content to all young women who long to be beautiful by showing them how. She assumes that there are none without such

KNOW YOUR OWN STATE. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. By Thomas Kilby Smith, of the Philadelphia Bar. Preface by WALTER GEORGE SMITH, President of the American Bar Association. History of the Keystone State, with an up-to-date account of every interest of every citizen in the great Commonwealth. Political, Military, Financial, Commercial, Religious, Domestic, Educational, Professional, Literary, Sociological. The best short history and handbook of any Commonwealth ever issued.—Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 19, 1917. 212 Pages, Cloth, \$1.50—Map, Illustrations. At Your Bookstore, or The Encyclopedia Press, Inc. 23 East 41st St., New York. AGENTS WANTED.

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