

FRANCES BURNETT'S NEW NOVEL WITH A LITTLE GIRL IN IT

Explorers of the Human Heart Who Report Their Discoveries

They will grow-up people persist in asking what is the best novel, or poem ever written, as though there were an absolute standard by which a piece of literature can be judged? School-boys debate whether Washington or Napoleon was the greater man, but a man though there may be a positive answer to this question, there certainly is none to the question, Who is the greatest man who ever lived? One man and another has some qualities of a different kind, say that one is greater than the other is like saying that fire is greater than water or sugar greater than salt.

at first, but when she succeeds better than they do they begin to respect her. She is a managing sort of a creature with a fine sense of her own. But she is also a familiar creature with a longing for a husband and children. The book is the story of her love affairs and of her farming, with an interlude about the love affairs of her younger sister. It tells the tragedy of a woman longing for a mate. The neighboring farmer who wants to marry her does not appeal to her in that way. She falls in love with the son of a neighboring gentleman, and they are engaged, but the man dies. Some years later she is attracted to a worthless scamp because of his resemblance to her dead lover, and she is engaged to him for a little while. He betrays her confidence and is brutal to her. Then she breaks with him, and the book ends with her selling her farm and planning to go away to live with her charming, rich sister, her sister, her farm, her home, her good name, all lost."

As a type of the woman left alone in the world and struggling with fate and betrayed by the finest qualities of her nature she is a moving and a tragic figure.



Edna Ferber Caricature of the novelist from the Bookman

QUICK ON TRIGGER

Battle, Murder and Sudden Death in Wild West Yarn

Years ago, when the blood-and-thunder drama was "the thing," Harry Clay Blaney and Langdon McCormick wrote rival plays on a bet as to which would "kill off" the more characters. Blaney's last scene called for his hero and heroine to be seen standing on the smoking ruins of an old fort—the only survivors in the entire cast. A quick tabulation showed the score of "dead and dying" as exactly even.



Don Marquis

DR. CONWELL EXPLAINS WHY LINCOLN LAUGHED

Whether Dr. Russell H. Conwell preaches, lectures or writes, the result usually is interesting and informing as well. "Why Lincoln Laughed" (Harper's) presents no deviation. It is a short, briskly written little book, based mainly upon a long interview Dr. Conwell gave to a young army officer, had with the President in pleading for the life of a fellow-soldier condemned to death for an unwitting infraction of military regulations.

JOHN GOULD FLETCHER ON LIFE AND ART OF GAUGUIN

Paul Gauguin, whose memory was revived when Somerset Maugham put him in a novel two or three years ago, has been the subject of much writing since, and he has won a fame which he did not achieve during his life. There are some who might say "notoriety" is a better word than "fame" in this connection, for the art of Gauguin does not please every one. It pleases John

Gould Fletcher so greatly that he has concluded his "Paul Gauguin: His Life and Art" (Nicholas L. Brown) with this remarkable sentence: "In Roussseau's prose, in Whitman's poetry and in Gauguin's painting we see the only gleam of hope for self-tortured humanity and the promise of a land where nature and man are one and where reigns a peace that passes all understanding."

Mr. Fletcher has told the sordid story of Gauguin's life, from his birth of erratic and revolutionary ancestors to his death in poverty in the South Seas.

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JOANNA GODDEN

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