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spring of three French novels gives American readers not familiar with the language an opportunity to discover for THE other two novels were written in themselves what are the tendencies of modern French literature. The reader Illusion" (Putnams), is a first novel may say that he does not care in what by Raymond Escholier, curator of the direction French or any other literature Musee Victor Hugo. In May of last ad with the same healthy, con- is moving, so long as it is interesting; awarded to Mr. Escholier in recognition but if he will recall that literature is of his achievement as a novelist. attacked the decadence of modern the mirror in which the spirit of the lusions" deserved acclaim, for it is a "The Glass of Fashion," time is reflected, it may dawn on his beautiful piece of work. It is a study consciousness that a novel is something of a type of woman represented in every more than a story, even though the nov- community however small-the woman

write an entertaining narrative. Every novelist is a chameleon, taking on the color of his environment. He There is nothing new in this. I have restated it simply that the habitual novel reader may remind himself that he is constantly acquainting himself with the data from which, if he wills, he can discover what is going on in the minds of men about him.

These three French novels indicate in three different ways that there is in France a lively appreciation of the basic human virtues.

LET us consider first "Maria Chap-delaine" (The Macmillan Company). Some one aware that it is a G. P. P. the Lake St. John country in Quebec another way. There runs through the may argue that it is not a French novel. The mere statement of the objection refutes it. A novel does not have to be ciation of her longing for that which she alls. There, soon recognizing written about France to be a French could never have. There is no con-The only requirement is that it be written by a Frenchman. Wheth- burning desire for the lightness and er he write about Canada, or Russia, joy of life which, lacking the reality, or the South Seas, every idea that he had to satisfy itself by the pretense of expresses and every phrase that he uses it? is tinctured with the color of the France that he knows. Louis Hemon, who wrote "Maria Chapdelaine," Frenchman who went to Canada from France to seek his fortune and spent

> puts upon them. The people in the novel are the himbermen and the trappers and the pio- the baby boy in the household. She neers who are clearing the Canadian finds the buby asleep and touches his neers who are clearing the Canadian wilderness and making it fit for human soft little hand. The little hand grips in the country is "Truly Rural," by habitation. They are simple folk with her finger and will not let it go. In her Richardson Wright, that has just come habitation. They are simple folk with her finger and will not be child. It can be companied to the press of Houghton Miffling or the press of Houghton Miffling out of his crib and he. Company. Mr. Wright, who is well primitive emotions, who live without the conveniences of thickly settled communities. There is much sordidness among them and much beastly passion.
>
> She lifts him out of his crib and he, after looking at her a moment, pats her among them and much beastly passion.
>
> She lifts him out of his crib and he, known in Philadelphia, as his father was long the principal of a public school A novelist whose eyes never rise above the waistline would have made of this story a repulsive thing because he could not perceive the beauty that there is in close the leading that there is in love in the thought that they always will be able to the locality of the loc simple loyalty. He would have de- joy in the thought that they always will devoted himself to plain and fancy garscribed the surface of things where Mr. Hemon has gone to the heart of them. It is the story of the romance of Maria, which blossoms and warms her heart for months only to die when her lover is lost in a Christmas snowstorm. She says nothing of it, but her father and mother, with a full appreciation of her tragedy, are as delicately considerate of her as if they had been trained in the refinements of the best society. The novelist has shown that it is not necessary to live in the Faubourg St. Germain in order to be a gentleman or a gentlewoman. Then when Maria, who knows that she cannot nurse her grief forever and mourn over the tomb of her romance, comes to choose between two other lovers, one who would bring her to the United States to live in a city, and the other who would take her to his own farm in the forest to help him make a home in the kind of surroundings with which she was familiar, where she knew that in spite of all the hardships there was hope and faith and trust,

The book is an idyl of the cold and inhospitable North, made warm and human by the racial instinct which induces like to mate with like and trusts to the care of the Power

she decides in favor of the pioneer who

had loved her long and patiently and

would be kind to her and her children.

O. HENRY'S FANTASTIC LETTERS TO MISS WAGNALLS

Miss Mabel Wagnails, daughter of a New York publisher, wrote a letter to



might be a kins-man. It was a letter reached Mr. been addressed in care of the Cos-mopolitan Magazine. His re dated June His reply.

warded to Miss Wagnalls to Lithop-Mr. Porter to Miss Wagnalis was writ-

together in a small volume with the title "Letters to Lithopolis," of which a limited edition of 377 numbered copies unity developing into the ruler of vast have been printed by Doubleday, Page & Co. They are preceded by an ex-planatory introduction by Miss Wag. picturesque in its tracings of Southern alls, which closes with a brief account of her attendance at Porter's funeral. and are accompanied by such notes as are necessary to understand the allusions. As every admirer of Mr. Por-

THE publication in translations this, that rules the tempest and guards the tender blossom in the spring.

cial prize for distinguished merit. "The year the Lady Northcliffe prize was elist had no other intention than to who lives an imaginary life, deceiving herself with illusions of beauty and wealth, and refusing to face the realities. Madame Lestelle, Mr. Escholier

cannot belp it, for he cannot detach creation, is living in a large house it himself from the social and moral influ- the South of France which she has not ences at work around him. All his money enough to maintain. She is thinking is colored by them, whether he fifty years old and in order to conceal is in revolt against them or is co- the effects of her growing years, she operating to make them more effective. paints and powders, and she spends her money in collecting antiques in the hope that she may get a prize some day. Her her face so that he may not see that her is no longer young. She refuses to face the reality of death, which overtakes her at last when the curtain goes down on

the comedy of her life. with cold and blting satire, but Mr. novel about the French Canadians in Escholier has preferred to treat it in whole book a feeling of gentle and tolerant pity for the woman and an appredemnation, for who could condemn #

> Only a tolerantly compassionale man could have written a novel filled with such compassionate tolerance.

a year and a half in the part of Que-bec in which he has laid the scene of (NENE" (George H. Doran Com-pany), by Ernest Perochon, is a his story. He took with him his French study of another phase of the feminine mind, his French prepossessions and nature. It has been one of the popular his French point of view, and by the successes in France and won the Prix intelligent use of these he has pro- Goncourt from the Academy in 1020. duced a novel which would be an orna- Its scene is faid in the farming country ment to any literature. It is great in and its heroine is a young woman who its simplicity and in its perception of had worked as a farm laborer until she other characters, for the most part, are the powerful forces which hold society was hired to do the housework and together and lead men and women to take care of the children for a young bear courageously the burden that life widowed farmer. She had never liked children and wondered how she was to get along with the little girl and remember her. But the father marries | dening another woman after about four years tached another woman after about four years tached to it. His book is a genial and turns Nene off. She goes back to miscellany of gardening, house decoration, buse after two weeks and finds that tion, literature, philosophy and travel, the house after two weeks and finds that the house after two weeks and must that the children, pleased with the blandishmens of their new mother, have alfor the town man who experiments with ready began to lose interest in her. She a place in the country—wisdom drop-had secretly loved the father as well as ped casually by the wayside as the nar-

perhaps in the very house where you are reading this. In working out his plot. Mr. Perochon has resorted to some conventional machinery, but he has written with an understanding of the mother instinct which compels admiration.

These novels show schat the modern Frencheman thinks of women.

robbed of romance. In each novel, in the "Little Minister." Like Babbie led Gavin in the "Little Minister." Like Babbie, Alice is lovely to look at, and she is a bit of a pagan, and she is most incation of his passion, but as a fallow. fication of his passion, but as a fellow human being doing her best to play her town" stories, and the author has found part in life. Those who have thought plenty of interesting material for his that the French attitude toward women types.

Of course, the small town "folks,"

DISOWNED BOY HEARS

In "The Inheritance of Jean Trouve" (Bobbs-Merrill Company) Nevtle Hen-shaw has written a story that will in-Of course, true love runs New York publisher, wrote a letter to shaw has written a story that will in-O. Henry in May, 1903, expressing her trigue from its opening pages and will at last, but not before 362 pages of an appreciation of his prove as interesting a novelestic feast. appreciation of his prove as interesting a novelestic feast stories and sug- as has been served up in some time.

beneath him, finds himself glone in usual basic situations. he world and turned over to the quesscenes are laid in Louisiana, and the times added to the Free Library, our rune is B. V. (before Volstead), but teach and Locus atrects, during the week even then, it seems, rum runners were ending March about.

The child, running away from Dugan—the only villainous character in the book—falls under the wing of a couple of marsh hunters, and especially the daughter of one, an elfin creature drawn along conventional heroine lines, but withal a girl who endears herself to the render by her humanness. The blood of planter ancestors is still strong at the child and soon cross still strong and the child and the child so the child so the child and the child so th dis, a village in Ohio, where her father daughter of one, an elfin creature drawn and mother were born and where she along conventional heroine lines, but was spending the summer. It was a withal a girl who endears herself to fanciful and fantastic letter, giving some the render by her humanness. The details about himself but not revealing blood of planter ancestors is still strong his identity. Miss Wagnalls replied to in the child and soon crops out in a it, and there were other letters, and desire to own and rule his productive finally a meeting. The last letter from fields. How he does so in the usual planter manner-from the saddle and not from the field-makes up the ma-

The letters have now been gathered jor burden of the story.

Mr. Henshaw carefully pictures the acres of growing cane. It is an atife and depiction of Southern charac-

Mrs. Pat Campbell's Letters Beatrice Stella Cornwallis-West would be recognized by but a few as Mrs. Par Campbell, but that is her these letters, the small edition seems to be altogether inadequate. Yet those who are fortunate enough to get possession of a copy of the little book will be sure to put it away with their literary treasures.

Mrs. Par Campbell, but that is her legal name. Much interest is expressed in her forthcoming autobiography, which she calls "My Life and Some Letters." Dodd, Mead & Co. will publish the book in the fall.



MICHAEL SADLEIR A caricature by Bohun Lynch of the author of "Privilege."

LABOR AND CAPITAL

An Attempt in a Novel to Show

How to Harmonize Them Post-war relations of capital and labor and the psychological reflex of only friend is an abbe, who labors under the men and women who served overseas the illusion that he is a faithful parish after their return to the humdrum of priest, unaware that his defects of tem- everyday life are the motifs of William per alienate every one from him. She finally falls ill and when the doctor Mr. Orcuit's "The Balance" (Stokes). comes she welcomes him fully dressed, erary field, though this contribution to in coat and hat with a heavy veil over it does not contain anything startling. However, a readable story works in a beauty has disappeared and that she painstaking effort to analyze conditions

as they undoubtedly exist.

Richard Norton, son of a wealthy manufacturer of the steadfastly con servative type, returns from France to This theme might have been handled life he is asked to take up again. His flancee, herself a veteran with a Rec Cross record, finds herself confronted similar difficulties.

Richard refuses to take his place in an easy post in his father's plant, but insists on joining the workers in overdeavors to preach a doctrine of fair play for worker and employer.

In this endeavor he runs counter to radical labor agitators. He bewails the apparent callousness of Government officials to the needs of ex-service men. He finds his arguments with his father futile and breaks with the older man. Comes a strike riot in which the elder Norton is murdered and the son acused. Of course, the denouement clears he hero, wedding bells ring and young Norton gets a chance to put his eco-nomic theories into practice. It is an interesting treatment of a

vital subject, but not done with apparent depth of feeling. Some of the characterizations are excellent, espe-cially those of two tight-fisted old New Englanders bitterly continuing a feud of years even beyond the grave. The

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"The Backslider" (Houghton Mifflin Company) will remind one a bit of Barrie. Not that the author, William Lindsey, is imitative of the whimsical style of the novelistic knight. But there is a parallelism of a sort in the ONE woman found a frustrated life there is a parallelism of a sort in the chase that the heroine, Alice Hale, led the hero with a sturdy courage the future to the chase that the heroine, Alice Hale, led the hero, who is of the cloth, that recalls the dance that Babbie led Gavin to the "Little Minister." Like Bab.

This is another of those "small

ested to realize that they can correct nating stage driver, who takes a dro their view by reading French fiction. such as the local politician, the fascipillars of the church to which the godly soung divine is accredited, and others some kindly and some touched of manuprepense, find much to stir their whis-CALL OF THE BLOOD pers and to keep their eyes popular in the quaint situation of the idealistic minister in love with the whimsical up-to-date, all-of-a-sudden maider who fascinates, though she does no

is finis. While the book is not sermon gesting that as the name Henry was in her family he peppery old Southerner for marrying ine religious feeling pervading its un-

ionable mercies of a bootlegger. The AT THE FREE LIBRARY

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Fother, Hulbert — Wanderers,"
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Ladden, William — The Backsiders,"
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