BOOKS WORTH READING AFTER A HOLIDAY RUSH OR ANY OTHER TIME

McFee's Great Story About a Second-Rate Man

WILLIAM MCFEE

I SOMETIMES think that the use of language as the means of conveying instruments, [illegible] who have [illegible] secured a [illegible] strument of [illegible] hands it is [illegible] of grief to the [illegible] ing.

When [illegible] a letter, [illegible] read a [illegible] she means to say. [illegible] say it? And will [illegible] ing "A Parcels Complete Encyclopedia" for the Bookmaker says, the current installment of his serial that appeared left the [illegible] against the [illegible] it was not a [illegible] low door.

William McFee [illegible] a mechanical [illegible] vocation. [illegible] in the [illegible] is a constant [illegible] language [illegible] marine [illegible] secure [illegible] Words [illegible] the different [illegible] they can [illegible] thought [illegible] gauge on the [illegible] ship.

McFee [illegible] for its [illegible] the French [illegible] ability to [illegible] thought [illegible] imagination [illegible] on a ship [illegible] hell on [illegible]

ONE of the [illegible] "Command" [illegible] The difference [illegible] and what [illegible] more [illegible] than [illegible] chapter. [illegible] duced to [illegible]

laid bare, his efficiencies and his inefficiencies, his ambitions and the limitations which make the realization of them impossible, all exhibited in full view. Yet it is done with such subtle art that the reader does not fully understand what has happened until he has finished the chapter.

The book is the study of a second or third rate man through his futile efforts to achieve the position of a man of the first rank. It opens and closes in London, but the action for the most part takes place in Salonika and Smyrna, and on the Aegean Sea. Its characters are the kind of people with whom Mr. Fee has become familiar through his life on the sea and through his experience in the Levant during the war. They are not society people, but renegade Englishmen, and men of the mongrel breeds that flourish in that part of the earth where the races meet and mingle. One of the influences that work upon Saxelby in this region is the beautiful daughter of a Balkan brigand. She molds him to her purposes as though he were a lump of soft putty, for she is of the vivid type that stirs his passions, and differs, as Mr. McFee graphically says, from the ordinary English woman as widely as the film version of a novel differs from the original. She is woman sensational, pure sex, with no thought of anything but herself. And when Saxelby has served her purposes he is cast off in scorn. And the book ends with the man pointing to go to the West Indies to superintend an oil shipping station—that man who at the beginning was looking forward to walking the bridge of a great ship in command of its destinies.

The thought back of the book is evidently that a man cannot look against the fate that made him, that he cannot be any greater than he really is, and that if he is not born to greatness he will be scattered to the winds.

AS A piece of literature it is worth [illegible] of the ordinary society [illegible] takes a hard grip on the fundamental emotions and describes them in operation in a region where moral supervision does not run and where the poet man manifests himself [illegible] It is doubtful whether Mr. McFee could write a society novel, or whether he would if he could. He lives on the sea and he works in the hold of a ship. His contacts with what is known as Society are slight. Yet if he should chose to introduce the frequenters of polite circles into some of his novels he would doubtless tear off their trappings and exhibit them to their [illegible] so truly that they would have no [illegible] save the [illegible] of their own hearts. [illegible] would make the acquaintance with reluctance. This is the biggest figure in English [illegible] today.

GEORGE W. DOUGLAS.

A Novel Without a Heroine

In [illegible] People of Importance," Mrs. Norris has written a novel that [illegible] away from all the rules that are [illegible] correct modern schools of fiction writing. She has created a novel [illegible] without a heroine, without a villain and without a plot. In fact she has transcribed a bit of life [illegible] its confused motives, its selfish interests and inconsistencies. The book is the largest novel that Mrs. Norris has done, more than two hundred thousand words.

Brief Notes of Interesting Books

THE announcement by its publishers [illegible] "Warriors of the Air" [illegible] Properties A. Stokes Company has been [illegible] the supplementary reading in the astronomy courses in several American universities [illegible] attention to an interesting experiment in society.

Notes on the Astronomers

Mr. Norris has set out to write a novel [illegible] characters, the [illegible] of decided men who have [illegible] such from one to another [illegible] and have [illegible] the [illegible] Mr. Norris [illegible] the astronomers, Copernicus, [illegible] Herschel, telling [illegible] A less skillful [illegible] interested [illegible] minor of the [illegible] progresses [illegible] considerable distraction.

NOWADAYS swimming is [illegible] high schools and [illegible] How is [illegible]

Swimming and Diving

[illegible] Kiphuth [illegible] Yale [illegible] Swimming and Diving." [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Yale [illegible] Swimming and Diving