

BOOK REVIEW

A new novel: Her Father's Daughter, by Gene Stratton Porter. Scene a home of natural beauty in California, abounding in wild flowers and fruits. Lovable, human people who live in the present day with us, enter into the story. A young girl, pulsating with life and loyalty, undertakes the glorious task of showing how much fun as well as true friendship can be found in a high school. How happy she is as she studies to lift her high school to a higher standard! Her friends, caught up by her enthusiasm, help her give high school a different atmosphere. A tragic note is also found in this book. A note which shows that California is not always sunshine. Heroes are always delightful, but in this story real men are found, whose devotion to the high school girl is simply and beautifully shown. One seems to live in the golden land of California amid the wild poppies and bubbling streams. One seems to breathe the pure air from the hilltops. Gene Stratton Porter seems to have combined all the gifts of all the Muses into making this up-to-date story live in the hearts of all who read it. Her gift of describing nature, and her power of drawing character as well as of inventing delightful plots, are all combined in this book.

If you want to know how to crowd in fun, and yet had a good report to your home-folks each month, you will find such valuable information in this book. If you are down-hearted, if you need a good tonic that that leaves a sweet taste in your mouth, delve into its pages which give the ups and downs, the struggle and triumphs of very human people living in our day and time.

TIME CHANGED WORDS

Many of our words have come to mean something quite different from what they used to mean, showing us how language changes as time goes by.

"Tyrant" was once used in a good sense meaning a prince or governor. It has now come to mean a cruel and oppressive ruler.

"Solemn" meant at first "a happening each year." It has now almost completely changed and means: "impressive, grave, awful."

"Wealth" really means weal or welfare. It has been narrowed down until it has come to mean simply money or any kind of worldly goods.

Prophet used to mean a preacher, any one who spoke out his message. As the Hebrew prophets preached to the people that unless they repented they would suffer certain dreadful punishments, the word came to mean one who foretells the future.

"Villian" used to mean a slave attached to a farm, now it means a wicked wretch.

"Infant" really means "speechless" or some one who cannot talk. now it is used as meaning a baby.

Knave meant at first a boy, now it means a false, deceitful fellow as the Knave of Hearts who stole the tarts.

"Prevent" really means "to go before, as in the sentence "Prevent me with thy kindness." It gradually altered in meaning, and now means "to hinder."

"Etiquette" is a French word meaning "a label" such as we tie on our trunks and bags when traveling. So it came to be applied to all those little niceties of behavior that are the stamps, or label, of good society.

Elizabeth Glascock.

ROOM 3-B ELECTS OFFICERS

Room 3-B elected the following class officers: Dick Newell, President, William Scott, Vice-President; Lula Mae Simpson, Secretary; Helen Forbis, Treasurer; Allen Watkins, Sergeant at Arms; and Lula Mae Simpson, Secretary and Treasurer for Athletic Association.

The Senior class is very sorry to lose one of its most attractive members, Miss Helen Shanks who is going to Rochester, New York, to live. Miss Shanks leaves with her family today.

A TRUE CHRISTMAS GIFT

(Continued from page 3)

and soon brought the voyage to a close. Every single soldier there thanked his maker for permitting him to again step on land.

Just then the sun shone out from among the clouds as if to smile its welcome. If ever a crowd of soldiers received a royal welcome, Robert and his comrades did at the hands of the French villagers. There was nothing too good for the Americans. Wherever they went, they met with the most devoted attention and administration.

But there are other things to a soldier's life than being entertained, as Robert was soon to learn. His trade was war and he was not long kept waiting. At two o'clock one morning, his general received orders to take his men to the front. As soon as all was ready for the departure, they set out. Robert experienced the queerest feeling he had ever had. He was keyed to a high pitch of excitement. He was shaking in the knees and yet he was anxious for a whack at the Germans. With a prayer in his heart and an iron determination to beat the Germans glowing on his face and in his eyes, he, with his comrades, followed his leader through the mud and water of the ditch leading to the firing line.

Before he had gone far, he declared in a whisper to his nearest companion, "Whoever wrote of glorious golden France never got any nearer Paris than Boston, I'll wager. Why it has rained every day since we landed. But then, I guess the weather man is keeping the sun under cover for fear the Fritzes would shoot it if he lets it shine.

You see, he was Scotch-Irish and nothing could dull his humor, not even the trenches of France.

It was some time before they reached the firing line, for one can travel but slowly through mud and water that is knee-deep. Then the distance traversed was greatly increased by the zigzag direction of the trench leading up to the front. As soon as they arrived, some went on duty as they had previously been ordered. The rest went to the dug-out. It was dawn by then and the Germans were not much disposed to fire on the American line altho, once in a while, a strong shot was heard.

At night they became more liberal and began firing in earnest. Long before mid-night, however, the Americans had cleared out every machine gun nest so thoroughly that the guns ceased to boom.

Robert spent several months on the firing-line, with occasional short furloughs, which he usually spent in Paris. On numbers of occasions, he proved that he really had the ability to accomplish big things. The American line made gain after gain, thanks to his calm level-headed foresight and thinking.

One night after he had returned from one of his furloughs he learned that his regiment was to go over the top as soon as a certain German wire had been cut. Two of his comrades had just gone to do it. After they had been gone long enough to have done it and return, the general became uneasy and called for a volunteer to go and see what was wrong. At once Robert spoke up. He knew it was a dangerous undertaking, for No Man's Land was constantly being swept by bursting shrapnel.

Cautiously he crawled out into the danger zone. "When, that one nearly hit me," he breathed as a screaming shell flew by his head. After what seemed ages to him, he reached the wire. If his hand would only remain steady! He never did anything so cautiously before in his life. Finally the deed was done—the wire cut. Then he turned to look for his companions. At length he saw, by the light of the bursting shells, what looked like two forms stretched out on the ground. Inch by inch he felt his way behind heaps of earth thrown up by the shells. One false move would prove his doom. He knew it. After what seemed an eternity, he reached them. To his horror he found them suffering from severe wounds. He bound them up as best he could with strips torn from his uniform so that

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the blood ceased to flow. Then he began the long journey back to the American lines. Years seemed to pass while he went each yard. He expected every minute that a cruel shell would end the uneven race. Still he struggled on. His arms ached with the heavy weight of his two burdens.

Suddenly, when only a few yards from his goal, a bursting shell hit the ground near by. A piece of flying shrapnel hit his head. It stunned him, but he made one mighty effort and brought his comrade to the trench. He muttered as his pals came forward, "Wire cut! go ahead!" For a moment he stared in a dazed way. He seemed to hear a voice say, "Well done, thou good and faithful in the tasks given thee to do. enter now into the joys of thy Lord." Then he fell, but his soul soared to join the angelic host on high.

As he fell, for the first time in months, the stars came out and shed a soft radiance over No-Man's Land. It was Christmas Eve and he had given his life to save those of two comrades and to the cause of universal peace—the greatest Christmas gift in his power to give the world.

Has not Christ, our first Christmas gift for which we celebrate December the twenty-fifth, said, Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend?" Love is the motive that prompts all true Christmas gifts.

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