

faced, no blood of life in her, no grasp or gaiety, pious, anxious, tender, tearful and incompetent."

"She sat before her grim husband at meals speechless and fluttering . . . afterwards she would seek out the cook, who was always 'her sister in the Lord,' and weep and pray with her, and the next day's meal would never be a penny the better."

Archie, the child of this ill-assorted couple, is the hero of the tale. His mother died and left the boy to his father's care, and the influence of this strange-natured father upon his son is related with a marvellous insight into Scotch human nature. It would spoil the story to quote extracts, because the strength of this portion of the tale could not be done justice to by that method of commending it to the attention of readers.

The characters of the two Kirsties will for ever dispose of the criticism so often passed upon Stevenson, that he could not describe a woman—that his women characters are not alive—for these two, the one young and attractive and the other Archie's faithful friend and elderly housekeeper, are vital to the inmost fibre of their very diverse natures.

Archie and the young Kirstie glanced furtively at each other during the long service at the Kirk at Hermiston. The description of the lassie's appearance, and of her shy manners with the young laird "Erichie" are very engaging. Their conversation when they met outside the church by degrees grew more and more tender, till at last one day Archie began to feel that he was thinking too much of the girl, and Mephistopheles, in the disguise of a comrade of his, arrives to complicate matters still more. Old Kirstie then appears upon the scene, and pays her young master a nocturnal visit, and after much beating about the bush expostulates with him on his conduct with her young relative, but the love she bears her nursling is more potent than her anxiety for the girl, and the chief part of her discourse is to implore him not to wreck himself at the outset of his life, as many others have done before. The result of her warning is that the next time young Hermiston meets the younger Kirstie at the trysting stone he is cool and distant in his manner to her, and poor Christina, who had longed and waited weary hours for his advent, was amazed to find herself "confronted with a grey-faced, harsh school-master." In the end, after many tall words, poor Kirstie breaks down and brings to bear against her lover's wisdom and decorum tears and sobs of helpless misery. Little wonder that the tender-hearted "Erichie" took the poor child in his arms, yet Stevenson with subtlety remarks that though he had pity for her beyond speech, yet it was "pity, and at the same time fear of this explosive engine in his arms, whose works he did not understand, and yet had been tampering with."

This was the last sentence but one that was ever written, and now the hand that penned those lines will, alas! write no more for our edification and delight. Stevenson's charm and style was altogether inimitable, and we shall not look upon his like again. He has doubtless many imitators, but no one has been able to copy his joyous vivid note, a reflection of his own boy-like hopeful nature, which perhaps only those who were privileged to be his friends could adequately appreciate.

A. M. G.

## Bookland.

### WHAT TO READ.

"Our Responsibilities for Turkey: Facts and Memories of Forty Years," by the Duke of Argyll, K.G. (John Murray.)

"The Life and Exploits of Alexander the Great," by E. A. W. Budge, Litt.D., F.S.A. (London: C. J. Clay and Son) Cambridge: University Press Warehouse.)

"The History of Modern Painting," by Richard Muther, Professor of Art History at the University of Breslau. (London: Henry and Co.)

"Comeos," by Marie Corelli. A Volume of Stories. "The Mighty Atom," by Marie Corelli. (Hutchinson and Co.)

"The Broom Squire," by S. Baring Gould. (Methuen and Co.)

"A Bride's Experiment," by C. J. Mansford and J. A. Inglebright. (Bellairs and Co.)

"Heart of the World," by H. Rider Haggard. (Longmans and Co.)

"Robert Urquhart," by Gabriel Setoun. (Bliss, Sands, and Foster.)

"The Great Famine in Ireland: with a Sketch of the Present Condition and Future Prospects of the Congested Districts," by W. P. O'Brien, C.B. (London: Downey and Co.)

## Coming Events.

*June 20th.*—A Bazaar in aid of Miss Cole's Training Home at Richmond, opened by H.R.H. Duchess of Teck at 3 p.m.

The Annual Meeting of "Friedenheim" (Home of Peace for the Dying) at 3.30 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of the School for the Blind adjoining "Friedenheim."

*June 23rd.*—Opening of a Three Days' Fête in aid of Guy's Hospital in the grounds of Hanworth Park, Feltham, Middlesex, lent by Mr. A. Lafone, M.P. The full band of 130 of the Royal Military School of Music. Military and Hungarian Bands. Military Display 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars.

Grand Rose Fête, Rose Show, and Bazaar, Queen's Hall, Langham Place, and two following days, in aid of North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, Shoreditch, at 3 p.m. The Duke of Newcastle will exhibit the Röntgen Ray photography. Palmistry by Dr. Arabella Kenealy.

*June 24th.*—The Duchess of Devonshire will open a Bazaar at Kensington Town Hall in aid of sending poor sick children to the seaside, 2.30., and two following days.

Annual Festival of the Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. Services, Luncheon, and a General Assembly meeting.

*June 26th.*—A Garden Party in the grounds of the Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, S.W., at 4 p.m. Band of the Royal Horse Guards.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.  
From the sweet-scented Island of Ceylon.

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