

Mr. Stead, describing his impressions at Stratford-on-Avon during the Shakespeare Festival, states that he found a lady in the stalls when "Romeo and Juliet" was being played who had no idea how the play was going to end! It is interesting to learn that the Dowager Queen Margherita has decided to acquire the house of Juliet in Verona. It is expected that Her Majesty will endow it with a maintenance fund, and present it to the nation as a historical souvenir.

### A Book of the Week.

#### SORRELTOP.\*

Mrs. Crawford has turned her intimate knowledge of a Scotch village and its inhabitants to good account in her new novel. Heuchallarbie must be a delightful spot. The fair mistress of the old tower, which is under a curse that prevents the succession being ever in a direct line, is a person of whom we crave to know much more. Her very name—Blythia—is unusual, even in these days of recondite nomenclature, and suggests a healthy optimism, and a power to grapple with antique curses, or even with antique retainers, like auld Airchie—much harder to manage of the two, it seems!

Sorreltop, the red-haired heroine—her hair is described on one page as *crimson*!—is the only daughter of the Heuchallarbie miller; and on his death, being left *weel-tochered*—namely, with an income of £80 a year, she goes to London to lose her accent and find her level. She lives in a flat in Lincoln's Inn Fields with a certain widow, Mrs. Newton Smith, who is a very close reproduction of the women we know—the women who, in order to live, look nice, keep their house attractive, lie in wait for celebrities, and are rewarded by many invitations and a modicum of popularity.

Mrs. Crawford intersperses her story with a good many amusing little sayings.

"Let me tell you, the simple apple pudding served piping hot in a deep real Scotch pudding-plate, powdered with sugar and drowned in richest, thickest cream, makes a dish commendable to any gourmet in the world. Oh despised—most ignorantly and unjustly despised British cooking! Let us here give you that meed of praise that has been so long denied you! Who should do it more gratefully, seeing we have sampled the menus in most parts of the world where the art of cooking is known—and in some where it is not, moreover? Thus, after a prolonged wandering, we know what it is to shed the tear of joy at sight of our first roast leg of mutton, to gloat over the accompanying browned potatoes, and return the affectionate smile of the Yorkshire pudding; and so does every other home-returned Briton, if he would only own up to it."

Here is another.

"The craving to make acquaintance with titles is a universal bond, a sweet link that unites us all in a grand homogeneity."

And again—

"He was of those who firmly believe that when the North Pole is discovered, a Scotsman (at a good salary) will be found in charge of it."

Sorreltop has some experience of life in her London flat, makes a real friend, and sees her removed by pitiless death. Then a rich uncle turns up, and con-

\* By Mrs. Crawford. (Henry J. Dane.)

veys the girl away to Canada, to shine in society and fill his grand empty houses with her sweet presence.

The best scene in the book is the Scotch ball on the night of the great storm, where the unprincipled Captain Scott makes love to Sorreltop, and has persuaded her to come to London with him; and she is only saved from thus ship-wrecking her life by the urgent and sudden summons to her father's deathbed.

G. M. R.

### "What is a Lyric?"

What is a lyric? Bring Pan's reedy flute,  
Bring the melodious measures of the lute,  
Bring eagerness and ecstasy and love and youth,  
Bring boyhood's passion and bring manhood's truth!  
Sing low, sing high, and let the woods resound  
To the intense vibrations of the sound!  
The smile, the tear, the laugh, the sob, the sigh,—  
All blent in the transcendent lyric cry.

—MAUD WILDER GOODWIN, in the *Century*.

### What to Read.

"Recollections of Robert Louis Stevenson in the Pacific." By Arthur Johnstone.

"The Rise and Expansion of the British Dominion in India." By Sir Alfred Lyall, P.C.

"John Knox: The Hero of the Scottish Reformation." By Henry Cowan, D.D., Professor of Church History, University of Aberdeen.

"Maria Sophia Queen of Naples." By Clara Tschudi. Translated from the Norwegian by Ethel Harriet Hearn.

"Paris and the Social Revolution: A Study of the Revolutionary Element in the Various Classes of Parisian Life." By Alvan Francis Sanborn.

"Vigorous Daunt: Billionaire." By Ambrose Pratt.

"The Little Neighbour." By Mary Deane.

"The Regent of the Roués." By Lieut.-Colonel Andrew C. P. Haggard, D.S.O.

"Cloclo." By Gyp. Translated by Nora M. Statham.

### Coming Events.

June 23rd.—Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair, 431, Oxford Street, W., 3.30 p.m. Tea and coffee. Miss Helen Todd will subsequently read a paper on "The Affiliation of the Smaller and Special Hospitals for Training Purposes."

June 24th.—General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, at the Hospital, 2.30 p.m. Social gathering 4.30 p.m.

June 25th.—Hospital Sunday. His Majesty's Judges attend the Afternoon Service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

June 28th.—Princess Louise Augusta attends a garden fair at 1, Devonshire Terrace, Portland Place, in aid of the Infants' Hospital, 3.30.

June 29th.—Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) will receive purses at Carnforth Lodge, Hammersmith, on behalf of the Hammersmith and Fulham District Nursing Association.

June 29th.—General League Meeting and Garden Party, Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League, 4—7.

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