

THE verses from the religious works of Miss Christina Rossetti are going to be reprinted.

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MISS OLIVE SCHREINER, who wrote the "Story of an African Farm," one of the books of the century, under the signature of "Ralph Iron," has an aversion to publication. Mrs. Fisher Unwin is, however, going to publish a new volume of hers in the Pseudonym Library, under the title of "The Woman's Rose.

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THE *North American Review* is to be published on this side of the Atlantic commencing this month, by Mr. William Heinemann.

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MISS LOUISA TWINING, who has taken an active part in most of the social movements of the last half century, has put her recollections on paper, and they are to be published by Mr. Edward Arnold. Miss Twining's life is one long record of good deeds. She has strong Art inclinations, and has in many practical ways displayed her keen sympathy with Art students.

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READ for recreation—Fiction: "Catriona," by Robert Louis Stevenson (Cassells); "The Heavenly Twins," by Sarah Grand (Heinemann); "The Summers Comedy," by John Oliver Hobbs (T. Fisher Unwin). Science: "Lectures and Essays on Fevers and Diphtheria," by Sir William Jenner (Rivington, Perceval & Co.). Poems: "The Brontë Poems (by G. M. Dent & Co.) Magazines: "The Industrial Position of Women in India," *Fortnightly Review*, by Lady Dilke; "British Women and Local Government," by the Earl of Meath, *North American Review*.

The Book of the Week.

CATRIONA.*

Mr. Stevenson tells us in his preface to "Catriona" that "it is the fate of sequels to disappoint those that have waited for them"; but most readers will think that "Catriona" far surpasses its predecessor, "Kidnapped," in interest. The right word, the right phrase, are always dropped into their right places in the narrative, and seemingly without an effort—for simplicity is the soul of a good style. The story is vigorous and full of vitality, and has not a dull page. The hair-breadth escapes of David Balfour and Allen Buet, the natural and most artfully described consequences of David's youthful behaviour—the growing caution of his Scotch character asserting itself with his advancing years—are all described with the skill that we have been accustomed to from Mr. Stevenson; but what is new in this story is the skill with which the brief feminine character of "Catriona" is described. Mr. Stevenson, in the past, has not been successful in his description of women, who hitherto have appeared in his pages more as wooden pegs on which to hang his

stories, rather than real creatures of flesh and blood, but "Catriona's" vivid personality captivates the reader from the first page to the last. Her youthful lover says—

"There is no greater wonder than the way the face of a young woman fits in a man's mind and stays there, and he could never tell you why; it just seems it was the thing he wanted."

The Scotch dialect, usually so wearisome to read, is daintily managed by Mr. Stevenson, and makes most insinuatingly pleasant reading. "Balwither! cries "Catriona—

"Come ye from Balwither? The name of it makes all there is of me rejoice. . . I am loving the smell of that place and the roots that grow there."

The book is alive with the adventures of the escaping couple, David and Allen, and many are the shifts they are put to.

"Them that canna tell the truth", Allen observed to myself when we went on again," should aye be mindful to leave an honest handy behind them. If folk dinnae ken what ye're doing Davie, they're terrible taken up with it, but if they think they ken they can nae mair for it than what I do for pease porridge."

The suspense of their wait on Gillane sands while the boat for their deliverance races the men who are coming over the sand-hills to receive them, is most exciting reading, and so is David's final refusal to leave an innocent man to hang for murder, for he walks calmly back to meet his pursuers who imprison him on an island rock called the Bass, where he pleads with his jailor, Anef, in vain.

"Adieu, said I, laying my hand upon his knee, this Hielantman's innocent."

Ag'tis a pity about that, said he, but ye see in this world as God made it we cannae just get a' things as we want."

The end of the book (which is quite as interesting reading as the beginning) deals with the adventures of David and Catriona in Holland, where by a series of misadventures they are constrained to pass themselves off as brother and sister. David was most prayerfully anxious to behave well in this crisis, but as he remarks—

"Prayer is not very difficult and the hitch comes in practice,"

and James More, Catriona's father, comes just in time to save the situation

David Balfour finishes the story of his adventures with these words—

"For the life of man upon this world is a funny business. They talk of angels weeping, but I think they must more often be holding their sides, as they look on; and there was one thing I determined to do when I began this story and that was to tell out everything as it befell."

It is very pleasant to be able to acquire such a genuine literary treat as "Catriona" for the sum of four shillings and sixpence.

*"Catriona, a sequel to 'Kidnapped,' being memoirs of the 'Further adventures of David Balfour at Home and Abroad.'"—Cassell & Co., 1893.

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