

physical beauty, the lover of the unfortunate girl who has been the exceedingly willing partner of Constantia's husband's sin

In the way in which these two women deal with their sore burden of trouble, lies the great power of the book.

The history of Constantia's mental struggles, when first the deadly knowledge of the utter unworthiness of the father of her children comes to her, is most marvellously sympathetic. The first almost overwhelming temptation to go on as if nothing had happened, "to fall with the fallen," because such a course would be so fatally easy, and at last the interview between them, when silence is no longer possible—both strike one as wonderfully real—as what would be possible, natural, to a woman of heroic mould, who was also a mother, and always the lover of her husband.

But the pathos of little Eliza—"the little white moth"—is the more touching, because so many girls will find themselves much in her position. She knows the unworthiness of the hapless Rosalie; Evan, the man who was so very nearly in love with herself, comes to her for sympathy; ought she not, for his sake, not her own, to let fall some hint, some suggestion, of the real character of the woman he would make his wife?

"She went hurriedly, without looking back, the tears slowly dropping over her cheeks. It hardly seemed to her that she had willed or decided, but that the whole overwhelming bias and tendency of her nature, the persistent, clear habit of her mind, was laying a hand of iron on her lips, was compelling her to a silence which meant far more than the sacrifice of herself, for it seemed to involve perhaps the sacrifice of him."

I regret that Miss Brooke upholds the most extreme view of heredity: evidently she believes that the children born under certain circumstances are foredoomed to social shipwreck; one certainly pities Rosalie, but she does not seem to be wholly the victim of circumstances. But, whatever one may differ from in her view of life, undoubtedly the authoress is a writer who, like Ibsen, makes one think, and the mere bringing out of an idea from which we differ, is often the means of enabling us to get our own tangled thoughts into something like order.

G. M. R.

Bookland.

MISS MARIE CORELLI'S new book "Ziska" will be published on February 15th. The second edition is already in the press.

"Kidnapped in London," the experiences of Sun Yat Sen when taken prisoner at the Chinese Legation, just published, throws some light on the customs of the "heathen Chinese."

THE PROBLEM.

I.

Not without envy Wealth at times must look
On their brown strength who wield the reaping hook
And scythe, or, at the forge-fire shape the plough
Or the steel harness of the steeds of steam—
All who, by skill and patience, anyhow

Make service noble, and the earth redeem
From savageness. By kindlier accolade
Than theirs was never worthier knighthood made.
Well for them, if, while demagogues their vain
And evil counsels proffer, they maintain
Their honest manhood unsexed, and wage
No war with Labour's right to Labour's gain
Of sweet home comfort, rest of hand and brain,
And softer pillow for the head of Age.

II.

And well for Gain if it ungrudging yields,
Labour its just demand; and well for Ease
If in the uses of its own, it sees
No wrong to him who tills its pleasant fields
And spreads the table of its luxuries.
The interests of the rich man and the poor
Are one and same, inseparable evermore;
And, when scant wage or labour fail to give
Food, shelter, raiment, wherewithal to live,
Need has its rights, necessity its claim.
Yea, even self-wrought misery and shame
Test well the charity suffering long and kind.
The home-pressed question of the age can find
No answer in the catch-words of the blind
Leaders of blind. Solution there is none
Save in the golden rule of Christ alone.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Two French Queens," by Caroline Geary.
- "The Growth of the French Nation," by George B. Adams.
- "Stories of Naples and the Camorra," by Charles Grant, with introductory memoir of the author by J. B. Capper.
- "Palladia," by Mrs. Hugh Fraser.
- "With Fortune Made," by Victor Cherbuliez, translated by M. E. Simpkins.
- "The Land of the Dollar," by G. W. Steevens.
- "The Scholar of Bygate," by Algernon Gissing.

Coming Events.

February 1st.—Mr. Bancroft's reading of the "Christmas Carol" in aid of the London Hospital, in the Hospital Library, 8.

February 3rd.—Second Reading Women's Suffrage Bill, House of Commons, 2 p.m.

February 4th.—Meeting of the Hospital Reform Association, St. Martin's Town Hall, 4 p.m.: Dr. Ward Cousins, Dr. J. G. Glover, Mr. Victor Horsley, Mr. Walter Rivington and Dr. Lovell Drage will take part in the discussion.

February 4th.—Mr. Bancroft reads the "Christmas Carol" in the Steinway Hall in aid of University College Hospital, 8.15.

February 10th.—International Sanitary Conference on the plague at Venice.

February 16th.—Mr. Bancroft reads the "Christmas Carol" at Stafford House, St. James's, in aid of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, 3.30 p.m.

February 26th.—Third Sessional Lecture, Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, on "Home Sanitation" (with lantern illustrations), by Henry Kenwood, Esq., M.B. Edin., D.P.H. St., 8 p.m.

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