

## Book of the Week.

### PAM. WHAT BECAME OF PAM.\*

When Baroness von Hutten published "Pam" last year it escaped notice in these columns. The publication this season of the sequel gives us a chance to speak of both books together. It is seldom, indeed, that a sequel is superior to a first part; but this seems to me to be altogether true with regard to the two instalments of Pam's life, and this entirely on account of one character, Jack de Lensky, who appears in the second story.

"Pam" was evidently the work of a beginner, and much of its poor construction and what may be described as fairy-tale amateurishness lingers on into its successor. But the young Baroness has some of the real qualities of the story-teller. She does not, like some of our moderns, write in the dissecting-room style; she allows us to be moved, to sympathise—or to be horrified, disgusted, repelled—not at her characters, but *with* them. Herein lies all the difference. Reviewers and other experts may praise the anatomical novel; but the man in the street will read the sympathetic novel.

Pam is that idol of the writer of a first novel—the plain girl with whom all the men, without any exception, are in love.

One of her lovers leaves her a fortune, in the nick of time, when she has been starving in her lonely pride for some years.

Besides being plain, poor Pam is illegitimate. Her mother is the heroine of an illicit love story, and has run away with a tenor called Sacheverel. These two people remain in love all their lives, a state of affairs which the writer is careful to assure us that she believes to be exceptional. The woman actually does find the devotion of the man an equivalent for everything else. But Pam is removed from the doubtful society which is all the ostracised pair can command, and brought up by her aristocratic grandfather on the mother's side. As a young girl she falls deep in love with a man much older than herself, called James Peel, a man who is engaged to another woman. Pam, full of her early associations, is quite willing to go away with Peel on his own terms; but, when she finds that she would be his "secret woman"—that he does not mean openly to defy society, but to marry the other woman and enjoy Pam's company on the sly, she breaks free with a tremendous effort.

Then, in the sequel, she meets Lensky. The writer of the book evidently has only a certain type of man to draw upon for her ideals. Lensky is a *roué*, a gambler, a flirt. But he has an individuality so marked that it is quite impossible to resist his attractiveness. Baroness von Hutten apparently thinks that every man, however great a flirt or gambler, however good-for-nothing and self-pleasing, will make a faithful husband and become a temperate member of society, if only he finds the One Woman. We should imagine that this fatal idea has been the cause of most of the unhappy marriages of the world.

\* By Baroness von Hutten. (Heinemann.)

But however much we may disagree with such a theory, we own frankly that she does make it convincing in the case of Lensky. We do sincerely believe that he was faithful to his ugly Pam—he, the admirer of beauty, the card-player, the man of the world.

Pam's adoption of the baby, and various other more or less absurd episodes are pardoned on Lensky's account. G. M. R.

## The Service Tree.

(TO JOSEPHINE SHAW LOWELL).

There's an old Icelandic rune,  
Chanted to a mournful tune,  
Of the service-tree, that grows  
O'er the sepulchres of those  
Who for others' sins have died,—  
Others' hatred, greed, or pride,—  
Living monuments that stand,  
Planted of no human hand.

So from her fresh-flowered grave—  
Hers who all her being gave  
Other lives to beautify,  
Other ways to purify—  
There shall spring a spirit-tree,  
In her loving memory,  
Till its top shall reach the skies,  
Telling of her sacrifice.

JOHN FINLEY.

## Coming Events.

July 13th.—The Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, presents Prizes to Students and Nurses at the London Hospital. Hospital Wards and Nurses' Home on view.

July 14th.—Princess Christian will lay the foundation-stone of the new Sanatorium for sufferers from Tuberculosis at Benenden, Kent.

July 17th.—Inspection of manufacture of the "Allenburys' Foods" and the "Allenburys' Diet" at the works at Ware, Hertfordshire. Inspection, 11.50; luncheon, 1.30 p.m.

July 17th.—Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, presides at the Annual Meeting of the Ladies' Association of the Victoria Hospital for Children, S.W. 3.30 p.m.

July 20th.—Meeting of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League at the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital. 3.30 p.m.

## A Word for the Week.

Among the blessings which the Christian nations were at this time able to carry to the rest of the world were five which he would like specially to mention: Education, knowledge of the science of government, arbitration as a substitute for war, appreciation of the dignity of labour, and a high conception of life.—W. J. Bryan at Independence Day Dinner.

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