

## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

## THE STREET CALLED STRAIGHT.\*

When an author can combine high literary style, a distinctly interesting plot, and no little originality, it may be fairly said there is little left to demand—at least, having secured all these, it would be captious to ask for more. In the volume before us we feel we are enjoying the best of its kind; in fact, that it is a satisfactory and satisfying work.

"Fashionable London papers had announced that a marriage had been arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel Rupert Ashley, of Leicestershire, and Olivia Margaret, daughter of Henry Guion, Esq., of Tory Hill, Boston, U.S.A." Of Rupert, the words "precisely the right thing" had formed a ruling phrase in his career. It had even influenced him in his deed of valour by which he had won his V.C.

"He confessed this—to himself."

His mode of deciding on the lady who "should be the human counterpart of himself and who could reflect his qualities and complete them" was quite in keeping with this ideal.

It was in an English country church that he first saw her.

"Slender and graceful, with that air at once exquisite and unassuming that he had seen in the Englishwoman of his dreams." "It takes old England," he said, "to make 'em like that—simple and—*stunning*."

"But on the Common after service, and at luncheon after that, and during the three or four weeks that ensued, he had much to do in re-forming his opinion. There were several facts about Olivia Guion that dis-orientated his points of view and set him looking for new ones. He admitted that he would have preferred to marry a compatriot of his own, and someone above the rank of a solicitor's daughter. . . . But he managed nevertheless to justify himself for falling in love in violation of his principles."

To decide, therefore, what was "precisely the right thing to do" when he learnt that Olivia's father was a fraudulent trustee, who would have undoubtedly been arrested but for the princely behaviour of young Davenant, was to place him on the horns of a dilemma.

To throw her over was unthinkable, while to marry her was to end a distinguished career in a regiment that was noted for its exclusiveness. Naturally also he hated Davenant for the obligation he had imposed upon him, and it was accentuated by the knowledge that his generosity was called forth from love of Olivia.

There are several cleverly drawn passages between the two, both high-minded men in their very different ways.

When Rupert decides that precisely the right

thing would be to sell his property we are with him whole-heartedly.

"I can't let a fellow like that do things for your father any more than mine, by Jove! It's not only doing things for your father, but for my wife."

We cannot help being sorry for Rupert, after all the wrestling and struggling with himself in order to do the right thing, that Olivia should have preferred Davenant, excellent fellow that he was.

Rupert played up nobly in the end in relinquishing her. In their different manner both he and Davenant went up the Street called Straight, and we hope that Rupert one day arrived at the House that was to be Beautiful for him.

H. H.

## GIVE THANKS.

Give thanks for what?

The things you had forgot—

The fire on hearth, the cheerful kettle's hum,  
Dear faded books—perhaps a friend has come  
To share your day—someone has sent a flower,  
Or else to one in need you gave an hour.

Give thanks for what?

The things you had forgot.

Give thanks to whom?

The servant in your room,

The mother here, the stranger on the way,  
The faithful dog, the child that smiles. To say  
"I thank thee" to the best or least of these  
Is giving thanks to Him upon your knees.

Give thanks and say,

'A good Thanksgiving Day.'

ADA DAVENPORT KENDALL,  
*Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette.*

## COMING EVENTS.

*November 23rd.*—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, Annual Meeting of Grand Council. Tea, 4 p.m. Meeting, 4.30 p.m., 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

*November 26th.*—The Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. Lectures on "Babies." "The Bacteriology of Milk," by Dr. Ralph Vincent. 3.30 p.m.

*November 28th.*—Association for Promoting and Training and Supply of Midwives. Meeting of Council, Caxton Hall, S.W. 12 noon.

*November 30th.*—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting, Clinical Lecture Theatre. 3 p.m. Social Gathering, 4 p.m.

*December 4th.*—Irish Nurses' Association, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. "Flies and Disease," by Dr. McDowel Congrave.

*December 10th.*—Army and Navy Male Nurses' Co-operation. Fifth Annual General Meeting. St. James's Theatre, St. James, S.W. 3 p.m.

\* By the Author of "The Inner Shrine." (Methuen & Co., London).

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