

## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

## "JAMES."\*

Monk said of Jimmy "He's the limit; he's the farthest horizon;" and we think that opinion is a fairly expressive summary of his character.

"James" is one of the most talked-of books of the season. James carries his public, as he carried his immediate circle, by sheer force of personality. We, in common with his mother, his sister, his sweetheart, and his friends, are swept along by his dominance.

"James Bowden was fourteen, and his widowed mother wished to keep him at school another year." This extra would have been struggle enough, but it was not going to satisfy James.

"Does it cost a lot to go to a boarding school?"

"I don't know, my dear boy."

"I wish I could go," said James.

"I can't afford it, darling. I'd do anything for you I could."

James walked quickly to his mother, put his arm round her neck, and kissed her.

"I know, mother dear." He stroked her cheek. "But I would like to go to a boarding school."

Thus James—and he went.

It was the same with everything. James did not hesitate to sacrifice all and each on the altar of his desires. Having attained his object he was quite dear and affectionate. He sacrificed in turn his sister Alice and Audrey Sylvester, who had admired him from the time that he had first gone to the coveted boarding school with her brother Leslie.

Alice was required to give up her suitors on his imperious decision in their disfavour.

"Promise now you won't go out with Brimly again."

"I (sob) won't."

"Leave her alone," said Mrs. Bowden. "She won't, I am sure."

Alice, left alone, cried and went upstairs.

But she knew perfectly well that she would not walk out with Arthur Brimly again."

This was James at eighteen to his elder sister. Having won his point he took Alice to "Belle Vue," and gave her a good time. "But Brimly drops out of the story for ever. James—figuratively speaking—struck him down on the New Road and buried him at Belle Vue."

In like manner Audrey was made to serve his purpose. He had held the sceptre out to her, and he would marry her at the time when it seemed good to him. But first James must satisfy his ambition, and matrimony was not in his present plan. He intended to be rich and influential. To accomplish the first he invented a patent hair restorer, and by sheer audacity he was returned for Parliament. Still Audrey waited. He had no time for marriage, but made her the insulting

proposal that she should go with him for a week to Paris. Audrey was broken-hearted.

He wrote that same night: "Dearest Audrey,—Why didn't you come? I wish you were here. Paris is just splendid. Send me a wire you are coming. Fondest love. Ever yours, James."

Audrey was amazed. She wept over his letter. It was so thoroughly James. In a week all went on as before."

In spite of many struggles to free herself, James held her to her promise. After a letter from her putting an end to the engagement he sent a telegram: "Just got your letter. Coming to take you to lunch. Buck up. Much love, James."

Audrey bit her lip, flushed with indignation, and then wept. This was the eternal James."

But when he found himself faced with financial ruin he at once fixed up a marriage with the daughter of the company promoter, Monk.

When Audrey heard of it she said "Thank God."

H. H.

## COMING EVENTS.

June 9th.—Central Midwives Board, Penal Board, 2 p.m.

June 9th to 12th.—National Council of Trained Nurses. Annual Conference and Nursing Exhibition, New Central Hall, Birmingham.

June 9th.—National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland: Meeting of Grand Council. Conference Secretaries' Office, Room B, Central Hall, Birmingham. 6 p.m.

June 9th.—Annual Meeting Colonial Nursing Association. Chairman, the Right Hon. Sir Claude MacDonald, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B. 4, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

June 10th.—C.M.B. Penal Board. 10.30 a.m.

June 12th.—Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. Opening of the new Nurses' Home, Out-patients' Department and Research Laboratory, by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany. 2.30 p.m.

June 13th-27th.—Nurses' Missionary League Camp at Sandsend.

June 15th.—C.M.B. Examination in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

June 18th.—C.M.B. Monthly Meeting. 3.30 p.m.

## REGISTRATION REUNION.

June 26th.—The Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses' Reunion. Reception to meet the Chairman the Right Hon. the Lord Ampthill, G.C.S.I., and Dr. Chapple, M.P. Reception 8 p.m. Address by the Chairman 8.30 p.m. Dance 8.45 to 12 p.m. Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

## TICKETS.

Nurses, 3s. 6d.; Matrons and Hospital Staffs, 5s.; General Public, 7s. 6d. From the Hon. Secretaries, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.; and the Secretary, R.B.N.A., 10, Orchard Street, London, W.

\* By W. Dane Bank. Sidgwick & Jackson, London and Toronto.

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