

"Sum it up. Do you believe that one can fight it out?"

"Of course I do," the ranger said. "Youth is one sort of an adventure, and old age is quite another sort, but one is just as good as the other."

Ashley still sat thinking, and slowly his forehead cleared. At last he leaned across the table, shook hands, with a merry twinkle in his eyes, rose to his feet, reached up and took a small package from behind a rafter. He gave it to the ranger.

"You can look at it if you like. Take it along, and toss it into Sand Creek canon. Saddle up and hike, and remember that old Ashley stays in the game forever."

An hour later the calm-eyed ranger, reining his horse on the top of a divide, took out the ounce vial of strychnine which Ashley had given him and tossed it down a thousand-foot precipice. "That's over with for keeps," he thought to himself. "Lucky that I let my plug choose his trails awhile this morning and so he took me up to Ashley's camp. Wife and I will have him to dinner when he comes down from his mountain, and so will the rest of our bunch."

Then he pulled out his note-book, began to estimate the grazing capacities of the ranges, collected grasses for the herbarium, and studied erosive problems for a newspaper article that he had in mind. Meanwhile Ashley, the veteran, was tackling a shake tree with the spirit of a man of thirty.

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.



ALTHOUGH THE SEASON OF THY LIFE DECLINE.

Edith Anne Stewart in *The (London) Nation*.

Although the season of thy life decline,
 And this thy body show her wintry night,
 These spring-time suns will grant perpetual light,
 Nor ever coldly on the lily shine,
 Nor ever coldly on this flesh of thine:
 Earth's children take no unreturning flight,
 Yearly the primrose hails thy yearning sight,
 Yearly each hedge restores the eglantine.

And though thy brain and body tire and fall,
 And though Death make a harvest of thy dears,
 And hang his sickle near thy door by night,—
 Before thee then new mercies will unveil,
 New hands, full of old kindness, stay thy tears,
 New eyes console thee with the old love-light.



He was a very solemn little boy, and his chin barely reached to the counter of the circulating-room in the public library. He stood there for some moments in silence, and seemed to be taking it all in.

"Well, my little man," said one of the assistants finally, "what book shall it be today?"

"Oh, something about life," returned the little fellow, philosophically.—*Chicago Inter Ocean*.

BOOKS

"A STUDY OF THE PARABLES."

The Carpenter and the Rich Man. By Bouck White. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co. New York. Price, \$1.25 net.

As in "The Call of the Carpenter," Mr. White favors his readers with a new exegesis of the gospels, and one which might be a little surprising to the divinity student who should chance to fall out of the realm of mystical interpretation into the commonplace world of the Carpenter and the rich man. It is an interesting study in dialectics to observe how adroitly the Scriptural stories may be dove-tailed into human theories and made to prove the vital points on which the particular argument hangs.

From Mr. White's viewpoint a clear case is made out against the rich man, not only from the attitude of Jesus, but from that of Moses, who was the great strike leader of the children of Israel—"the Industrial Workers of Israel"—who rose up in rebellion against their task masters in Egypt. The prophets also "fulminated against the waxing power and pomp of the financier classes," and throughout the whole Jewish history the people are shown to be in enmity to the dominion of princes and potentates who oppress and harass the toilers on whose blood and sweat they thrive. From the ranks of the workers rises Jesus—characterized as the Carpenter—fired with love for the masses with whom He established the law of the universal brotherhood.

From parable to parable and from journeyings to Jerusalem and Jericho, our author follows the lesson of his eloquent discourse with a vigor of translation into modern work-a-day language that gives a new aspect to matters heretofore discussed with pulpit solemnity. To be sure, the divinity student may halt a little when he reads, "In an abounding degree Jesus was possessed of horse-sense"—but when he thinks of it he may possibly wonder whether that characterization might not touch some of the hard skeptical hearts that had turned away from his own ideal presentation of a divine being who had simply laid down his life for humanity. Might not the human touch of Jesus be more appealing to certain minds than the theological conception which is accepted without understanding? The grandeur of man no less than the power of God is revealed in Jesus of Nazareth.

In the chapters, "The Mental Universe" and "The Social Faith," Mr. White unfolds the deeper secret of his philosophy and of his splendid democracy built on the invincible foundation of "God, the Reality behind the veil." Frequently he uses terms that offend the trained religious ear, but

when you strike down to the heart of them they are as reverent as the best. Nowhere shall we find a more passionate advocate of the rights of man as separate and distinct from the false dominion of money. Nowhere may we find a more scathing analysis of the power of gold on the mammon worshiper whose soul shrinks and shrivels in proportion as the dollar enlarges in his vision.

Yet, after all, through the "fast gathering storm" our prophet sees "God Incognito," and the "meek preparing to inherit the earth." "Once let the labor movement be touched with the spaciousness and grandeur of spiritual things," he says, "it will open to all mankind the closed doors of Paradise."

A. I. M.



THE BRITISH LAND REPORT.

The Land: The Report of the Land Enquiry Committee. Volume I, Rural. Volume II, Urban. Published by Hodder & Stoughton, London and New York. 1913 and 1914. Price, per volume, cloth, 2 shillings; paper, 1 shilling, net.

Members of Committee: A. H. Dyke Acland, chairman; C. Roden Buxton, honorary secretary; E. Richard Cross, Ellis Davies, M. P., Baron DeForest, M. P., E. G. Hemerde, M. P., J. Ian MacPherson, M. P., B. Seebohm Rowntree, R. Winfrey, J. St.G. Heath, secretary; R. L. Relss, head organizer of the Rural Enquiry; H. E. Crawford, head organizer of the Urban Enquiry.

Few books in a generation have promised greater usefulness to their country than the British Land Report, of which Volume I, Rural, was published last autumn and Volume II, Urban, came out last month. A committee of nine friends of the Liberal Government undertook "the task—primarily for the information of the Government—of collecting fresh information with regard to present-day conditions, and digesting information already available" bearing on the "land question." The Report is wholly unofficial and, as the chairman remarks in his introduction, "must be judged entirely on its merits." The method of collection of facts and opinions and the manner of their presentation would seem to convince any reader of their integrity.

The Rural Report with its 500 pages is a great systematically arranged storehouse of first-hand information. Mr. Gilbert Slater's introduction, a "Historical Outline of Land Ownership in England," is a remarkable essay. It is the very meat of history's nut. "Private ownership in land," he begins, "rests ultimately on one of two claims, the claim of the spade or the claim of the sword. Right through the history of England these two claims have competed for recognition." To read this essay is thereafter to spell "enclosures," r-o-b-b-e-r-y.

The Rural Report itself is the outcome—aside

from the study of documents and the interviewing of witnesses—of between three and four thousand answers to two elaborate schedules prepared by the Committee and sent out to all parts of agricultural England. (Scotland and Wales were separately investigated.) The country was divided into districts; a competent supervisor was placed in charge of each locality; and inviolate secrecy was maintained wherever desired by the countryman who filled in the schedules. The result is a great human document, the biography of a social group. The hero of the narrative is neither the country landlord, nor the tenant farmer, but the hired man—a person so long silent in the nation that even now his grim story must be told for the most part with his neighbors for interpreters. That pitiful story must be read in the records. No relation could carry its emotion. Its economic and social meaning; its hope of a happy ending—these are largely left to be told in the Urban Land Report.

For if the Rural Report is remarkable as a convincing disclosure of human facts, the Urban Report is no less impressive as a book of interpretations and conclusions. It is divided into four parts: I, Housing; II, Acquisition of Land; III, Tenure; IV, Rating.

Part I presents unassailable evidence to show that: "There is a shortage of dwellings in probably half the towns of England and Wales, and the towns in which it exists are of all sizes and types"; and that, "Probably between 5 and 10 per cent of urban workmen live in slums, that is, dwellings, which in their present state are unfit for habitation, and which should either be demolished or subjected to drastic and thorough repair and alteration."

The remedy for this shortage and overcrowding is no more than in the rural housing problem the paternalistic provision of houses by the Government, but "*the raising of the economic status of the workers* thus enabling them to pay for a sanitary dwelling *out of their wages.*" A minimum wage law is suggested by the Committee to the Government as one aid in raising the workers' status. But the Committee finds further that, "one of the most hopeful methods of substantially reducing the cost at which satisfactory housing accommodations can be provided for the workingman" is to be found in "alterations of the present rating [local taxation] system in the direction of placing a larger proportion of the burden of rates upon the site and a lower proportion on the building."

Parts II and III lucidly explain Land Acquisition and Tenure, analyze existing laws and their effects, and recommend legislative changes that would give greater facilities to the public authorities and to private individuals for the acquirement of land, and would grant less power to the landowner over his tenants.