

**BOOKS and AUTHORS.**

A LITERARY CAUSERIE FOR COLONIAL BOOKBUYERS AND BORROWERS.

BOOKS marked thus (\*) have arrived in the colony, and could at the time of writing be purchased in the principal colonial bookshops, and borrowed at the libraries.

For the convenience of country cowboys who find difficulty in procuring the latest books and new editions, the 'BOOKMAN' will send to any New Zealand address any book which can be obtained. No notice will, of course, be taken of requests unaccompanied by remittance to cover postage as well as published price of book.

It is requested that only those who find it impossible to procure books through the ordinary channels, should take advantage of this offer.

The labour involved will be heavy and entirely unremunerative, no fee or commission being taken.

Queries and Correspondence on Literary Matters Invited.

All Communications and Commissions must be addressed

THE BOOKMAN, Graphic Office, Auckland.

\* The Little Larrikin. This is an entertaining little book which will doubtless find many readers in other lands besides those above which the Southern Cross twinkles. Lol, the small six-year-old, who, as the little larrikin, gives its distinctive flavour to the book, is a very naturally drawn little boy, exasperatingly naughty and delightful at the same time, with enough originality and self-willed energy to make his actions interestingly unexpected. But I should have been better pleased if the authoress had given us more of Lol's sayings and doings and less of those of the 'grown-ups,' though these are very well conceived and described, and the love story of Roger and Linley can hold its own with most of the love stories written nowadays in Sydney—the Sydney of to-day is the place in which the story is set, and the authoress evidently knows that Sydney well.

\* Titus: A Comrade of the Cross. This book has had, we are told, a great success in America, and, to a large extent, this success has been deserved. The authoress writes on the sacred subjects that make the ground work of her story with earnest, reverent enthusiasm, and with a very considerable degree of ability and in an interesting style. Titus is the penitent thief on the Cross, and Florence Kingsley, exercising the ordinary license of a novelist, makes him the son of Caiaphas, the High Priest. When a tiny child Titus was stolen from his father's house by Dumachus (the impenitent thief on the Cross), the chief of a robber band, and brought up in ignorance of his birth. Young Titus is quite a praiseworthy specimen of a Jew, who believes himself to be a Greek, and it is really only owing to the adverse 'concatenation of circumstances' that he finds himself condemned as a thief and has to suffer the death of the Cross. The authoress uses the fictional history of Titus as a thread on which she strings the various episodes of the Gospel narrative, and certain other incidents in the life of our Lord, which are not in the Gospel narrative. In some cases she is happily able to give certain agreeable additions of local colouring and of dramatic effect to the Gospel incidents, but only in some cases. She makes a mistake in relying for impressiveness too much on the miracle working part of our Saviour's ministry and not enough on His personality. But, indeed, whenever she introduces the Divine Man personally into her narrative she shows herself unable to write in a strain equal to the greatness of her theme. But small blame to her in this. Many other writers have shown the same inadequacy of treatment when they have taken it upon themselves to give the world an artistic, dramatic, and faithful account of that Sacred Life. Even a poet of acknowledged high capacity like Sir Edward Arnold has unconsciously shown in his beautiful 'Light of the World,' that that Life is one of those things which were best 'not attempted yet in prose or rhyme' until the transcendent genius comes who can really do justice to his High Theme. Titus is very nicely printed, bound, and illustrated, and would make a capital gift book for Christmas.

\* The Heart of Princess Osra. Mr Anthony Hope has given us in *The Heart of Princess Osra* a charming book quaintly written and breathing of a time when romance was not dead and chivalry had a very real hold on the lives of men, and these would not count it hard to die to win a fair woman's smile. There is a goodly sprinkling of such men in this book, and the woman whose smile they covet is Osra, an incomparably fair princess, the daughter of a very fiery German king. This tale is the tale of the lovers of Princess Osra, and of the fashion in which they loved her and showed their love, and of the fashion in which she regarded them and their love. She is a Princess who is interesting in the possession of a

strongly individualised character and a heart. This heart her numerous lovers are able, as a rule, to touch, but they cannot master, and she wonders, like Patience in the opera of that ilk, 'What this love can be that cometh to all but not to me?' until the right man finally arrives and teaches her the secret by gaining her heart. The book is written in the bright, light, clever style of which Mr Hope is master when he chooses, and if not highly instructive, is at least highly interesting from beginning to end.

- \* The Little Larrikin, by Ethel Turner: Ward, Lock and Co.
- \* Titus: A Comrade of the Cross, by F. M. Kingsley: Ward, Lock and Bowden.
- \* The Heart of Princess Osra, by Anthony Hope: Longmans, Green and Co.

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**MINING NEWS.**

SHAREMARKET.

THIS week closed to decidedly better business on the Exchange, and there seems every possibility that there will be an improved state of affairs from now up to the holidays. At the same time transactions have not been numerous so far, mainly because holders, noticing the better feeling, are disinclined to sell, although in many instances buyers have offered slightly higher rates. Well situated cheap stocks had fair business, and for some few weeks now there has been quiet picking up of special lines. The crushing returns from the Crown and Waihi-Silverton batteries were both better this month, while the Hauraki yield was, as usual, well up to the average. There is still a good inquiry for mining properties for the London market, but within the past few weeks the options granted to representatives of some foreign syndicates have been extended without any further deposit being paid. This means that these properties are being up until next March, and that offers from any other companies cannot be accepted, while the local shareholders simply get nothing for the concession granted. In some cases the terms have even been reduced without any opposition being raised. As long as this is permitted it is safe to predict that flotation will be protracted. If one or two deposits were forfeited for non-fulfilment of contract the effect would be beneficial. In the case of the Puru Consolidated amended terms have been offered, but many shareholders are inclined to refuse to grant any concession, more especially as other syndicates are prepared to treat for the property. A meeting was held this week for the purpose of forming a Sharebrokers' Protection Society, with a view to reducing the expenses of local management of mining companies, and also to secure the more economical working of the mines. The movement is at present in the initial stage, and it remains to be seen whether the work can be as well done at a reduced cost.

NEW ZEALAND CROWN MINES.

LARGELY INCREASED YIELD.

£4,628 10s FOR THE MONTH.

The crushing return from this Karangahake Company's battery for the past month was nearly double the previous one, 1,188 tons of ore having returned £4,628 10s worth of bullion. Last month 1,100 tons of ore yielded £2,685 worth of bullion. The new issue of shares in this Company are now being quoted on the Exchange, the dividend of 13s 6d per share on the original issue having been paid.

ROYAL OAK RETURN.

£486 FROM 25 TONS.

A small parcel of 25 tons of ore from this Coromandel Company's grounds was treated this week for a return of 155oz 13dwts of gold, valued at £386.

WAIHI DREDGING COMPANY.

News was received this week that the contract had been signed in London for the flotation of this property on the following terms:—Capital £15,000, out of which £5,000 working capital is to be provided to erect the necessary plant. Shareholders in the local company receive one half the remaining shares in the new Company, fully paid up.

HAURAKI RETURNS.

Some particulars regarding this famous gold producing Coromandel mine may be of interest as showing how rich are the runs of gold in that district. Since the 30th of May this year the value of the gold won from this mine was £44,799, and the expense of working and treatment amounted to £12,110, leaving a profit on the operations of £32,689. On an average, each four weeks'