

This popular French story has been put into English so cleverly that it might have been the original. It bears no marks of translation English. It is a simple, straightforward story in the first person. Its tragedy is always relieved by a human naturalness and by a sort of atmosphere of assured hope of a happy sequel. The coloring of French peasant life and of the refinement of England and the continent mingle naturally. It is a fine, wholesome story.

III. SERMONS AND WORKS ON PRACTICAL RELIGION.

Modern Messages from Great Hymns. By Robert Elmer Smith. Introduction by James W. Bashford. The Abingdon Press, New York and Cincinnati, 1916. 283 pp. \$1.25 net.

Twelve of our greatest modern hymns are here treated in a manner that for spiritual value leaves little, if anything, to be desired. No one with any competency in worship will question the choice of the hymns to be treated. "Jesus Lover of My Soul" is first, "Nearer My God to Thee" is of course included, and "Majestic Sweetness," Heber's great hymn to the holiness of God, accounted by many as the greatest ever written, and "Rock of Ages." "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" rightly ends the list. Each hymn has a chapter of presentation—discussion is not the word. It is interpretation and application. There is something revealing about the author and the occasion of the writing. There are finely told stories about the hymns and yet others illuminating them and enforcing their lessons. Stanzas and lines from other hymns play a part in the exposition.

Of course each hymn is printed in full, and a copy of a fitting famous picture illustrates each. In it all the devout and sane spirituality rules. The effort is made—most successfully made—to give the "message" of each of these great hymns. One would add the author's designation, in his title, of the hymn to his own treatment of them and say that here we have Great "Modern Messages from Great Hymns." They are in splendid literary style and yet fully within the range of all readers. It is a rare book, laden with blessing.

W. O. CARVER.