

No such fault is to be found with *The Man of Yesterday*, by Mary Holland Kinkaid. It is an American Indian story, of a distinctly new type, picturing the Chickasaw Indian, as he is to-day,

or rather as he was during the closing days of tribal rule, before the admission of Oklahoma as a State. One feels, upon closing the volume and mentally reviewing the substance of it, that the author not only knows intimately the race of which she writes, but that she secretly contrasts the modern college-bred Indian in many respects favourably with the white man. Yet if she has her prejudices and preferences, Miss Kinkaid carefully abstains from putting them directly into words, and contents herself, as good art demands, with allowing her narrative to speak for itself. Her heroine, Pakali, is the daughter of a white missionary, and on her mother's side traces back to a long line of Indian chiefs. She is loved by another Indian, Hattakowa, who is a distant kinsman; but his instincts and allegiance are all on the side of his own race, while in her the white strain often takes the upper hand. For this reason, when Arnold Stuart comes to the Terri-

tory, on governmental business, and meets and falls in love with Pakali, she responds to the call of her father's race, and marries him. Arnold, however, is a man who is incapable of lasting fidelity. He means to be true to Pakali; he even thinks that he will be willing to take her East with him, and introduce her as his wife; but when the time comes for him to go East, he leaves her; and with every passing month he finds it easier to invent new excuses for not returning. There comes a time when Pakali falls ill, and her life hangs on a chance. Three separate times her tribe send urgent messages for Stuart to return to her, although at her desire they make no mention of the child that has been born—because, if he will not come for her sake, she does not care to have him come at all. And when it becomes clear that Arnold not only will not return, but that he still poses as a single man and is paying court to another woman, of his own caste, Pakali's little son is formally adopted into the tribe, thus by Indian law definitely cutting off any claim to him on the part of his father. The story concludes with Stuart's tardy return, some years later; his meeting with his former rival, Hattakowa, and the latter's summary vengeance; and finally with Hattakowa's dramatic atonement for his crime. But to epitomise this rather exceptional book is to give only scant impression of the intensely Indian atmosphere which pervades it. The author has achieved a distinct triumph in taking us actually into the home life of the present-day Chickasaws, and in making us feel their attitude, their impulses, their standards of right and wrong. It is a noteworthy volume, not soon to be forgotten.