

this book, deserving a richer cover. So simple is Longfellow in most of his work, that it seems almost an act of impertinence to turn some of his narrative poems into prose narratives. This is what Alice Massie has done, but we are glad to see that now and again she quotes the original. There are color plates, showing some feeling, the work of E. S. Farmer.

The famous reproductions included in *Famous Pictures of Real Boys and Girls* ably abet the text in emphasizing how continually artists of every clime resort to child study. The author of this suggestive little book calls attention to the fact that in painting such portraits a partnership must have existed—of the most fascinating sort—between the wee sitter and the man before the easel. Italian, Spanish, Dutch, German and English lads and lassies peep forth from world-renowned canvases, and as for America, who can forget Whistler's "At the Piano," or Chase's "Portrait of a Girl"?

Stories from Old English Romance is

Books Based on Literary and Art Sources

- **Shakespeare's English Kings*. Thomas Carter. New York: T. Y. Crowell Co. \$1.50.
Stories of Shakespeare's English History Plays. H. A. Guerber. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.25.
 **Historic Poems and Ballads*. Rupert S. Holland. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs Co. \$1.50.
The Children's Longfellow. Alice Massie. Illustrated by E. S. Farmer. New York: Hodder & Stoughton. 75 cents.
Famous Pictures of Real Boys and Girls. Lorinda M. Bryant. New York: John Lane Co. \$1.25.
Stories from Old English Romance. Joyce Pollard. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. 75 cents.

It has always been our firm conviction that the best method of retelling Shakespeare was so to combine direct narration with chosen excerpts as to make the child at an early age familiar with the original. Such a method is that adopted by Thomas Carter in his *Shakespeare's English Kings*. The consequence is that the readers read Shakespeare himself not so difficult of understanding, after all, especially in comparison with H. A. Guerber's painstaking and uninspired analyses of the big chronicle plays.

Some of the best ballads in English have been gathered together in a most commendable anthology by Rupert S. Holland, and each one is preceded by a lucid description of the event thus poetized. Beginning with "The Destruction of Sennacherib," it goes thru Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!" There is a wide stretch of history from "Chevy Chase" to "Marching thru Georgia" and "Dixie." Such is the scope of



ONE OF THE RACKHAM DRAWINGS FOR THE NEW ÆSOP (DOUBLEDAY)

a slim collection of fascinating tales which have their counterpart in English literature. In every instance we are of the opinion that such a book will direct the young reader to the source where added interest and culture are to be had. The more of such collections we have, the better.

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