

THE EAST AND THE WEST

What the reviewer would say of *A City of the Dawn* has already been said by Mr. Arthur C. Benson in his introduction to this most uncommon book by his pupil and friend, Robert Keable, an Anglican priest, for some while missionary in Mombasa. It is a study of that region, of its people, its life, its thought, and the reaction of all these upon the western and the Christian mind. As a book of travel, merely, it has a charm in which most descriptions of foreign lands are oddly lacking. The people are not queer figures hurrying across a movie screen. The barber, the coffee seller, the Vessel Unto Dishonour, Old Sylvester, these are human beings like ourselves, neither curiosities nor souls to be saved. Yet we feel the appalling sense of hopelessness and helplessness that any thoughtful man must feel before the immeasurable mass of brutality and wretchedness; and also sympathy, affection even, for the childlike and fine qualities that show thru sordidness and ignorance. A bit of real literature has been produced out of what we have learned to count, for that purpose, the unpromising material of the missionary experience. Mr. Keable has the eye that sees, the mind that takes nothing for granted, and he has as well the English of the scholar and the poet. But the force and the appeal of his pages lie first in his absolute sincerity and frankness. In the priest is never lost the entirely human English gentleman, with all his fastidiousness, his sense of fitness and his sense of humor.

A City of the Dawn, by Robert Keable. Dutton. \$1.50.