

Sable and Purple, With Other Poems. By William Watson. New York: John Lane Co. \$1.25 net.

The title conferred upon his latest volume of verse by Mr. Watson explains itself when we read the verses written in May, 1910, "Honour the happy dead with sober praise." The dialogue of King Alfred and Asser the Welshman bulks larger, however, in this slim volume; tho to call it impressive would be another matter altogether. Disappointing, in the main, is the poetic journal of a stormy honeymoon, *In the Midst of the Seas*. Here we find this rather commonplace apostrophe to New York:

New York! a city like a chess-board made,
Whereon the multitudinous pawns are swayed
Neither by Knight nor puissant Queen,
And bow not unto Castle or King,
Yet hither and thither are moved as tho they
obeyed,
Half loath, some power half seen,
Some huge, voracious, hundred-headed thing.
Armed with a million tentacles, whereby
He hooks and holds his victims till they die.

This is not Mr. Watson at his best. Mr. Watson at his best is not represented in this volume of *Sable and Purple*, which is only a fair example of what Mr. Watson can do in poetic journalism.

The Taming of Red Butte Western. By Francis Lynde. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.

This is another of Mr. Lynde's stories about a refractory railroad. Here, as more than once before, we have a system that is as a bucking broncho—tho here (as usually), the hero ends by biting his bronco before admiring eyes. In this story, however, there is some variation in the character of that hero. He believes himself to be a physical coward—in spite of which he is appointed to tame a wild-cat railroad. In breaking the spirit and power of the lawless crew running it, he discovers that he is a brave man. This story would altogether want significance, did it not represent the evolution of the healthy adventure tale—frankly bloody and raw with but one villain and many honorable men—to the yellow chronicle of what happens to one honorable man among many villains who are too wise to be bloody.