

## Janice Meredith.

Attentive readers of the LITERARY WORLD, and all its readers are of course attentive, may remember that under date of September 4th, 1897, the Waste Basket contained a paragraph on Biltmore, the princely residence of Mr. George Vanderbilt, near Asheville, North Carolina, and mentioned the circumstance that Mr. Paul Leicester Ford was then and there a guest. *Janice Meredith*, Mr. Ford's new story of the American Revolution, is dedicated to "My dear George," in a prefatory note which contains this paragraph:

And so, as I have read the proofs of this book I have found more than once that the pages have faded out of sight and in their stead I have seen Mount Pisgah and the French Broad River, or the ramp and terrace of Biltmore House, just as I saw them when writing the words which served to recall them to me. With the visions, too, has come a recurrence to our long talks, our work among the books, our games of chess, our cups of tea, our walks, our rides, and our drives. It is therefore a pleasure to me that the book so naturally gravitates to you, and that I may make it a remembrance of those past weeks of companionship, and an earnest of the present affection of

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

It is natural to presume, therefore, that the story is a Biltmore product. It is an attempt to embroider the filigrée of fiction upon the ground-work of Revolutionary history, but the

book is an "effort," lacks the charm of spontaneity, and furnishes labor for the reader. Historical personages, such as Washington, appear, and historical scene and circumstance are made use of in the setting of the stage of action. The thread of romance which runs through the book is continuous, but too much is hung upon it. The effect is confused and confusing. The book is of a kind which is one of the hardest to write, and perhaps Mr. Ford has succeeded as well as the average, but its bulk requires compression. His method is extremely studious and careful, but the minuteness of his detail will be found wearisome. [Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.]

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