

*The Man Behind.* By T. S. Denison. [Chicago: T. S. Denison. \$1.50.] The copy of this novel sent to the *Literary World* for review is accompanied by a private note, from which we quote as follows:

The charge has often been made and as often denied that there is a "literary close corporation" in this country which shelters under the broad ægis of Eastern publishing houses. It is claimed that the imprint of one of those houses is the open sesame, and that the knee must first bow to Baal before the novitiate can enter. I should be glad to place myself in the ranks of those who do not believe the literary craft guilty of petty envy, such as this charge implies. But from the contemptuous tone which certain pa-

pers claiming to represent a cult assume toward Western books, I am beginning to think the charge holds, and that Nazareth is still Nazareth.

We do not know of any "literary close corporation," such as is here alleged to exist, or of the "broad ægis" of any Eastern publishing house, or of any bowing to Baal demanded by Eastern publishing houses of the novitiate in novel writing, or of any such "petty envy" as is charged against the "literary craft." But we do feel compelled to say of Mr. Denison's book that it is far from being agreeable reading, and that its only value consists in its more or less naked delineation of social life in the "Paw Paw State" twenty-five years ago. It is an "unvarnished tale" of a rough, ignorant, and lawless people. A seduction and its melancholy consequences furnish the thread of the story; and while the aim of the author is to paint things as they are and to illustrate the teaching that "the wages of sin is death," the means employed are such that, whatever might be done in "Nazareth," we doubt if any reputable Eastern publishing house would care to put its imprint on the book. And we cannot recommend it to anybody's reading.