

**THE WRECKER**, by Robert Louis Stevenson and Lloyd Osbourne, is intensely interesting and exciting, positively blood-curdling in places, and teems with some curious though perhaps unusual types of the American species; but how inferior to those admirable narratives, "Treasure Island," "Kidnapped" and "The Black Arrow"!

This is Mr. Stevenson's second work in collaboration with Mr. Osbourne, and both stories are distinctly lacking in the subtle charm and delicacy of the popular author's earlier books.

Dodd, Pinkerton, Nares, Wicks, Bellairs, Carthew, etc., etc., constitute a fairly good stock company for a moving drama, but as individuals they wax tiresome before the close.

Dodd is by far the better-drawn character of the two principals; Pinkerton has some attractive traits, but he is a nightmare of exaggerations. The plot of "The Wrecker" is certainly ingenious and clever, though occasionally a trifle involved. The reader indeed will find it difficult to lay the book aside for a second after he has finished the prologue and the first two chapters.

In fact, one grows positively breathless in endeavoring to follow H. London Dodd, Esq., of Muskegon, in his remarkable and tempestuous career, beginning in the unique though flourishing commercial college of his native State, whence Fate transports him to Edinburgh, then to Paris, where he discovers his artistic limitations and encounters the inimitable Pinkerton. He returns with empty pockets to Edinburgh, receives £2000 from his grandfather as "Jeanie's Yin," and a month later joins forces with Pinkerton in San Francisco. There they try their luck in "wild-cat" schemes galore, the rashest of which proves to be the purchase of the wreck "Flying Scud" for \$50,000, because of its fancied secret treasure.

From this point on the tale is admirably told and strangely exciting; the thrilling experiences at sea, the fruitless search, the series of mysteries developed, the panoramic change of scene from the islands of the Pacific to San Francisco once more, to England, Paris, Barbizon, Australia, and so on with relentless speed, until, at last, the epilogue and peace.

Assuredly "The Wrecker" will have an enormous success, notwithstanding the fact that it reflects slight credit on the author of "Treasure Island." (Charles Scribner's Sons, illustrated, \$1.50.)