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regret. Can one say more? For you there are three copies available.

The *Golden House*, by H. A. Vachell, is a charming romance written with a characteristic mellowness of the city of Bath. Humphry Paganel, scion of an ancient Somerset family, finds on coming of age that the estate to which he is heir is so heavily taxed that it would be impossible to keep it. He determines to try and recover it by hard work, and enters the wine trade, working his way up from the lowest rung of the ladder to the top as partner in the firm. In the meantime the girl he loves is forced by her parents to marry an elderly reprobate, and he finds "uneasy happiness with Dawn, daughter of "Ready-money Nash," whose advent into Bath divides the city into Montagues and Capulets." As, however, Bath reverts to her usual calm so Humphry regains his estates, and finds true happiness in the tranquil beauty of his home. "A book to delight all Mr Vachell's admirers."

Tucker sees India, by M. L. Skinner, is the story of a happy-go-lucky soldier of the Australian Light Horse, who misses his transport to Egypt and is stranded in Bombay. While in India he has a series of strange if extravagant adventures in unearthing spies, discovering hidden arms, rescuing a white girl from bandits, and saving a high personage from a bomb. Mr Tucker is, as one critique describes, "one of the most extraordinary characters encountered in fiction"—a genuine comic creation, a delightful waster, a coward who is always running into trouble he would far rather avoid." The description of places visited during his escapades are well penned and readers will find both interest and thrills of no ordinary kind.

Does anyone nowadays read Mark Twain? I have made certain random enquiries among my friends, and find that most of them have read "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn," but not since they were fourteen or fifteen. All of them know the names of "The Jumping Frog" and "Innocents Abroad," and some of them (though not accurately) that of "A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur." Further, two leading booksellers whom I have consulted tell me that nowadays they do not find it necessary to stock the works of Mark Twain. Yet only the other day Mr Stephen Leacock bracketed Twain and Dickens together as the greatest humorists of modern times—while asserting that until modern times there was no real humour.

—Extract from "John O'London Weekly."

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