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An interesting and informative book that will make a warm claim on many of our readers.

China's Red Army Marches, by Agnes Smedley. The opening chapters give us an idea of the conditions of life for the peasant in China, and it is sad reading, for harder conditions it would be difficult to find. The "bandits" so often met with in literature on China, seems to fit in as peasants in revolt, or the landlords and their friends evicting peasants unable to meet their demands. Then the "Reds" appear as saviours of the peasant, and the struggle takes on a somewhat different aspect.

The authoress paints a terrible picture of events in China, particularly in Hunan and Kiangse, and helps one to gauge more recent events at nearer their truer and actual value.

A book one should read even though one's susceptibilities may be hurt somewhat.

Northward Ho! and Southward Ho! by Harold Nossiter. These two volumes give us a splendid sea story of the author and his two sons. Living on the shores of Sydney Harbour, for years they had sailed their own yachts in harbour and in deep water cruises and when the time arrived Mr Nossiter had the specifications drawn up of a yacht for a voyage round the world. The result was the "Sirius," beautifully modelled, perfect lines and strongly built. In this vessel they left Sydney bound for Southampton and though some heavy weather was met, the "Sirius" proved a fine, weatherly craft. The description of the whole voyage is so real that one loses oneself and is either at sea aboard the yacht or visiting one of the numerous places of interest where the voyagers called. The route followed in "Northward Ho!" is from Sydney, up the coast to Rabaul, through the island-dotted Timor and Arafura Seas to Singapore, then follows Ceylon, Aden, Red Sea, Suez, Candia, Malta, Gibraltar, on to Southampton. While in England they met with much hospitality and kindness. London was a marvel that thrilled them. Mr Nossiter says, "There is a grandeur in its grandeur, and a greatness in its greatness that is difficult to describe." The return journey described in "Southward Ho!" was by way of Madeira, Trinidad, Panama, Cocos, Galapagos, Marquesas, Tuamotu, Tahiti, Society, Cook and Tongan Islands, thence to Sydney. A voyage round the world, and with Harold Nossiter and his two sons, the reader will find it to be a most delightful and exhilarating voyage.

I Write As I Please, by Walter Duranty. Walter Duranty is a well-known journalist, and this book is the result of fourteen years in Russia. In the chapter on "Lenin and Stalin" he shows how the aim of the one is the objective of the other and that they, with the Founding Fathers, are not thinking of today or tomorrow: they are planning for the future. The N.E.P. (New Eco-

nomic Policy) was used until it had served their purpose. "A Canter with Pegasus" gives us a good account of why Stalin became successor to Lenin, instead of Trotsky. Plot followed by counterplot—and Trotsky exiled to Central Asia. Today, Socialism, he says, is a fact. "In the U.S.S.R. there is real Socialism, in that all the dynamic forces of the country, not only the forces of money, but the forces of invention, energy, technique, discipline, effort and initiative are applied for and by the community, instead of for and by individuals. Just as the interest and enthusiasm of individuals have been brought to follow a common purpose, and rejoice over common successes, or weep over common failures in a single channel, so the common energy and effort have been canalised in a single channel. It is no longer a question of what I do or what I get, but of what we do and what we get. I venture to suggest that there could be no simpler definition of the difference between Socialism and Individualism."

The book has been through five editions and is well worth reading and studying, for it touches on those things that concern all, and while it gives one a safer background on which to judge Russia, it is very helpful to those whose opinions are in the process of being formed.

Stepping Stones From Alaska to Asia, by Isobel Wylie Hutchinson. Some time ago we placed on our Non-Fiction shelves Miss Hutchinson's "North to the Rime Ringed Sun," a book that met with much favour. Now we have this one. The authoress is commissioned by the authorities of The British Museum to acquire certain rare flowers for that institution, and the story she tells of her quest and success is fascinating. The "Stepping Stones" are the rugged storm-bound Aleutian Islands, springing from the Alaska shore and stretching almost across to the coasts of Asiatic Russia. Several of the islands were visited and Miss Hutchinson made many friends with the Aleuts, while exploring and gathering specimens. From Unalaska she was the guest of the Captain of the U.S. Government Guard, in the ship Chelan. Treacherous waters, rock-strewn, and an ever more uncertain climate, are the usual conditions, but favoured with kinder weather than often prevailed the authoress was loath to embark on the return journey. "And there I took my final glance of Attre, her shoulders draped in fleecy cloud, from which the sun struck fire . . . a noble sight, and as I watched it, into my mind from some strange subconscious channel there stole a melody. It was 'Land of Heart's Desire' . . . It was great! No owner of a million dollar yacht could have enjoyed her possessions more at that moment than the lady-guest of the United States Coastguard enjoyed the white cutter 'Chelan' which had so gracefully transported her across the forsaken seas where the Bering and the North Pacific meet and merge their wild waters in storm and exaltation."

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